

13 Topic: Great Tribulation

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Tagline

Before God's wrath is poured out on the Dragon's people, the Dragon's wrath will be poured out on God's people.

"...the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." | Yeshua, John 16:2

Synopsis

The concept of the great tribulation has been one of the most generalized elements of Bible prophecy by many teachers. This has led to a lot of different perspectives in opposition to each other regarding a topic that will be covered in the [Harpazo: The Blessed Hope](#) study. The catching away of the bride of Christ is commonly tied to this period in defining the timing of Christ's return and our gathering to Him with the labels pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, post-tribulation. I think this period of time is much more nuanced than most people think.

In this Bible study, we will dig into the two phases of great tribulation and see how scripture explains this period, not in terms of the seven years of the 70th week of Daniel, but in the details of prophecy that define it as the Dragon's wrath on God's people explicitly, beginning at the abomination of desolation when the false christ's kingdom is established in Jerusalem. This explains how the tribulation can be cut short, yet remain the set amount of 3 1/2 years, or 42 months.

In addition, the details provide a cohesive timeline of events that line up with the seals of Revelation, the order of events Paul gave the Thessalonian church, and the rest of prophecy in sync with the plain understanding of Yeshua's depiction in the Olivet Discourse about the sequence of events in the end. In the agreement of multiple witnesses in scripture, an amazing narrative unfolds that brings so many prophecies together and provides clarity in a logical plain understanding of this often confused topic.

Overview

- Introduction
- Defining the Great Tribulation from Scripture
- God's Wrath vs. Dragon's Wrath
- Two Phases
 - Phase 1: Time of Jacob's Trouble
 - Phase 2: Global Persecution
 - Israel in the Wilderness
- Joel 2
- One Taken the Other Left (in the context of the deception in the unparalleled time of great tribulation)
- Abomination of Desolation to Wrath: Overview of Timing
- Conclusion

Details

- Introduction
 - Overview Timeline
 - This event begins just before the middle of the 70th week and extends to just before its end. This topic is often talked about, yet much of the nuance from scripture is not really addressed. It is because of this nuance that the timeline will zoom in a little

closer to focus on just the second half of the 70th week to help visualize these distinctions.

- Defining the great tribulation from scripture
 - 3 explicit verses in KJV
 - Matthew 24:21-22 - Unparalleled great tribulation at the abomination of desolation
 - Revelation 2:22 - Thyatira cast into great tribulation except they repent
 - Revelation 7:14 - those who came out of great tribulation
 - 1 different English translation of the same time
 - Mark 13:19-20 - Unparalleled affliction, demonstrating the English translations can belie other Hebrew and Greek words that can expand understanding.
 - Lexicon References - bring in use of lexicon to find other English words using the same Greek and Hebrew underlying word
 - Greek word *thlipsis* (G2347) is the word behind both tribulation and affliction. This same word in the Greek lexicon is translated to various English words throughout the New Testament and occurs 45 times in 43 verses, translated to tribulation 21 times, affliction 17 times, trouble 3 times, anguish, persecution, burdened, and to be afflicted each one time.
 - Introduce [hour of temptation concept](#) with parable of the sower (Matthew 13:18-21) and general tribulation through time of Christ to now vs. that unparalleled specified at the end. (Matthew 24:9)
 - "The end" arrival is at abomination of desolation, which begins unparalleled tribulation in Judea
 - Unparalleled References
 - Jeremiah 30:4-7
 - Daniel 12:1
 - Luke's Divergent Account
 - Explain how Luke's Olivet Discourse begins and ends the same as Mathew's and Mark's, but clearly jumps back in time to warn the Christians in 70 AD to also run to the mountains when they see the Roman army arrive to siege Jerusalem.
 - The Faithful Woman and the Dragon
 - Elect - Define as eternal Israel, the faithful, comprised of Jew and Gentile who follow God according to how He revealed Himself in their time in history.
 - Further context defined in individual prophetic passages (ie: Matthew 24:15-22, Mark 13:14-20 focus on the elect in Judea whose time in unparalleled tribulation is cut short for their sake.)
 - Associated accounts - These accounts aren't labeled as great tribulation, but are tied to it by various points.
 - Revelation 13:5-8 - The beast to whom the dragon gives his power is allowed to continue 42 months and make war with the saints.
 - Revelation 13:15-17 - The false prophet will bring about the mark of the beast and worship of his image and anyone who refuses will be killed.
 - Revelation 17:1-8 - Woman riding the dragon is drunk on the blood of the saints and the martyrs of Yeshua along with the inhabitants of the earth drunk on the wine of her fornication. (Get into this in future studies)
 - Daniel 7:25 - This horn will be allowed to wear out the saints for 3.5 years
 - Daniel 12:5-11 - Tied to the unparalleled time that begins with the abomination of desolation, it is 3.5 years he will have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, 1,290 days from the abomination of desolation to the end of those things.
 - Revelation 6:9-11 - Martyrs under the altar given white robes and told to wait for the rest of their brethren to be killed as they were.
 - Deuteronomy 4:29-31 - Speaking to Israel of the latter days when they are in tribulation, if they turn back to God in obedience, He will not forget them.
- God's Wrath vs. Dragon's Wrath - Important to separate the events of the end time by who is

performing them

- Timing of the 70th week of Daniel
 - **God's 7-Year Plan 70thWeek** - Set in the stars, [Revelation 12:1-3](#), and from the beginning set in the timing of the celestial clock by which we count time. It was founded around the judgments of and promises to Israel according to God's Word that began after the Babylonian captivity over 2,500 years ago. More in the Daniel's 70 Weeks study.
 - **Satan's 7-Year Plan First Seal** - It starts with a covenant the man of sin confirms with many for seven years. [Daniel 9:27](#) This seven years is never completed because the deceiver's true plan comes to light when he declares himself god. But Christ returns in glory and destroy Satan's plans. [Revelation 19:20](#) I believe Satan's 7-year plan is marked by the opening of the [first seal](#), shattering the illusion that the dragon has any power and that Yeshua is still in control of the whole series of events. When God is ready to test Israel, He will allow what has been foretold to unfold according to His timing. This timing would appear to coincide with the final 7 years decreed for Israel and Jerusalem, the theme throughout prophecy of the end.
- How many of these references of tribulation, "*thlipsis*," refer to God's wrath?
 - Unparalleled. Matthew 24:21, 29 | Mark 13:19, 24 | Revelation 7:14
 - Association of believers suffering persecution
 - Some falling away because of persecution. Matthew 13:21 | Mark 4:17
 - Delivering up of believers to be afflicted by the world for Christ's namesake. Matthew 24:9 | Acts 11:19, 14:22, 20:23 | Romans 5:3, 8:35, 12:12 | 2 Corinthians 6:4 | Philippians 1:16,4:14 | Colossians 1:24
 - Delivering out of tribulation in the world. Acts 7:10-11
 - Suffering tribulation leads to glorious end. John 16:21, 33 | 2 Corinthians 4:17 | Ephesians 3:13
 - Joy in tribulation. 2 Corinthians 7:4, 8:2,13 | 1 Thessalonians 1:6, 3:3,7 | 2 Thessalonians 1:4
 - General. 1 Corinthians 7:28 | 2 Corinthians 1:4,8, 2:4 | James 1:27 | Revelation 1:9, 2:9-10
 - Tribulation on those who do evil. Romans 2:9
 - Tribulation on those who trouble you. 2 Thessalonians 1:6
 - Cast into great tribulation. Revelation 2:22
 - Even just looking at the specific word *thlipsis*, there is no indication that "tribulation" or "great tribulation" is associated with God's wrath. It is more associated with wrath against believers, which would be the Dragon's wrath against God's people.
- Timing and focus of wrath
 - **God's Wrath**- God's wrath comes after the [sixth seal](#), [Joel 2:31](#), which is immediately after the [time of Jacob's trouble](#). ([Matthew 24:15-29](#), [Jeremiah 30:4-7](#), [Daniel 12:1](#)) The bride of Christ is promised to [escape this time](#) that will come on the whole world and contained from the [1st trumpet through the 7th bowl](#).
 - **Satan's Wrath**- Called the [time of great tribulation](#) and starting with the [time of Jacob's trouble](#), Satan is cast to earth and goes after Israel through the beast to whom he gives his power. ([Revelation 12:13](#), [Matthew 24:15-21](#), [Revelation 13:1-5](#)) That power is given to the antichrist (beast/man of sin) for 42 months, 1260 days. See below. When Israel is saved out of that time ([Revelation 12:14-16](#)) the dragon, through the antichrist, goes global and continues his war on the remnant of Israel unprotected in the world and Christians. ([Revelation 12:17](#))
 - By defining the "great tribulation" as Satan's wrath against God's chosen people, Jew and Gentile believer, we know that the end is marked with the antichrist's end. We know that to be when Christ returns in glory to take the kingdoms and defeat the armies gathered at Armageddon. This is an important point for understanding the framework of the 70th week.

- Two Phases
 - The great tribulation is the direct result of the man of sin being given power by the dragon and the dragon going after the woman, Israel. Revelation 12,13 Understanding that, the great tribulation has nothing to do with God's wrath, but rather it is the dragon's wrath. The "great tribulation" starts when the dragon's wrath is expressed against Israel, and in Revelation 12:17 that wrath is turned from Judea specifically to worldwide persecution by Satan of Jews and anyone holding the testimony of Christ. It is this scattering of the holy people by Satan and his minions that results in the great tribulation starting. Christ directly links the start of this great tribulation with the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet who placed this event in the midst of a 7-year period of time appointed to the nation of Israel. The 70th week is God's plan, the covenant with many is the dragon's plan.
 - To the Jew first then the Greek - the gospel was to go out first to the Jew, so too is judgement prescribed. I think this points to the same principle seen in the wrath of the dragon.
 - Phase 1: Time of Jacob's Trouble
 - Abomination of desolation begins it
 - Abomination of desolation timed by Daniel 9:27 as in the midst of the 70th week. (REF: Daniel's 70 Weeks study)
 - This is also confirmed in the many verses stating the dragon, beast, and false prophet are given power in the earth for 3.5 years.
 - Note context of Israel and Judea
 - Matthew 24:16 & Mark 13:14 - "Then let **them which be in Judaea flee** into the mountains"
 - Jeremiah 30:4 - "And these are **the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah.**"
 - Daniel 12:1 - "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth **for the children of thy (Daniel) people**"
 - Daniel 9:24 - "Seventy weeks are **determined upon thy (Daniel) people and upon thy holy city**"
 - Unparalleled in all of history - Tied to that are the time cut short and elect (Jacob) saved out of it.
 - Revelation 12:7-16 - Dragon's wrath begins when he's cast down with little time and immediately persecutes the woman, Israel.
 - He is cast out by Michael the archangel and the result is the beginning of the unparalleled time of Jacob's trouble. Daniel 12:1
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:6 there is a restraining force preventing the revealing of the man of sin until his time. At one point he will be taken out of the way and then the man of sin will be revealed when he declares himself God. This is when Satan gives him his power and great authority. This event is the abomination of desolation that starts the unparalleled time of Jacob's trouble (REF: The Restraint study)
 - Length of the Unparalleled Tribulation is about 30 days
 - Daniel 7:25, Daniel 12:7, Revelation 13:5 - Dragon given power for 42 months/3.5 years
 - Revelation 12:14 - Israel protected from the dragon for 1,260 days/3.5 years
 - Phase 2: Global Persecution
 - Revelation 12:17 - Once Israel in Judea is protected from the dragon, he turns his attention to the remnant of her seed and those that hold the testimony of Christ.
 - Given that remnant Israel in Judea is protected from the dragon for the remainder of his reign, the remnant of the seed of Israel must be those of the natural branch of Israel outside of Judea, around the world.
 - Should be noted that for much of the world, they will willingly worship the beast

and the dragon because of his power and authority. Their desire to save their mortal lives will cause them to lose their eternal lives. It is only the principled and faithful around the world who will be the dragon's target as anyone who worships him and takes his mark are already his and he still needs an army to perform his will. Those who capitulate will be safe and secure in the world, but the Creator of that world will yet come and destroy them out of it and then they will join their god in the lake of fire for time without end, apart from the God of love who created and died for them, had they only ears to hear and eyes to see, and hearts of selfless love as He.

- We've already seen how the unparalleled time of tribulation on Israel in Judea is cut short, this is the transition from the first phase of the dragon's wrath to the second, where those who refuse to bow the knee will lose their life.
 - Israel in the Wilderness
 - Israel will be allured in the wilderness and brought back from her fornication to return to her first love
 - Israel must first be brought back into the land
 - Hosea 1:9-11
 - Ezekiel 37:15-22 - places the following passage about the restoration of Israel at the time of the end
 - Hosea 2:14-23 - **God will allure her and bring her into the wilderness and speak comfortably to her.** He will give her vineyards there and a door of hope and she will sing as when she came out of Egypt. At that day she will call Him husband and not master and they won't remember their whoredoms. **He will betroth her to Him forever** in righteousness, judgement, loving kindness, mercies, and faithfulness and they will know He's the Lord. He will show mercy on her that had not obtained mercy and say to them which were not His people that they are His people and they will say He is their God.
 - Isaiah 35:1-10 - The wilderness and solitary place will be glad for them and the desert shall rejoice and blossom abundantly. Strengthen the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees. Say to those fearful to be strong and fear not, your God will come with vengeance and recompense to come and save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped and the lame leap and tongue of the dumb sing, for the wilderness shall break out waters and streams in the desert and the parched ground a pool and the thirsty land springs of water in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. There will be a highway there called the way of holiness where unclean shall not pass over it. No lion will be there or ravenous beast found there, but the redeemed shall walk there and the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
 - Jeremiah 30:23-31:14 - The whirlwind of the Lord goes out with a fury and will be pain on the head of the wicked. The fierce anger of the Lord will not return until it's done and He's performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will consider it. At that same time He will be God of all families of Israel and they will be His people. Those left of the sword found grace in the wilderness, even Israel, when caused to rest. The Lord appeared to Jeremiah saying He loved you with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness He draws you. He will again build you virgin of Israel, and you will be adorned and go forth dancing. You will plant vines in Samaria. Sing with gladness Jacob and praise the Lord who saved your people, the remnant of Israel. He will bring them from all over and they will come weeping with supplications led by God and He will cause them to walk by rivers of water in a straight way so they don't stumble because God is a father to Israel and Ephraim is His firstborn. The Lord has redeemed Jacob and ransomed him from the land of his stronger. Therefore they will

have plenty and sing and their soul a watered garden and they will not sorry any more at all.

- Isaiah 43:1-44:8 - The Lord that created and formed you Jacob/Israel says not to fear for He has redeemed you, called you by name because you are His. When you pass through waters and rivers and walk through the fire you won't be burned for He is with you. He is the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. He gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for you. Since you're precious in His sight, he will give you people for life and bring your seed from the four corners and bring your sons and daughters from the ends of the earth, every one called by His name, for He created them for His glory. Bring forth the blind people that have eyes and the deaf that have ears. (Those natural branches who understand, like the 144,000?) Let all the nations be gathered, who can show former things, let them hear and say it's truth. You are my witnesses and servants who He has chosen, that you know and believe Him and understand that I am He, before Him there was no other God formed and neither after Him, there is no other savior. He has declared and saved and shown when there was no strange god among you, therefore You are His witnesses. Before the day He was and none can deliver out of my hand. He will work and none shall stop it. Hear Jacob/Israel, who He has chosen, He made you and formed you from the womb. He will pour water on him that is thirsty and floods on the dry ground, His Spirit on your seed and blessing upon your offspring. They will spring up among the grass as willows by the water courses. One will say I am the Lords, another call himself by the name of Jacob, another subscribe with his hand to the Lord and surname Himself by the name of Israel. The Lord the King of Israel and His Redeemer says "I am the last; and beside me there is no God." The things that are coming and shall come, let them show to them. Don't be afraid, has He not declared it? You are His witnesses, there is no God besides Him.
- Romans 2:8-9 - "But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile."
- **Joel 2:** A picture of great tribulation and salvation before the wrath of God
 - As seen in context of the study on the [great tribulation](#), the [abomination of desolation](#) begins the time of Jacob's trouble, but he is saved out of it and protected in the wilderness from the dragon for 1,260 days, or 3.5 years. This is the same amount of time the dragon is given power for. This means he only has a 30 day period where he can go after Israel as seen in **Revelation 12:14-17** before she is saved from him and protected.
 - I believe Joel 2 gives a narrative of sorts from this time of the abomination of desolation up to the salvation and protection of the woman in the wilderness.
 - Joel 2:1-9 – Blow the trumpet of alarm in Zion because the day of the Lord is coming, nigh at hand. This means it isn't there yet.
 - ◆ This connection with the trumpet and the coming of the day of the Lord is seen many times.
 - Joel 2:2-9 – This time before it is a day of darkness and gloominess where a great and strong people unlike any time in history devours the land leaving desolation and nothing will escape them. They are strong in battle array, climbing walls and not breaking rank with each other and not dying when falling upon the sword. They will climb the houses and enter the windows like a thief.
 - ◆ We saw a similar event happen at Jericho.
 - ◇ Joshua 6:20-21 - "So the people shouted when [the priests] blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that **the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. And they utterly destroyed all that [was] in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the**

edge of the sword."

- ◇ This army may very well view themselves as fighting for the captain of the host of the LORD in the future too, not to destroy the city, but purging the land of the accursed things, those who refuse to worship the false christ.
- ◇ Joshua 6:18-19 - "And ye, in any wise keep [yourselves] from the accursed thing, lest ye make [yourselves] accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, [are] consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."
- ◆ The unparalleled time after the abomination of desolation is focused on Israel in Judea. If the view of the Jewish false christ is correct, then the perceived messiah would rip families apart and his followers would likely have supernatural power to accomplish his will in purging the land of any who don't accept him as the messiah.
 - ◇ Micah 7:1-6 – Tied to the harvest of the summer fruits, the day of the watchmen and visitation comes, and their perplexity. Trust not in a friend, the son dishonors the father, the daughter rises against the mother, men's enemies are men of his own house.
 - ◇ Mark 13:9-14 – the time just before the abomination of desolation is described as brother betraying brother to death, father and son, children against parents. We saw this as the Jews reacted to Christianity during the disciples ministry, but it would seem that same spirit is tied to the signs of the times as well, and goes into full overdrive at the arrival of the false christ.
 - ◇ Luke 12:49-53 – Christ said He came to divide, and that His message would turn the father against the son, mother against daughter. Those who accepted Christ faced their own family turning against them. Those who reject the false christ will face the same.
- ◆ I believe upon further meditation on the "one taken and one left," that this is talking about that same time. The one who is taken is associated with death.
 - ◇ Matthew 24:28, 37-41 – Most quoted, but the point of the carcass and vultures gathered seems out of place tied to the coming of the Son of man. The one taken and one left later tied to Noah then seems disconnected from it.
 - ◇ Luke 17:26-37 – Brings things together and ties the body and gathered vultures. Yeshua says one will be taken and one left in relation to both the sudden destruction of Noah and Lot. This provides the general timing, but the disciples ask where the ones taken go to. Yeshua replies with a picture of dead bodies and vultures gathered to feast on them.
- ◆ This makes sense in light a Jewish false christ because not everyone will accept him. Fathers will turn on sons, mothers on daughters. A nation built on family will suddenly be ripped apart by the fervency of worship of the antichrist. Those who follow him will do whatever he says. 2/3 of Israel will be unfaithful and go whoring after a false god and turn from the One True God. As with Romans 11, they will be cut off from the root and in so doing they will die the second death. But the false christ has them for a short time to act as his minions and do his will. They will be given supernatural power and go throughout Judea taking and killing any who refuse to worship their false christ. It is for this reason that Yeshua says to run to the mountains at the abomination of desolation. The army that goes through are unfaithful Israel turning on faithful Israel.
- Joel 2:10-11 – The earth quakes before them, heaven trembles, sun and moon darkened, stars withdraw their shining. The Lord utters his voice before his army, the day of the Lord is great and terrible, who can abide it?
 - ◆ This again interjects the day of the Lord with this time of the army of the false christ going through the land, but God has His own army.
- Joel 2:12-14 - Turn to the Lord with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning, and rend

your heart and not your garments.

- ◆ Here we see the connection of the season of teshuvah, or repentance in the midst of this unparalleled tribulation. Families are destroyed and Jacob's trouble will truly be great tribulation for those that reject the false christ, but also great sorrow for those who lose their family to him. They are coming upon Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, when those who don't afflict their souls are cut off from the people. I believe those who are following the false christ fit that model. Why would they be afflicted? In their view, the long awaited messiah has finally come, they aren't afflicted. And in following a false christ they are cut off from the root, which is the true Christ.
- Joel 2:15-18 – Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly. Let the bridegroom go out of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests and ministers weep and say to spare the people and have the heathen rule over them. Then the Lord will be jealous for His land and pity his people.
 - ◆ Leviticus 23:23-25 - "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, **In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets(H8643 "teruah"), an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein:** but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD."
 - ◆ Leviticus 25:8-10 – On the 50th year is the Jubilee and they are to blow the trumpet throughout all the land on the 50th year on Yom Kippur, 10 days after Yom Teruah.
- Joel 2:19-27 – The Lord promises His people to send them corn, wine, oil and they will be satisfied and not a reproach among the nations. He will send the Northern army way off to a desolate land where his stink will come up. Rejoice in this time when the pastures will spring and the tree bear its fruit, the fig tree and vine. God will cause the floors to be full of wheat and the fats overflow with wine and oil. Their years will be restored to them and they will eat plenty and be satisfied. And they will know that God is in the midst of Israel, that He is their Lord and none else and they will never be ashamed.
 - ◆ This is one of several promises regarding Israel being provided for in the wilderness. A kind of repeat of how God provided for them during the Exodus in the wilderness, these seem clearly another time.
 - ◇ Hosea 2:14-23 – The same promise of provision in the wilderness when God allures Israel. And there He will make a covenant for them with the beasts and fowl to let them lie down safely. There He will betroth her to him forever and He will say to them they are His people and they will say He is their God.
 - ◆ We see in Revelation 12:13-17 that the faithful woman is carried to the wilderness and the dragon is kept from her for the remainder of his reign. It's widely believed that the wilderness Israel will be protected in will be SE of Judea.
- Joel 2:28-29 – God will pour out His spirit and Israel's sons and daughters will prophesy. Old men shall dream dreams and young men see visions.
 - ◆ This is interesting in light of the sealing of the 144,000, before the wrath of God is poured out, who are said to be virgins. Could these be children at the age of accountability, who are used by God in the wilderness to teach His people?
- Joel 2:30-32 – God will show wonders in the heavens and earth, blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered.
 - ◆ This is a key verse in placing the signs of the sixth seal before the day of the Lord, the wrath of God. (REF: Seals, Trumpets, Bowls and Day of the Lord)
- As discussed in the [Olivet Discourse: Vision of the Future](#) study, one taken the other left in the context of the deception in the unparalleled time of great tribulation
 - Luke 17:22-37
 - Matthew 24:23-28
 - Mark 13:21-23

- Joel 2:1-11
- AoD to Wrath: Overview of timing
 - Simple chart showing order of events as walked through scripture
 - Restrainer, war in heaven, abomination of desolation, 6th seal, rapture, day of the lord
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8
 - Restrained removed
 - Revealing of man of sin
 - Apostasy - mentioned after revealing implying it's related to time after revealing
 - Tied to strong delusion to believe the lie
 - Subject change between 1-4 and 4-8
 - Matthew 24:15-31
 - Revelation 6-8
 - 6th seal
 - Israel protected and multitude in heaven
 - Destruction of wrath
 - Destruction of day of lord is sudden like Noah and lot hinting that from 6th seal to destruction is matter of days
 - Revelation 12
 - Phases of tribulation
 - Joel 2:31
 - 6th seal before day of the lord
 - Daniel 9:27
 - He confirms covenant one week
 - Midst of week he stops daily and abomination
 - Context of this is Israel and Judea
 - Isaiah 26:19-21
 - Enter into chambers till indignation overpast
 - John 14:1-6
 - In fathers house are many mansions

May God continue to bless you as you remain in Him.

Associated studies

- [*Olivet Discourse: Vision of the Future*](#)
- [*Daniel's 70 Weeks*](#)
- [*Abomination of Desolation*](#)
- [*The Restrainer*](#)
- [*Visions of Daniel and John*](#)
- [*Harpazo: The Blessed Hope*](#)

References

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Associated Dates

- Unknown Future Dates

Tags

- Great Tribulation, Jacob's Trouble, Tribulation,

Script

Introduction

The great tribulation. This phrase has been described many times in many ways. Some believe it to be synonymous with the seven years of the 70th week of Daniel while some believe it has been going on for millennia. Many aspects of Bible prophecy hang on the definition of this phrase and are used to support views like the timing of the resurrection and catching away of believers among other things. In other words, understanding how the Bible defines this phrase is critical to understanding how the Bible defines other events of the coming times.

This isn't an attempt to explain the various views, but to simply share the scriptures throughout the Old and New Testaments as I've been led to understand them, referencing scripture with scripture, here a little and there a little, as much in the context in which each passage exists as I can understand. I believe all of scripture must agree with the rest of scripture and where it does not, we have more understanding to gain. All I ask is that you have an open mind, trust the Word of God, and test these things in your own study of scripture to see if they are so.

Acts 17:11

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

We all have the same Word from God, given to the prophets by the Holy Spirit so we would know what He is doing. So I believe we can all let scripture interpret itself. It is my desire to understand according to the Word, not just from it. In other words, remove as much of my interpretation from what the Word says as is possible and rely on the interpretation from scripture itself to understand.

2 Peter 1:19-21

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost.

John 15:12-15

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

God wants His people to understand. In laying down His life, Yeshua demonstrated in action the most pure form of love and friendship for us. He defeated death that those who follow His ways of selfless love might spend time without end in fellowship and relationship with the God of creation. When we obey His ways of love, we are His friends. In trusting His Word to us, we gain understanding of His plans for us and the whole world. Let us embark on a journey of understanding this plan, which will bring peace amid these chaotic coming times and allowing the light of peace to flow from us in a dark world that perhaps we might be an example of what the peace of God brings and introduce those with eyes to see and ears to hear to their Creator.

Defining the Great Tribulation

So what is the great tribulation? What does the Bible, and those written of within it, have to say about this term? This is the core source for understanding all terminology and with the benefit of sites like Blue Letter Bible, the resources have been provided to begin to understand even the Hebrew and Greek in context of the scriptures. While it helps to be a scholar, I am convinced you don't need to be in order to understand. Indeed we are told to approach God with the mind of a child, full of love, trust, and faith.

Adults have been corrupted by these being broken or influenced by lies, deception, and corruption. So in the interest of returning to the mind of a child, let us trust God's Word and see what it says.

3 Explicit References

In the King James translation, there are only three times this exact translation "great tribulation" is used.

(throughout presentation of scripture, have a key off to the side showing the color scheme)

Wrath of the dragon on the obedient faithful

Wrath of God on the children of disobedience

Promise of escape for the obedient faithful

The sixth seal heralding the day of the Lord

Matthew 24:21-22

For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

This is one of the primary keys to understanding the signs of the times given to us by Yeshua Himself in what's called the Olivet Discourse. Similar depictions, yet different in some key ways that expand our understanding, are given in Mark 13, Luke 17, and Luke 21. The important key ideas that will be expanded on are that this great tribulation is unparalleled in history and that this unparalleled time will be shortened for the sake of the elect.

Revelation 2:22

Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into **great tribulation**, except they repent of their deeds.

John, writing to the seven churches from the Island of Patmos after the destruction of the temple, relays a warning to the church of Thyatira. The context of that warning is related to some in the church (ie: Christians) committing fornication and eating things sacrificed to idols. Throughout the Old Testament, the idea of spiritual fornication involved Israel going after other gods and turning away from the One True God.

This can be taken in a general historical sense in regards to the church at the time of John's writing, but in light of the parable of the 10 virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 and the promise for those who keep God's Word to be kept from the hour of temptation that will come on all who dwell on the earth in Revelation 3:10, there would seem to be half of those who call themselves Christians but do not obey God's commandment to love God and love each other selflessly that will be further tested through great tribulation unless they repent and do so. This idolatry clearly still existed in the hearts of members of the churches historically and still does today in various forms.

This is also interesting given the context of the unparalleled time of great tribulation and the many warnings not to go after false christs and false prophets during that time. We know from other related scripture that this time of great deception will culminate at the abomination of desolation when the false christ declares himself god in the temple and the false prophet directs the world to worship him. The Greek word anti can mean against, opposite to, instead of, or in place of Christ. It would seem that those who call themselves Christians are still ignorant to what God actually warned about in the end may get wrapped up in the great deception thinking Christ has come on the earth will be cast into the hour of temptation that will come on the whole earth.

Revelation 7:9, 13-17

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with

white robes, and palms in their hands; ... And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, **These are they which came out of great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

This is a wonderful promise that, through great tribulation, those who keep their faith even unto death will dwell in the presence of the Creator. He will care for us emotionally, wiping away all tears, and they no longer hunger or thirst.

The whole of Revelation 7 is one of many keys in understanding the order of events when viewed in the context of the chapters before and after it. This will be covered in the [Harpazo: The Blessed Hope](#) study. We see this innumerable multitude in heaven and are told they have come out of great tribulation. This is in agreement with 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 that before the coming of our Lord and our gathering to Him, which results in the depiction of Revelation 7, there will be apostasy, or falling away, and the revealing of the man of sin who is the antichrist. His revealing is at the abomination of desolation, which begins the great tribulation, and so scripture agrees with itself that before we are caught up to meet the Lord in the air, there will be great tribulation begun by the 42 month reign of the false christ over the world. As we will see, this 42 month reign comes in phases and many other events are happening during that same time.

In addition, the context in which terms like great tribulation appear can open up other locations where the term is not used exactly the same, but the spirit of the term is the focus of the text.

Mark 13:19-20

For [in] those days shall be **affliction**, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

This is the most obvious is in Mark's account of the Olivet Discourse, which associates great tribulation with days of affliction. That we see this obvious association of two different English words for the same contextual time, an important part of studying scripture comes into play.

Lexicon References

Thanks to tools like Blue Letter Bible, we can see that the same Greek word *thlipsis* (G2347) is the word behind both tribulation and affliction. This highlights the importance of, even on a simple level, looking into the meaning of the original text and not just relying on the way it was translated. We can now see that this same word in the Greek lexicon is translated to various English words throughout the New Testament and occurs 45 times in 43 verses, translated to tribulation 21 times, affliction 17 times, trouble 3 times, anguish, persecution, burdened, and to be afflicted each one time. This doesn't mean each is related to this time of course, context matters, but it can expand the passages we may examine when attempting to understand a term like this.

For example we see, as a general principle from the parable of the sower, the idea behind the [hour of temptation](#) that will come upon the whole earth, yet is also part of the tribulations believers around the world go through on a daily basis that test their faith, even to death. Let us not forget that even in the modern world Christians are dying for their faith in great numbers daily. Let us pray for them always.

Matthew 13:18-21

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth [it] not, then cometh the wicked [one], and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

John 16:32-33

Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

There are many other verses in the context of the historical tribulation of the followers of Christ in the first century and the disciples teachings to be comforted through tribulation by the Spirit in the knowledge that this suffering will pale in comparison to the promise yet to come. We look forward to time without end in the presence of the God of Love and so should not lose faith even unto death.

Let us not forget, however, that even today the body of Christ not privileged to live in nations that allow freedom of religion are enduring tribulation every day. Christians around the world in Islamic and communist nations are dying for their faith, and in the process demonstrating the enduring strength of their faith in God. Meanwhile many of the free churches demonstrate weak faith, saying they are of the church, but living as hypocrites in the world outside the physical buildings they are privileged to meet in.

Do not let the faithless in the world that would destroy your physical body also take your inheritance by destroying your faith and trust in God. Righteous judgement is coming on the world and it is not our place to judge, but rather to love our enemies and pray for them that they wake up to reality before it is too late, giving them a reason to be jealous of the peace, love, and hope we have within us.

Matthew 24:9

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

This is also earlier in the [Olivet Discourse](#), and related to the tribulations believers would go through in the first century and through to the end. To that point, when Yeshua spoke of great tribulation starting six verses later, it transitioned from talking about the time before the end to the end.

(throughout presentation of scripture, have a key off to the side showing the color scheme)

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Matthew 24:14-22

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; **and then shall the end come. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:** Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: **For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.** And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the

elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

So we see from our most trusted source, when the end comes it will begin with the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet and we are meant to take heed of this fact and understand it. It is also incumbent on us to therefore examine Daniel to gain this understanding, which opens up a whole new level of understanding of the time of the end that expands greatly on both history and the future. This is covered in the presentation on [the abomination of desolation](#) in much greater depth.

Another important piece of information to be gleaned from Christ's words regards the location of this time. If Yeshua were giving a warning to the believers all over the world of this time, why is it only those in Judea who are told to flee to the mountains?

Mark 13:14

But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) **then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:**

Unparalleled References

The final association we will look at to find other verses talking about this unparalleled tribulation at the end comes from the Olivet Discourse.

Matthew 24:21-22

For then shall be **great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.** And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but **for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**

Mark 13:19-20

For [in] those days shall be **affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.** And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but **for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.**

The key point from these two passages is that this time, called the great tribulation, is greater than any other from the beginning of the creation of the world through the first century and indeed greater than any time in the future as well. This is the definition of "unparalleled" and the Olivet Discourse is not the only time related to great tribulation that is said to be unparalleled and we have several markers in these passages that will help us bring in verses from elsewhere in scripture. First, the unparalleled nature, second the idea of the days of this great tribulation being shortened, and third the tying of this time to those in Judea.

Jeremiah 30:1-9

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book. For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. And **these [are] the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah.** For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? **Alas! for that day [is] great, so that none [is] like it:** it [is] even the time of Jacob's trouble; **but he shall be saved out of it.** For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, [that] I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

Jeremiah 30 begins with a prophecy we know we can tie to the same time Yeshua was speaking about because of those markers. We see this prophecy is spoken concerning Israel and Judah, the day is so great there is none like it, and Jacob, or Israel, will be saved out of it. It is interesting to see we also have a compressed order of events we have seen begun in the last century, where Israel has been returning from the diaspora into the land God gave their forefathers. It is after this unparalleled time of tribulation they are saved out of that they will dwell safely in the Messianic Kingdom under the rule of Yeshua, and if not symbolic of Yeshua, David will rule Israel as Yeshua rules the world. While this doesn't define the timing with any further granularity, it does importantly place the focus squarely on Israel and Judah regarding this time and I imagine this will be one of the many passages Israel studies in the desert that will further bring them back to understanding God's plan they were blinded to for so long.

Daniel 12:1, 7, 11

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. ... And [one] said to the man clothed in linen, which [was] upon the waters of the river, How long [shall it be to] the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which [was] upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that [it shall be] for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these [things] shall be finished. ... And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, [there shall be] a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

While the exact day prophecies will be covered in greater detail in the [Daniel's 70 Weeks](#) studies, it's important to note that the unparalleled time of great tribulation in this passage is also tied to the abomination of desolation. The study on the [abomination of desolation](#) will go into greater detail on the four passages Daniel speaks of this, which has an intriguing link of the history of this event with the future of it that will be covered in greater dept in the [Visions of Daniel and John](#) study.

From the examination of the passages referring directly to, using the same word, and by association of several key points, we can see that this unparalleled time of great tribulation that Yeshua was speaking about has a focus on those in Judea who are told to flee, the people of Israel and Judah. We also know that the elect are going to be saved out of this unparalleled time when it is cut short for their sake because if it had not been cut short they would likely not survive.

These are important points gleaned directly from scripture and taking the words seriously, that they mean what they say, and using sound logical principles to understand that these are all related. It expands to other verses elsewhere in scripture that shed further light on what God is conveying to His people who are watching about the coming times. The truth is in the details and we must take care to interpret the details from the whole council of God where it is clear.

Luke's Divergent Account

If you've read the different accounts of the Olivet Discourse in Matthew, Mark, and Luke you may have noticed that in talking of the great tribulation that Luke's account was not mentioned. While it begins and ends similarly to Matthew's and Mark's accounts, there is a distinct difference from them. This difference has led many to believe that all three accounts are pointing to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD and in some cases take a preterist view that holds these things have already been fulfilled.

I would like to share a perspective from scripture first mentioned in the *Olivet Discourse: Vision of the Future* study that I believe explains this divergence of Luke's account, suggesting perhaps that Yeshua had this conversation with the disciples several times and in slightly different ways in order to provide

an account and warning for both those in Judea in 70 AD and in the future at the abomination of desolation.

Matthew and Mark both begin the Olivet Discourse with Yeshua leaving the temple and the disciples admiring the buildings. Yeshua tells them that not one stone will be left on another, which prompts them to ask on the Mount of Olives when these will be and what the sign of His coming and the end of the world would be. Luke does not mention the temple or that they are on the Mount of Olives, but does warn of the temple's destruction prompting the same question about when the destruction of the temple would be and the signs of the end.

The verses just prior to the account of the time those in Judea should flee to the mountain in Matthew and Mark speak to the end coming just before the account of fleeing to the mountains.

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Mark 13:13

And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Luke 21:19

In your patience possess ye your souls.

The idea of being patient and enduring to the end is present in all cases and can be taken both in a personal lifetime perspective and in that of the general body of Christ in time. However in Matthew's and Mark's accounts, we see an explicit declaration that "when ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains." Luke makes no mention of Daniel or the abomination of desolation he spoke of and I believe there is a reason for that.

Luke 19:41-44

And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things [which belong] unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

Matthew 23:33-39

[Ye] serpents, [ye] generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and [some] of them ye shall kill and crucify; and [some] of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute [them] from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [thou] that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

And so we see Luke's account focus not on the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel, but on the blindness of Israel and desolation of Jerusalem prophesied by Yeshua. Luke's depiction of the

warning for those in Judea takes on a distinctly different context and duration.

Luke 21:20-24

And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

The destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD was the days of vengeance on Israel. Ever since Pesach, or Passover, in 30 AD when Yeshua was crucified, God was no longer with Israel and their blindness was proclaimed. For those 40 years there are many documented strange occurrences such as the Menorah not staying lit, on Yom Kippur the scarlet cloth did not turn white and the lot always came up in the left hand, and the temple door opened on its own. And 40 years after the crucifixion, those who did not flee Jerusalem around Passover were under siege by Rome and ultimately were killed or disbursed into the nations. The Gentiles have controlled Jerusalem until recently and still the Temple Mount is controlled by the Gentiles to this day. This suggests a time in the future when Israel will no longer allow Jerusalem to be trodden down by the Gentiles, when the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Luke joins the timeline with Matthew and Mark in the next verse after speaking of the times of the Gentiles being fulfilled, regarding Yeshua's return in glory at the signs of the sixth seal.

Luke 21:25-28

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And **when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.**

This speaks to the ability for God to provide the kind of warning that His people who trusted His Word in 70 AD would have heeded seeing the armies begin to encompass Jerusalem and understanding her destruction was at hand. This same piece of scripture with the same warnings for those in Judea will exist in the future when they see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet stand in the holy place.

For our future, it is this time just before the signs in the heavens that we are to look up expectantly because our redemption is at hand. For the unsuspecting world it will be a time of distress and fear as things are about to happen that no amount of money and power can be thrown at to stop. But before these signs, begins the great tribulation at the revealing of the man of sin.

[The Faithful Woman and the Dragon](#)

A key element to understand in understanding the order of events and even timing of some of them is understanding the relationship between the dragon and the faithful woman of Revelation 12. This is in opposition to the adulterous woman of Revelation 17 and 18 who is in league with the dragon and is seen riding him. At the time of the end it is this adulterous woman, who goes after other gods and is drunk on the blood of the saints, that is juxtaposed to the faithful woman who is persecuted by the dragon and his followers.

For reasons detailed in the [abomination of desolation study](#) and more wholistically in the [Visions of](#)

[Daniel and John](#), the great tribulation is the direct result of the man of sin being given power by the dragon, and the dragon going after the faithful woman, Israel.

Revelation 12:1-5, 9, 13-17

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. ... And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ... And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man [child]. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The dragon is explicitly defined as the Devil, Satan, and the deceiver of the whole world. The Bible interprets this woman for us in the story of Jacob's son Joseph and one of his dreams.

Genesis 37:3; 9-11

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. ... And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told [it] to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What [is] this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

This was fulfilled after Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt and God used that for good. Years later his family would indeed bow to him as he saved them from famine through his faithfulness to God in Egypt. We see scripture calling Jacob Israel and Sarah, his mother, and the 11 brothers and Joseph make up the 12 stars. As pointed out in the Watermark Gospel video [Does the Story of Joseph Point to Jesus?](#) on YouTube, there's an amazing narrative association between Joseph and Yeshua in their stories. I highly recommend this channel with all the other short narratives they go over pointing to Yeshua.

From the genealogy of Matthew 1 we have a clear line from Abraham to Yeshua, who is the promised Messiah to come from Israel and the line of David, representing the Messiah being born of the symbolic woman Israel. We also saw this symbolic dragon representing Satan's influence in the world attempting to devour the child when He was born with the slaughter of the innocents by Herod, but God led His parents into Egypt to save His Son and He grew up to complete His ministry, suffering, and death for our transgressions only to be resurrected and caught up to God in heaven until He comes again.

Revelation 13:1-5

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as [the feet] of a bear, and his

mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who [is] like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty [and] two months.

Notice how this same symbolic dragon from Revelation 12, with seven heads and ten horns with ten crowns, is pictured giving his power and great authority to this beast. The symbology seems mingled because in chapter 12, the dragon is this seven-headed, ten-horned beast, but in chapter 13 the dragon gives this same seven-headed, ten-horned beast his power. I don't believe this is an accident because the man who is represented by the beast is simply a proxy for the dragon to receive the worship as god he has long desired. We see this in that the world wonders after the beast, but worships the dragon who gave power to the beast in addition to the beast.

So when talking about the false christ we should understand that he is both a man to whom the dragon has given his power, but he is also the direct representative of the dragon himself and the two are symbolically tied together. This point has an interesting antithetical parallel with God sending His Son who, as part of the trinity of Father, Son, and Spirit, was the direct representative as a man yet also God on earth. The Father in Spirit and Truth gave the Son His power and authority while an incarnate man. Yeshua humbled Himself to be a man and subservient to His Father and was preceded by a prophet in the spirit and power of Elijah, John the Baptist, who was to prepare His way.

So likewise we see the unholy imitator setting up his allowed reign in the same form with the dragon as the false Father, the false christ as the false Son (Messiah), and the false prophet preparing the way for and pointing everyone to the false Son, the man of sin, the antichrist. I believe this may be one of many clues as to the centrality of Israel in the dragon's plan to replace God with himself and receive worship. For those who are deceived by this, they are the ones committing spiritual fornication with other gods. As discussed in the [Man of Sin: False Christ](#) study, the promise of Elijah coming before the day of the Lord is not lost on Rabbinical Judaism, and the false prophet pointing to the false christ may indeed claim to be or be perceived to be the promised coming of Elijah that Orthodox Judaism is looking for.

Two Phases of Great Tribulation

On a surface reading, if you don't get into the details of the time Yeshua is mentioning in the Olivet Discourse, it would seem that the tribulation is cut short, however you might define tribulation, whether seven years or three and a half years. I believe the idea of cutting short is clarified with a closer examination of the text and some other scriptures. Most of these were just covered, but will benefit from review in the context of recognizing two phases of the dragon's wrath on God's people.

Phase 1: The Time of Jacob's Trouble

Several things caught my attention a while back when studying this time at the abomination of desolation.

1. All of these passages speak to a time of great tribulation unparalleled. (was not from the beginning or will ever be, a day unlike any other since there was a nation)
2. All of these passages speak specifically of Israel in Judea. (People: those in Judea, the elect, Daniel's people, Israel and Judah, Jacob's trouble)
3. All of these passages speak of the people of Israel in Judea being saved out of it and Yeshua specifies the days would be cut short.
4. All but Jeremiah associate the abomination of desolation to the beginning of this time and Daniel 12:11-12 speaks to the context of the beginning, also paralleling with points 1-3 above.
5. Daniel connects this time of the revealing of the man of sin at the abomination of desolation to a

point when Michael the archangel, that stands for Israel, stands up (H5975 - arise, rise up or against, appear, come on the scene)

Matthew 24:15-16, 21-22

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then **let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: ... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.** And **except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**

Mark 13:14, 19-20

But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then **let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains: ... For [in] those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.** And **except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.**

Daniel 12:1

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which **standeth for the children of thy people:** and **there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time:** and **at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.**

Jeremiah 30:4-7

And these [are] **the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah.** For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? **Alas! for that day [is] great, so that none [is] like it: it [is] even the time of Jacob's trouble;** but **he shall be saved out of it.**

You cannot have four verses that all speak of a time unparalleled in all of history for the people of Israel in Judea that are talking about more than one period of time. Unparalleled means it stands alone. Therefore, all four of these passages and their contextual placements are speaking of this same time at the abomination of desolation in Judea.

Daniel 7:25

And he shall speak [great] words against the most High, and **shall wear out the saints of the most High,** and think to change times and laws: and **they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.**

Daniel 12:7

And I heard the man clothed in linen, which [was] upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that [it shall be] **for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people,** all these [things] shall be finished.

Revelation 13:5

And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and **power was given unto him to continue forty [and] two months.**

The dragon's proxy, the beast or man of sin, will have 42 months, or 3 1/2 years to wear out the saints,

scatter the power of the holy people who are given into his hand during the 42 months he is given power. Further in Revelation 13:4 we see the dragon gives his power to the beast. This all begins at the same abomination of desolation when he is revealed.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and [by] our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except **there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.** Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. **For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [will let], until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed,** whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

The man of sin is revealed when he declares himself god at the abomination of desolation and the stopping of the daily. This same man will be destroyed 1260 days later at Christ's return to take the kingdoms and begin His reign on earth. Furthermore, from that abomination of desolation will count 1290 days, 30 more than the 1260 he will have power for. The context of this verse points to its end being tied to the period appointed to Israel and Jerusalem, the 70th week, placing the abomination of desolation 30 days before the exact middle of the week.

Daniel 12:11

And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, [there shall be] a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Revelation 12:7-9, 13-16

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And **the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ... And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man [child].** And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. **And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.**

The dragon is cast out of heaven by Michael the archangel to the earth where he immediately persecutes the woman of Revelation 12, which brought forth the Messiah. The fact that Michael stands up at the abomination of desolation and the dragon goes after the woman when he is cast down sufficiently connects this period of time in my view and I believe reveals Michael as the restrainer of the revealing of the antichrist.

We also see that the context of the unparalleled time of Jacob's trouble is immediately after the abomination of desolation and this is the context of what Yeshua said is cut short, the time of Jacob's trouble that faithful Israel will be saved out of. We see this salvation on two wings of a great eagle, echoing her exodus from Egypt.

Exodus 19:3-5

And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus

shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; **Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and [how] I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.** Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth [is] mine:

Note what else Yeshua says will happen after this time focused on Israel that she is saved out of.

Matthew 24:29-31

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Mark 13:24-27

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

It is important to recognize and keep in mind the context of everything presented about this time. It is speaking specifically of the time just after the abomination of desolation in Judea that Israel is saved out of when it is cut short by her being carried on eagle's wings to the wilderness where she is protected by God from the dragon. The time that is cut short is not the reign of the antichrist for 42 months, it is the dragon's wrath against Israel in Judea specifically that is cut short, not the whole 3.5 year tribulation.

Note also that it is this time immediately after the time of Jacob's trouble that Christ returns in glory at the sign of the sixth seal, not to rule the earth, but to bring redemption for His bride and judgement on the earth. It is the beginning of the day of the Lord, suddenly as destruction from the Almighty. There is only one seal left that lasts 1/2 hour before the scroll can be opened.

Revelation 7:1-3

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

The earth, sea, trees are decreed not to be hurt after the sixth seal and before the seventh is broken. The remainder of this chapter sees 144,000 sealed and a great multitude in heaven standing before the throne and before the Lamb. This same throne was empty but for the 24 elders at the beginning of John's vision in Revelation 4:2-6.

I believe the order of Revelation 6-8 is not an accident and not an interlude, it is a snapshot of events that must happen after the sixth seal at His coming and before God's wrath is poured out. Those judgments can only be read and performed when the seals keeping the scroll closed are broken and only Yeshua is worthy to break the seals and when the seventh is broken and the trumpets sound, the earth and the sea and the trees will clearly be hurt.

As discussed in the *Daniel's 70 Weeks, Seals, Trumpets, Bowls and Olivet Discourse: Vision of the Future*

studies, the rise of the false christ leading to the beginning of the 70th week of Daniel will be at a time when all of Israel feels cornered and alone. The great deception, in the context of all the prophecies pointing to Israel and Jerusalem, seems most likely to be tied to John 5:43 when the false christ arises on the scene seemingly bringing Israel back to the Mosaic Covenant and turning them back to the God of their fathers. He will be given a crown and conquering Israel's enemies, giving them the perception of the Messiah they've been looking for, Messiah ben David. For most in Israel at the beginning of the week, I believe they will indeed be sincerely turning back to God the only way they know how, being blinded, and for those that are His He will hear them. The two witnesses will be the warning to those in Israel as the temple sacrifices begin again pointing Israel, who are coming to the temple to worship, to the true Messiah who already came.

Deuteronomy 4:26-31

I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong [your] days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you. And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. **But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find [him], if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, [even] in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God [is] a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them.**

Just as all of Israel in the time before the 70th week of Daniel feels isolated and alone in the world and turns to God as a nation, even more so will the faithful remnant of Israel who reject the false christ when he is revealed feel isolated and alone from their own families who have accepted the false christ. The nation of Israel is indeed a family, literally from the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is the time of Jacob's trouble, a family matter, when the unfaithful who accept the false christ turn against those who remain loyal to the God of their fathers. And out of this great tribulation those who reject the false christ turn even more toward the Lord and He hears them and saves them from spiritual Egypt on wings of a great eagle into the wilderness to a place prepared for her.

Phase 2: Remainder of the Dragons Reign

It is in this critical transition time at the coming of the Lord and the beginning of God's wrath that we see Israel is carried to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, following the order of Revelation 6-8 where we see the 144,000 sealed before God's wrath is poured out. It is also at this time when those in Israel are protected from the dragon.

Revelation 12:14, 17

And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. ... And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Here we see the dragon turns his attention to the remnant and those with the testimony of Christ. Taking from scripture that the day of the Lord comes suddenly after the signs of the sixth seal and that the elect from the four winds are caught up with the sound of a trumpet, as depicted in Matthew 24:29-31, Mark 13:24-27, and Luke 21:25-28, then from the plain reading of scripture we have an order of events and clarity on how something can be cut short, yet stated to last 42 months, or 3.5 years.

1. Abomination of desolation: man of sin declares himself god in the temple
2. Faithful Israel that will not worship him as god are persecuted and killed, fleeing to the mountains with Christians there who heed Yeshua's warning and relay that warning to whatever Jews will

listen around them.

3. We are warned not to look for Christ on the earth, but in the skies. This indicates that it's a time of great deception where many will believe the man of sin is not the false christ, but the Messiah establishing his kingdom on earth.
4. The remnant of faithful Israel from Judea is taken from the mountains to which she fled to the wilderness
5. The signs of the sixth seal herald the return of Christ in glory
6. The people of earth will hide in the mountains and under rocks recognizing the wrath of God is about to arrive.
7. The bride of Christ will look up as their redemption has arrived because they are not appointed to God's wrath.
8. The angels will sound their trumpets and the destruction from the almighty will fall on all those that dwell on the earth.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as [do] others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Joel 2:30-32

And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

Isaiah 2:12-21

Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: And upon all the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up, And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures. And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish. And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Isaiah 13:6-11

Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

Joel 3:14-18

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

Revelation 6:15-17

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Luke 21:25-28

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

So we see the transition immediately after the tribulation of those days with the arrival of Yeshua in the heavens with great power and glory. The world cowers and hides because they know judgment is coming. The bride looks up knowing the promised resurrection and catching away has arrived. Israel is protected and the 144,000 are sealed prior to the wrath of God being poured out.

Israel in the Wilderness

While Israel is protected in the wilderness for 1,260 days from the remainder of the dragon's reign, there are several passages, and likely more, which point to a time when Israel will be allured in the wilderness and brought back from her fornication with other gods to return to her first love. We saw that the transition to her protection coincides with the time of the sixth seal and the coming wrath of God, and that before that wrath can come the 144,000 of the 12 tribes of Israel must be sealed. It would seem that her time in the wilderness is not just protection from the dragon, but the getting to know God once again after being unblinded when calling upon Him for salvation.

Hosea 1:9-11

Then said [God], Call his name Loammi: for ye [are] not my people, and I will not be your [God]. Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured

nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, [that] in the place where it was said unto them, Ye [are] not my people, [there] it shall be said unto them, [Ye are] the sons of the living God. Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great [shall be] the day of Jezreel.

This was prophesied around the fall of Northern Israel, in which the ten tribes were scattered into the earth and it isn't until modern times that Israel, all the tribes have been making Aliyah back into the land. This was prophesied to happen also by Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 37:15-22

The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and [for] all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou [meanest] by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which [is] in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, [even] with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:

This places the following passage about the restoration of Israel at the time of the end.

Hosea 2:14-23

Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, [that] thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali. For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name. And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and [with] the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely. And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD. And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth; And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel. And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to [them which were] not my people, Thou [art] my people; and they shall say, [Thou art] my God.

God will allure Israel and bring her into the wilderness prepared for her and she will sing there as in the days she was saved out of the land of Egypt. At this time this remnant of the twelve tribes of Israel will no longer be associated with false gods and she will be protected there. From that time forward God will once again call Israel His people and the remnant will say He is their God.

Isaiah 33 and 34 speak of the judgment of God, the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion. And following this declaration of judgement comes the promise to God's people.

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, [and] the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them [that are] of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come [with] vengeance, [even] God [with] a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame [man] leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, [shall be] grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it [shall be] for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err [therein]. No lion shall be there, nor [any] ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk [there]: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Again we see this association of the wilderness blossoming and a promise of vengeance from God who will save them and they will be safe and provided for, eventually coming to Zion with songs and everlasting joy. The remnant of Israel in Judea will be coming out of the unparalleled tribulation where she will be saved and protected from the dragon in the wilderness for the duration of the 70th week of Daniel. When she comes out of the wilderness, it will be into the Messianic Kingdom where Yeshua will be ruling for 1,000 years, the promise fulfilled that Israel has been waiting for. There is also a promise of unblinding of the eyes and unblocking of the ears.

Luke 19:41-42

And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things [which belong] unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

Romans 11:25-27

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this [is] my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Jeremiah 30:23-31:4, 7-14

Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD goeth forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind: it shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked. The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done [it], and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it. ... At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus saith the LORD, The people [which were] left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; [even] Israel, when I went to cause him to rest. The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, [saying], Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry. ... For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, [and] with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause

them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim [is] my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare [it] in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd [doth] his flock. For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of [him that was] stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all. Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow. And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD.

The ultimate fulfillment of the redemption of the natural children of Israel and their dwelling safely in the land would appear to come after a period of national repentance upon coming out of the time of Jacob's trouble. During her time of protection in the wilderness, she will be allured back to God in repentance there.

And as she comes out of the wilderness and the 70th week of Daniel concludes, those alive but not caught up at Yeshua's arrival, who went through the hour of temptation and were killed having rejected the man of sin, are resurrected to reign with Christ in His Messianic Kingdom.

Revelation 20:4-6

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection. Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

God's Wrath vs. Dragon's Wrath

God's Wrath

Another detail that is commonly generalized is the idea of God's wrath. There are some who call the entire period of seven years, or the [70th week of Daniel](#), God's wrath. They rightly point to 1 Thessalonians 5:9 that the obedient followers of Christ are not appointed to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Yeshua the Christ. This is one argument to point to a [catching away of the bride of Christ](#) prior to the start of the 70th week. This also contributes to their idea that Yeshua could return at any moment without any other signs. However it is important to take in context what wrath is being discussed.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For **yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night**. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But **ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief**. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as [do] others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ**, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also

ye do.

The wrath we are promised to be kept from is that of the day of the Lord, the wrath of God. This will be detailed more in the studies of the day of the Lord and harpazo, which is the combined resurrection and catching away of the bride of Christ. This is the blessed hope that should bring us comfort. When the Son of God is revealed in the clouds with great power and glory and the world hides in fear, we are told to look up in anticipation because our redemption draws near. This coming of Christ in glory is given an order in relation to the day of the Lord, which is covered in greater detail in that study.

Joel 2:30-31

And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. **The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.**

The day of the Lord's wrath will be preceded by the signs of the sixth seal, which is covered in greater depth in the seals, trumpets, and bowls study, but the relevant context as far as timing is that given by Yeshua in the Olivet Discourse. Once again here we are given an order of related events at this time.

Matthew 24:29-31

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And **then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:** and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.** And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

There are other corroborating verses in () that agree, but these verses clearly give us an order of events.

1. The abomination of desolation will both start the unparalleled tribulation and the reign of the dragon through his proxy antichrist and false prophet with signs and wonders. This time will be focused on Israel in Judea and that time focused on Israel will be cut short as the remnant faithful Israel are saved out of it.
2. Then the sign of the sixth seal will herald the return of Christ in glory.
3. Then the angels will be sent with the great sound of a trumpet to gather the elect.

This order is also confirmed by Paul who says, regarding the coming of our Lord and our gathering to him, that we should not be deceived because a falling away, or apostasy, and the revealing of the man of sin will come before the Lord does. Note how this mirrors the warnings in the Olivet Discourse just after the unparalleled tribulation is revealed not to look on the earth for Christ because of false Christ's that will arise attempting to deceive the very elect.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Now we beseech you, brethren, **by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and [by] our gathering together unto him,** That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that **the day of Christ is at hand.** Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], **except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed,** the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Just as Yeshua stated, the end comes at the abomination of desolation when the man of sin declares himself god in the temple and demands worship. Both before and especially after this, many will be deceived and fall away from the Truth and commit spiritual adultery by worshipping this false Christ.

The Dragon's Wrath

This brings us to the point of clarifying that the dragon has his own wrath that we can see from scripture. It is centered on God's people, the Jew first and also the followers of Christ. The reason Yeshua warned those in Judea to flee to the mountains is because of the wrath of the dragon that would fall on all those who refuse to worship him. We know from scripture that from the point of the abomination of desolation he will be allowed to hunt down and scatter the people of God for 42 months, or 3 1/2 years.

Daniel 7:25-26

And he shall speak [great] words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy [it] unto the end.

Daniel 12:7

And I heard the man clothed in linen, which [was] upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that [it shall be] for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these [things] shall be finished.

Revelation 13:4-8

And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who [is] like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty [and] two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

It is my belief that these scriptures make it clear that the dragon will be allowed to control the earth for this 3 1/2 year period. However, it should be noted that this doesn't mean he has to force that worship on everyone. We can already see from Revelation 13 that much of the world willingly follows after him and worships him.

For the unbelieving atheist, supernatural events will be seen by their own eyes, even the resurrection of this powerful figure. If they don't believe their own experience at that point, what do they feel they have to lose putting up a front and worshipping him to save their lives, and in so doing forever mark their allegiance to him?

For the religious or spiritual person, this figure will be a confirming of their beliefs in the supernatural but for the first time manifest in the world so obviously it can't be denied. If the deceit and lies that accompany these signs and lying wonders can be tailored to the various belief systems to point to a Christ consciousness or Mahdi or Messiah, how many without a solid foundation would not bow and worship to save their mortal lives?

Satan is not interested in killing all mankind mortally because he knows if he can deceive them away from God, he has killed them spiritually and eternally. What is a few years of letting them live to do his bidding on the earth without question if, in the end, he has accomplished the goal of his hatred for God and His creation? They will be separated from God with him for time without end. It is clear that the wrath of the dragon in the end is focused on God's people who remain faithful to Him.

It is also clear that this wrath will begin at the abomination of desolation and last for 3 1/2 years until Yeshua returns at Armageddon to end his reign and take the kingdoms to Himself. It is after the unparalleled tribulation in Judea that Christ will come in the clouds and gather the elect after the dragon's wrath has begun and as we will focus on now, this wrath happens in two phases described in a key symbolic chapter of Revelation we've touched on already.

From what I've read in scripture, the great tribulation is the direct result of the man of sin being given power by the dragon and the dragon going after the woman, Israel. Understanding that, the great tribulation has nothing to do with God's wrath, but rather it is the dragon's wrath. The "great tribulation" starts when the dragon's wrath is expressed against Israel, and in Revelation 12:17 that wrath is turned from Judea specifically to worldwide persecution by the dragon of Jews and anyone holding the testimony of Christ. It is this scattering of the holy people by the dragon and his minions that results in the great tribulation starting. Christ directly links the start of this great tribulation with the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet who placed this event in the midst of a 7-year period of time appointed to the nation of Israel. The 70th week is God's plan, the covenant with many is the dragon's plan.

Length of the Unparalleled Tribulation

The exact day prophecies are covered in greater detail in that study, but related to the unparalleled tribulation it is an important point to make that defines just how long this first phase of the dragon's wrath on Israel in Judea will last.

We've covered Daniel 7:25, Daniel 12:7, and Revelation 13:5, which all point to the man of sin beginning his 42 month or 3 1/2 year reign starting at the abomination of desolation. We also know that it is Christ's return at Armageddon that will define the end of that reign with the beast and false prophet are cast into the lake of fire and the dragon is bound for 1,000 years.

Revelation 19:20-20:3

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which [sword] proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

However, we also see that this same woman Israel is protected from the dragon for 1,260 days or 3 1/2 years.

Revelation 12:6, 14

And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days. ... And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

So how is Israel protected from the dragon for the same amount of time that the dragon is going to have power? How can Yeshua say that this unparalleled time of Jacob's trouble in Judea happens if Israel is protected from the dragon?

Daniel 12:8-11

And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what [shall be] the end of these [things]? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words [are] closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, [there shall be] a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

I believe this passage clears up these questions and adds to the framework of exact day prophecies of the 70th week of Daniel. The beginning of this 1,290 day period is clearly tied to the abomination of desolation, but its end is left somewhat vague. The context of Daniel 12 begins in the midst of the week as defined by Daniel 9:27. This doesn't mean the exact middle, but the midst of two parts. And if the context of this chapter is the events of the 70th week, then it would follow that the end of these things would be the end of the 70th week.

And so it would seem that from the abomination of desolation to the saving of Israel out of the unparalleled time would indicate that Israel is indeed in the time of Jacob's trouble from the abomination of desolation, but saved out of it 30 days later when she is taken to the place prepared for her in the wilderness where she is protected from the dragon.

Given the relationship of the order of the abomination of desolation, followed by Jacob's trouble, followed by the signs of the sixth seal, followed by the gathering of the elect and the sealing of the 144,000 of the 12 tribes of Israel, followed by the day of the Lord and the beginning of the wrath of God, we can associate the saving of Israel and the cutting short of Jacob's trouble with the return of Christ and our gathering to Him.

This doesn't mean that those living outside of Judea will be unaffected by tribulation. Even now in non-Western countries there is a purging of Christians daily by those following after the working of the dragon. And for those lucky enough to live in Western nations, while God is preventing the revealing of the man of sin we must remember that even though the dragon cannot begin his plans until God allows it, that doesn't mean that the foundations of what is to come are not already being implemented at least partially out of view of the world.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8

And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [will let], until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

As we know, technology and politics are growing increasingly combined. While technology can make life easier, it can also be used as a tool of control. Nothing is free, and if anything the 2020's has begun to show us this with censorship and control of what can and cannot be seen and heard. Digital currencies make life so much easier, but as central bank digital currencies are developed to allow metadata tagging of transactions, it's not a stretch to see how that can be used to prevent certain types of buying and selling.

Combine just these two elements and the infrastructure being used to make life easier can, with just a few modifications, turn what were once normal citizens into the outcasts of society and prevent any participation in society. This all takes time to implement, but those who aren't in the know don't necessarily understand the capabilities currently available and we are at the mercy of our governments who have long stopped listening to the people but to get elected again. This is expected of this time and I believe we will only see this grow more integrated as global governance and alliances create effective one world government while leaving the appearance of national sovereignty in place for those not watching.

One Taken, One Left

Until just recently, I believed the passages we're about to look at spoke of the catching away. In doing a further examination of these passages I think my understanding may have been wrong and because of the context I now believe they fall under, would like to present that view.

In the Olivet Discourse, Yeshua speaks about the days of Noah and Lot. The context in the various versions is somewhat different and one particular phrase had always confused me. The most commonly mentioned account of the Olivet Discourse comes from Matthew and these verses come right after the start of unparalleled tribulation and before Christ's return in glory.

Matthew 24:23-28

Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here [is] Christ, or there; believe [it] not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, [he is] in the secret chambers; believe [it] not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.**

The first five verses make complete sense because we are told before Christ comes not to be deceived and follow after those claiming to be christ on earth. That's exactly what the antichrist will be doing, claiming to be god. Then comes the odd addition that wherever the dead body is the vultures will be gathered together. What does this have to do with the false christs or the coming of Christ?

The very next verse is that regarding the sixth seal immediately after the unparalleled tribulation. It is after the parable of the fig tree that we see the parallel of the coming of Christ to the days of Noah and the flood and the destruction they both will bring. We then see that there are two in the field and two grinding. In each case one is taken and the other left.

Matthew 24:36-42

But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe [were], so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two [women shall be] grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

The Mark 13 and Luke 21 accounts don't mention the bodies and the vultures gathered or the one taken and one left. However, Luke 17 seems to expand on Matthew's account bringing in Lot as an example of the sudden destruction and a shift in order that may highlight what this odd phrase means. This passage is placed before the triumphal entry in Luke's Gospel, which leads me to believe that what Yeshua told the disciples on the Mount of Olives after the triumphal entry was likely not the first time they had this conversation.

Luke 17:22-37

And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see [it]. And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after [them], nor follow [them]. For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one [part] under heaven, shineth unto the other [part] under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day. But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation. And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives,

they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. I tell you, in that night there shall be two [men] in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two [women] shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two [men] shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body [is], thither will the eagles be gathered together.

We see the same warning about false christs on the earth and not to follow after them because when Christ does come, it will be from heaven with lightning and trumpets and great power and glory.

Noah and the flood is given as an example of the time when Christ will come as well as Lot. In both cases the suddenness of the destruction that came within a day of the elect of God both entering the ark and leaving the city, which were both the destination of God's wrath, and so they were saved before the wrath of God.

An interesting point is made in terms of Lot's account. We are warned, in regards to fleeing Judea at the abomination of desolation, not to turn back and gather belongings. Lot's wife is given as an example to bring to mind because whoever shall seek to save his life will lose it and whoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. This is an odd saying that seems contradictory.

In the future the reason those in Judea are warned to flee to the mountains is because if they don't they will be forced to either worship the man of sin or be killed for not doing so. We aren't given much detail of Lot's wife, but they were told in their rush to get out of the city before God's wrath was poured out on it not to look back. Everything they had built their lives on was in the city they left behind. Their belongings, any friends they might have had, everything but themselves were left. Their whole life was there, just not their bodies as they fled. To me it seems that in Lot's wife turning back to look at the life they left behind, her desire was more to look on what was lost than obedience and willingness to lose all the earthly possessions they had.

So too in this future time, anyone who attempts to preserve their worldly lives at this time will be caught up in the unparalleled tribulation where they will make a choice to either worship the beast and lose their spiritual lives or reject the beast and lose their earthly lives. Either way is death and so in having their heart set on earthly things they lose their life, but willingness to lose their earthly things, they preserve their lives.

Finally we have the one taken and the other left parallels in the context of this time that ends this chapter and message of the future given to the disciples. There are two in one bed at night, two grinding, and two in the field, the latter examples likely during the day. Of each of these one is taken and one is left. This indicates that it's occurring either over a period of time or is a global event. I've long assumed the latter, but this ignored the context of the passage, that time of unparalleled tribulation in Judea.

Finally the disciples ask where these are taken to and the response would indicate that they are killed and the vultures gather to feast on their bodies.

Given the context during the unparalleled persecution, the warning to flee to the mountains, and the resulting death of the ones that are taken, this would seem less to do with the catching away of

believers and more about the murder of those in Judea who don't flee to the mountains and are confronted with either worshipping the man of sin or being killed for their refusal. Note that during the unparalleled time of Jacob's trouble, we also see an unparalleled people.

Joel 2:1-11

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for [it is] nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, [even] to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land [is] as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them [is] as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and [when] they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp [is] very great: for [he is] strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD [is] great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

In the beginning of Joel 2 we see a warning that the day of the Lord is near, implying it has not yet come, followed by a depiction of a great and strong people that seem invincible going through the cities and climbing the walls and entering into the windows of houses like a thief leaving destruction in their wake. They strike fear in the people and this all happens before the signs of the sixth seal are mentioned followed by the day of the Lord when He utters his voice in the day of the Lord.

So it may be that following the abomination of desolation we are given a prophecy of the fervent followers of the antichrist who have supernatural power to execute his will and scatter the power of the holy people in Judea. Those who do not worship the antichrist will be killed and so it would seem that the ones that are taken in this context are those who refuse to worship the dragon and are killed. Of those who do not heed the warning to flee I'm guessing the majority will capitulate, but clearly not all. I will leave the interpretation that is correct to be determined by you, but given its potential relevance to the great tribulation I thought it relevant to bring up.

Conclusion

I believe from scripture it is clear that the great tribulation is the dragon's wrath on God's people. The dragon is only given 42 months of control of the earth and that clock starts at the abomination of desolation and ends at Armageddon. The first phase of his wrath is focused on Israel in Judea, where he has declared himself to be god and sits in the temple in Jerusalem in Judea. This period of unparalleled tribulation on Israel in Judea only lasts for about a month's time before the focus of that first phase is protected in the wilderness and the dragon must spend the remaining 1,230 days of his reign to implement phase 2 of the tribulation period, going after the Jews that were not in Judea and those holding the testimony of Christ. From all this we can see how both the antichrist reigns for 3.5 years as prophesied, and how Israel is also protected from the antichrist for 3.5 years with a 30 day window of Jacob's trouble taken from the combination of the 1290 and 1260 day periods given.

Regarding that time just before and during the unparalleled tribulation, I believe there will be whispers of Messiah among the Rabbis and Jews who are blinded to Christ and whispers of antichrist among the Christians and Jewish Messianic believers in Judea and around the world. The believers will have been

watching and I think there will be a concerted effort to warn and assisting with the exodus from Jerusalem and surrounding Judea after the abomination of desolation. Most of the Jews will probably not understand what is really happening but for the faithful warning them. When the Christians are caught up and Israel is left behind, they will be jealous, repentant, and call on the name of the Lord.

While I believe a month is too short of a time to implement the mark of the beast and control over buying and selling, I also believe that the mystery of iniquity is already at work to build the infrastructure to make that happen and I am not in the know on those details. Once the world has given over their power to the antichrist, the political limitations preventing certain technologies from being fully implemented will likely disappear and the dictator will accomplish his plans of control of those who worship him while making life difficult for those who don't and flushing them out.

I also believe that all the scriptures that discuss the unparalleled tribulation, sixth seal, and the day of the Lord agree with a plain reading of Matthew 24:15-31, Mark 13:14-27, and Revelation 6-8 that places the return of Christ to gather the elect at the same general time of the rescue of Israel, all just before the wrath of God begins at the start of the day of the Lord. You can see these perspectives in the various topical studies and how they all come together in the HISStory, Our Future studies.

May God continue to bless you as you remain in Him.

Review of 70th week chart

Perhaps during the above presentation, leave out all elements of the chart that are not directly related to the topic. Then, at the end of each episode, the whole chart with all the information will be displayed and perhaps highlighting the topics covered and discussed in relation to the whole?

For more detailed studies, please visit watchmanbiblestudy.com