The Last Days at a Glance

A Pre-Tribulation Timeline of Coming Events



"Look, I am coming quickly."
Revelation 22:12

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For the full verse-by-verse teaching, see my free Daniel Bible Study and Revelation Bible Study at trinfinityenterprises.com.

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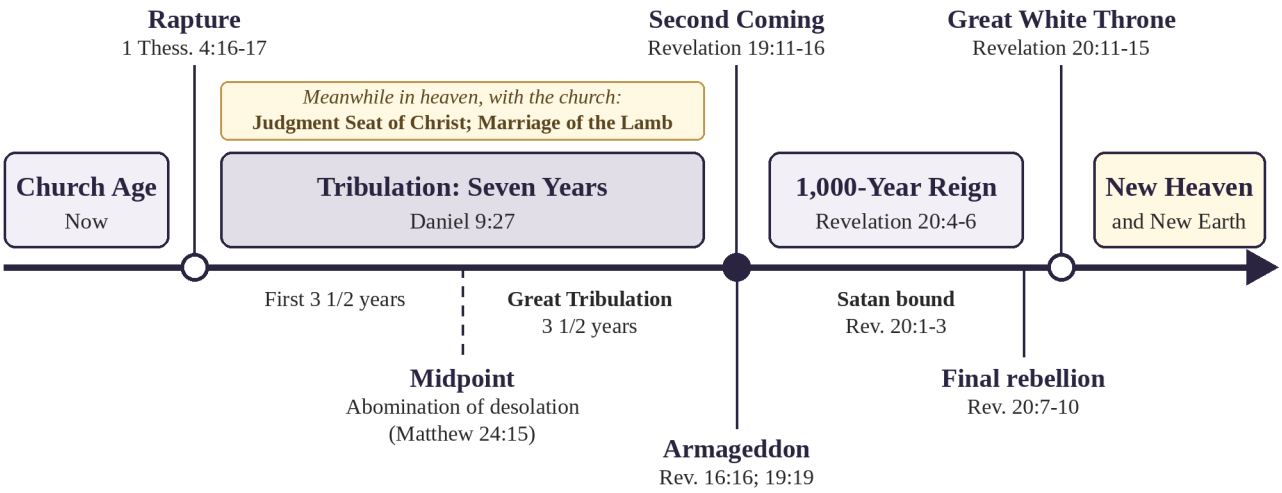
What the Bible Says Is Coming

The Bible tells us a great deal about how this age will end. This pamphlet lays out the order of events the way I understand Scripture: the pre-tribulation, premillennial view. That means I believe Jesus will take His church to be with Him before the seven-year Tribulation begins, and that He will return to earth after the Tribulation to reign for a thousand years.

Good, Bible-believing Christians hold other views on the timing of these events. I explain those views and why I hold this one in my Revelation Bible Study. What we all agree on is the most important part: Jesus is coming back.

The Order of Coming Events

The pre-tribulation, premillennial view



1. The Church Age (now)

We are living in the church age, the time between Jesus' first coming and the rapture. During this time the gospel goes out to every nation, and the Holy Spirit lives in every believer (Matthew 16:18; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).

2. The Rapture

Jesus will come in the air and take every believer, living and dead, to be with Him. The dead in Christ rise first, and the believers still living are changed in a moment and caught up to meet Him (John 14:2-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52).

> *"because the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout of command, with **the** voice of an archangel and with **the** trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are living, who remain, will be caught away together with them in **the** clouds to meet the Lord in **the** air; and so we will always be with **the** Lord."* **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

Why before the Tribulation? God has not appointed His people to wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9). Jesus promised to keep His church from the hour of testing coming on the whole world (Revelation 3:10). And the one

who restrains lawlessness, which I understand to be the Holy Spirit working through the church, must be taken out of the way before the man of sin is revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:6-8).

> *"Because you kept the word of My endurance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing which is about to come upon the whole inhabited world, to test those who dwell on the earth."* **Revelation 3:10**

3. In Heaven: The Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage of the Lamb

While the Tribulation unfolds on earth, the church is with Christ in heaven. Every believer will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. This is not a judgment to decide salvation. It is where our works are tested and rewards are given (2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15). Then comes the marriage of the Lamb, the great celebration of Christ and His bride, the church (Revelation 19:7-9).

4. The Tribulation: Seven Years

The Tribulation is the seventieth "seven" of Daniel 9, a seven-year period of judgment on a world that has rejected God. It begins when a coming ruler, the Antichrist, makes a covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:24-27).

> *"And he will make a covenant strong for the many **for** one seven; and **in** the middle of the seven he will cause sacrifice and grain offering to cease; and on a wing of abominations **will be** one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, and what has been decided will be poured out on the one who is desolate."* **Daniel 9:27**

During these years God pours out the seal, trumpet and bowl judgments (Revelation 6, 8-9 and 16). Yet God is still saving people. He seals 144,000 servants from the tribes of Israel, and a great multitude from every nation comes out of the Tribulation (Revelation 7). Two witnesses preach in Jerusalem (Revelation 11:3-12).

5. The Midpoint and the Great Tribulation

In the middle of the seven years, the Antichrist breaks his covenant, stops the temple sacrifices, and sets himself up to be worshiped. Jesus called this "the abomination of desolation" (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 13). The last three and a half years, 42 months or 1,260 days, are the Great Tribulation (Revelation 12:6; 13:5).

> *"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not happened from **the** beginning of **the** world until now, nor by any means will happen."* **Matthew 24:21**

6. Armageddon and the Second Coming

At the end of the Tribulation the armies of the world gather at Armageddon (Revelation 16:14-16). Then Jesus returns to earth in power and glory with His saints. His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, He will defeat His enemies, and the beast and the false prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire (Zechariah 14:4; Matthew 24:29-30; Revelation 19:11-21).

> *"And I saw heaven opened, and look, a white horse, and the One sitting on it **is** called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war."* **Revelation 19:11**

7. Satan Bound and the Nations Judged

Satan is bound and locked in the abyss for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3). Jesus judges the people who survived the Tribulation, separating the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-46).

8. The Thousand-Year Reign

Jesus reigns on the earth from Jerusalem for a thousand years, and His saints reign with Him. It will be a time of peace, justice and blessing such as the world has never seen (Revelation 20:4-6; Isaiah 2:2-4; Isaiah 11:6-9).

> *"And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them; and the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and who did not worship the beast nor its image, and did not receive the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."* **Revelation 20:4**

9. The Final Rebellion

At the end of the thousand years Satan is released for a short time. He deceives the nations one last time, and they surround the camp of the saints. Fire comes down from heaven, and Satan is thrown into the lake of fire forever (Revelation 20:7-10).

10. The Great White Throne

Every unbeliever of every age is raised and stands before God. They are judged by their works, and anyone whose name is not written in the book of life is thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15). No believer stands at this judgment. Our sins were judged at the cross.

11. The New Heaven and the New Earth

God makes all things new. The holy city, the new Jerusalem, comes down out of heaven, and God lives with His people forever (Revelation 21-22; Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13).

> *"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death will not be any longer, nor mourning nor crying nor pain will be any longer, because the first things passed away."* **Revelation 21:4**

The Rapture and the Second Coming Compared

These are two stages of Christ's return, separated by the seven years of the Tribulation.

	The Rapture	**The Second Coming**
Where Jesus comes	In the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17)	To the earth, on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4)
Who He comes for or with	Comes for His church	Comes with His saints (Revelation 19:14)
When	Before the Tribulation	At the end of the Tribulation
Purpose	To take believers home and keep them from wrath	To judge, defeat His enemies and set up His kingdom
Signs before it	None. It could happen at any moment	Many signs (Matthew 24)
Who sees it	Believers	Every eye will see Him (Revelation 1:7)

Are You Ready?

The point of Bible prophecy is not to win arguments about dates. It is to be ready. If Jesus came for His church today, would you go with Him? If you are not sure, read Coming Home to God or my book The Road Home, both free at trinfinityenterprises.com.

> *"awaiting the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."* **Titus 2:13**