The Future Reality
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There's a future coming, whether you're ready for it or not, so we can't linger any longer in the past on how we've done things or even what it was like in the Bible times; we can't live in the past. The only one that doesn't change is God because his plans for us should have already been preparing us for what is coming, but unfortunately too many believers, for one reason or another either do not know or are not prepared for what's coming. We've gotten references throughout the Bible of all the future events, but now there are so many fairytales out there where they'll tell you that they have the true story and others never hear anything about what we will shortly be facing in our daily reality.

The point is, that all these events could begin within the next ten years, which means that seven years later, when the Armageddon-event happens there would be many today who would still be around to witness that event, so are we going to tell them? Do you even know what events are going to happen? Do they understand that they don't even have to be alive on that day to stand in judgment before God, and that Armageddon, and the events you've told them would happen, are all proof-in-reality that God really does exist and that those who have rejected him will be condemned to hell.

So what is going to happen? At this point you have a choice in that you can either listen to some preacher tell you some nice story that may or may not even have Biblical references or you can listen and VERIFY what the Bible says. What if the Bible was warning us of what was coming, would you then warn others? The point is there a message behind all this that we really need to be telling others about or are we just going to sit in church for an hour or two and have someone throw words at us without real meaning to us. Did the pastor really say something to us, was there a message for us or were they just words?

I'd say about 99.9% of the believers today, just have a religious view of the future events and never look around at the events happening even today. I'm not talking about what was just reported on the news last night or even over the past week but the overall view. Too many times we tend to keep the reality around us separate from our religion and we never see the signs that the day, known as the end-times, is about to dawn.

Some may say that they don't plan (their plans) to be here when all this happens, but I would say 'thou fool' because from the evidence and in some cases the lack of it, believers will be here during this coming time. But when the Bible tells us all these things that are going to happen, and you didn't tell people, do you really think that's wise? Believers will be killed during these coming days and if you're not warning others, then you will have no part with God because he's been warning us for a very long time and Revelations 22 warned us not to add or take away from what God has told us because the consequences of our actions WILL NOT be minor. I’ve seen a lot of believers who think that we won't be here at that time, which to them they think that we don't have to warn others.

Jesus gave the illustration in Matthew 24:43 of the good man of the house if he had known the thief was coming, he would've been ready, well we, as believers do know he's coming, so you're not going to warn him? And in Ezekiel 33:6 we told, But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

So what if you've got your religion; that's not the same as it's real life application and you're just some actor in life without connection to God. In church, you get preached at and you learned all about those glorious days 2,000 plus years ago, but we live in this world today and all we've got is the future. The past was nice and we may be able to learn a thing or two from it, but how are you showing and living what you learn?

What if those in Jesus day had sat down and asked those serious questions of themselves and had tested to see if this Jesus really was their coming Messiah? Could they have recognized the power that Jesus demonstrated over even death, the attitudes of the religious leaders and connected it to his coming death on
the cross at the hands of the Romans and the accusations of the religious leaders? Are we no less obligated to look around us today to see the signs of the times and where we and the rest of the world will be going?

Note: the symbol (W) indicates a hyper link to the web, watch for them.

Intro to Muslim Eschatology

Most Muslims (there will be exemptions) are to play a very significant role in these future events and although there is a wide variation in Muslim Eschatology between them, I believe that the more they see these events unfold before them, the more ‘into’ this they will become, so it’s important that we understand beforehand what many of them believe today because I see it as leading them to this future destiny. Their three main characters are the Mahdi, Isa and the Dajjal, so let’s take a look and see who each of these are and what role the Muslims believe that each will be playing in their future.

Keep in mind that there are a lot of Muslims that are not troublemakers and so today we should be very careful not to point our fingers at the more peaceful ones and think that we have any right from God to kill, slander or torment someone that doesn't believe the same way as we do, which is like throwing an innocent person in jail or condemning all of them for the actions of the radical. Yes, there are some dangerous Muslims out there, but who knows if our kindness to these others, when we act as a true believer of God, won't help them realize that not all us so-called Christians are the same. That maybe Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, that he really was and is a part of the trinity.

But, as I said, I fear that once they see this man that they believe to be their great Mahdi, then the ‘fuse has been lit’ with all the players prepared and in place, and these radical Muslims will ultimately destroy Islam.

But who are these three individuals who are to play a major role in the Muslim prophesies:

1. **Mahdi** (W) – The Guide or the rightly guided one. While others have been called the Mahdi in the past, this one is to have a worldwide impact and fulfills their ‘prophecies’, leading up to the ‘biggest battle’.
2. **Isa** (W) - The Muslim name for Jesus.
3. **Dajjal** (W) - The Antichrist, whom they believe to be a Jew, is to bring about terrible things upon the earth. The Mahdi will initially fight against him but knows he can't win against this man. However, when Jesus returns, he will destroy him in what is called the biggest battle.

When we look at Muslim Eschatology we can see that it didn't come about until centuries after Mohammad, when they apparently started to integrate christian teaching into their religion, adapting it to conform to their religion. This included those like Abraham, Moses and many others who were supposed to prophets from their Allah, and includes Jesus, who they deny was the son of God or that he even died on the cross (it was someone else). This is not a study of their religion so we'll move on.

One report says of the Mahdi:

A typical modernist in his views on the Mahdi, Abul Ala Maududi (1903–1979), the Pakistani Islamic revivalist, stated that the Mahdi will be a modern Islamic reformer/statesman, who will unite the Ummah and revolutionise the world according to the ideology of Islam, but will never claim to be the Mahdi, instead receiving posthumous recognition as such. Some Islamic scholars reject Mahdi doctrine, including Allama Tamanna Imadi (1888–1972), Allama Habibur Rahman Kandhalvi, Javed Ahmad Ghamidi (1951- ).

In Shia Islam, the Mahdi is associated with the belief in the Occultation, that the Mahdi is a “hidden Imam” who has already been born and who will one day return alongside Jesus to fill the world with justice. The promised Mahdi, who is usually mentioned in Shia Islam by his title of Imam-i ’Asr (the Imam of the “Period”) and Sahib al-Zaman (the Lord of the Age), is the son of the eleventh Imam. His name is the same as that of the Prophet of Islam.

Even today, many of the Muslims are looking for this 12th Imam.

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1 Islam is the religion, Muslims are the ones following the religion.
2 Taken in part from the Wikipedia article 'MAHDI'
The two primary branches of Islam are Sunni and Shia, which split from each other over a religio-political leadership dispute about the rightful successor to Muhammad. The Shia believe Muhammad’s cousin and son-in-law, Ali, was the only divinely ordained Imam (religious leader), while the Sunni maintain the first three caliphs after Muhammad were also legitimate authorities. In modern Islam, Sunnis and Shia continue to have different views of acceptable schools of Islamic jurisprudence, and who is a proper Islamic religious authority. (<<< Notice the key to their differences)

'SUNNI ISLAM' accounts for over 75% of the world’s Muslim population. It recognizes the Abu Bakr as the first caliph32 after Muhammad. Sunni has four schools of Islamic doctrine and law - Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi’i, and Hanbali - which uniquely interpret the Hadith, or recorded oral traditions of Muhammad. A Sunni Muslim may elect to follow any one of these schools, as all are considered equally valid.

SHIA ISLAM represents 10-20% of Muslims worldwide, and its distinguishing feature is its reverence for Ali as an infallible, divinely inspired leader, and as the first Imam of the Muslim community after Muhammad. A majority of Shia are known as "Twelvers," because they believe that the 11 familial successor imams after Muhammad culminate in a 12th Imam (al-Mahdi33) who is hidden in the world and will reappear at its end to redeem the righteous.3

As for their references to Jesus or Isa and his return, the Wikipedia reports-
According to Islamic tradition which describes this graphically, Jesus’ descent will be in the midst of wars fought by al-Mahdi (lit. “the rightly guided one”), known in Islamic eschatology as the redeemer of Islam, against al-Masih ad-Dajjāl (the Antichrist "False messiah") and his followers. Jesus will descend at the point of a white arcade, east of Damascus, dressed in yellow robes—his head anointed. He will say prayer behind al-Mahdi then join him in his war against the Dajjal. Jesus, considered as a Muslim, will abide by the Islamic teachings. Eventually, Jesus will slay the Antichrist, and then everyone who is one of the People of the Book (ahl al-kitāb, referring to Jews and Christians) will believe in him. Thus, there will be one community, that of Islam.4

Meanwhile, the beliefs on the Dajjal5 also vary, but generally they believe-
The Dajjal will appear somewhere between Iran and Syria and will travel the whole world preaching his falsehood, but will be unable to enter Mecca or Medina. Isa (Jesus) will return and the Dajjal will gather an army of 70,000 Jews from Isfahan, of those he has deceived and lead them in a war against Jesus who shall be accompanied by an army of the righteous, along with Imam Mahdi.

SUNNI Muslims believe that Isa (Latinized as Jesus) will descend on Mount Afeeq, on the white Eastern Minaret of Damascus. He will descend from the heavens with his hands resting on the shoulders of two angels. His cheeks will be flat and his hair straight. When he lowers his head it will seem as if water is flowing from his hair, when he raises his head, it will appear as though his hair is beaded with silvery pearls. He will descend during Fajr (morning prayer) and the leader of the Muslims will address him thus, “O' Prophet of God, lead the prayer.” Isa will decline with the words, “The virtue of this nation that follows Islam is that they lead each other.” Implying that he will pray behind the imam (the man that leads the prayers) as the word of God was completed after revelation of Qur'an and Muhammad being the last prophet of God.

After the prayer, Isa will prepare himself to do battle and shall take up a sword. An army shall return from a campaign launched before the arrival of Isa. Isa shall set out in pursuit of Dajjal. All those who embraced the evil of Dajjal shall perish even as the breath of Isa touches them. The breath of Isa shall precede him as far as the eye can see. Dajjal will be captured at Lod. Dajjal shall begin to melt, as salt dissolves in water. The spear of Isa shall plunge into Dajjal’s chest, ending his dreaded reign. The followers of Dajjal will be rooted out, for even the trees and rocks will speak out against them. Isa will break the cross and kill the pig (the animal). Then all battles shall cease and the world will know an age of peace. The rule of Isa will be just and all shall flock to him to enter the folds of the one true religion, Islam.

Now that we’ve seen some of what they believe (and there is more to this), we can begin to understand what the scriptures now tell us and how their current belief will later let them see this man as their Mahdi, their great expected Caliph and 12th Imam. Note: there are Muslims and former Muslims, who are now

3 From the Factbook of the CIA. Available for viewing on-line or downloading
4 From the Wikipedia article 'JESUS IN ISLAM'
5 From the Wikipedia article 'Masih ad-Dajjal'
Christians, who have videos on Youtube.com that could expand on their doctrines that they believe or once believed in, such as 'Bible Prophecy and the Coming Muslim Antichrist'.

Ten Events to Armageddon

But how does this all tie in with what the Bible says? To keep things somewhat simple, I’d like to give you the time line of the nations as ten events, which you might want to use to warn others to be expecting these events. Oh sure, most people you tell won't believe you at first, but I think after seeing the first five or six events, they just might start to recognize that the actual Armageddon is coming.

Event 1 – A Peace Treaty

We begin in Daniel 9:27 and the 70th week, which we know is still to come upon the earth. From the previous passages, the first 69 weeks covered 483 years, which would indicate that each week was 7-years long, therefore the last week is also being assumed to be 7-years long. Now, while this passage indicates that the Jews don’t seem to have any outside trouble until midweek, this does not presume that they are not trouble-free.

This ‘week’ was primarily to define the last time-period (7-years) and that their worst troubles are to come AFTER the mid-point. So even though the focus here is on Israel, from other passages, we can see the other events that are to take place during this same window of time.

In Daniel 9:27, and for reasons I’ll give later, we’ll see a peace treaty between Syria and Israel, that I call SIT, or the Syrian – Israeli Treaty, as mentioned as the first event, not just in this passage but of the entire time line. Impossible you say, but it's actually for this same reasoning that it will happen. So considering the current situation between these two nations, especially in their religious differences, you might consider this a ridiculous possibility, however the evidence to follows may convince you otherwise and it does make sense.

Event 2 – The Pushing

Next, in Daniel 11:40 we read, And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. Previously in this chapter, we saw the king of the south was centered on the Egyptian kingdom after the fall of Alexander the Great, and the northern kingdom was centered on the Syrian kingdom. So at ‘the time of the end’, we’ll see that this king of the north was doing something that these African nation didn't like and they appear to be very hostile about it. So let’s assume, under today’s Middle East situation, that someone, like the Muslim Brotherhood, doesn’t like the Muslim nation of Syria making a peace treaty with their supposedly common enemy. The general attitude of the Middle-East Muslim is a hatred for Israel and the Jews, but if Syria made a peace treaty with them then something changed with Syria.

Note: the ‘pushing’ mentioned here is the first of three clues of what is going on emotionally with the Syrian leader. Watch for the others.

Event 3 – African Attack

Then in Daniel 11:42, we next see that Syria attacking these African nation, beginning with Egypt and in verse 43 we see that he continues on to still other nations, But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. Now if you look at a map of Africa, you’ll see that this will probably include the two additional nations of the Sudan and the South Sudan, which didn’t exist in Daniel’s time. But as you will see, all these nations will be included in the ten nations mentioned later coming up against Israel. (Xref: 10 nations –

Note: it is interesting that God mentions at this point, that this man will have power over the gold and the silver of Egypt because if you look in the Muslim belief, that even before he takes the stage as their expected Mahdi, that one of the signs would be that he would spread the wealth around to other Muslims. Maybe Syria is stealing from Egypt to pay others, maybe Egypt wasn't paying their bills?

**Event 4 – The Troubling Tidings**

But then we read in Daniel 11:44 But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. Now at first this would be a little confusing that if he was already going after these African nations, then wasn’t he already going forth to destroy and so on? I’m not going to cover it yet but the next verse says that he’s going to attack Israel, which previously he hadn’t done just yet. No, they want him to attack Israel but he doesn't want to!

Note: the ‘tidings that trouble him’ is the second of three clues of what is going on emotionally with the Syrian leader.

But there is one more passage we need to look at that's connected to this event before we can move on back in Ezekiel 38:4-5, And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: [5] Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet.

Note: the ‘putting hooks in his jaw’ is the third of three clues of what is going on emotionally with the Syrian leader. Now add the three together and it portrays the pressure this man faces as a Muslim who wanted peace with Israel, but is now forced instead to ultimately become one of the most notorious figures this world will ever know.

This leader obviously doesn’t want to attack Israel, however God is using these other nations as his 'hooks' to force him to initially attack Israel, and you'll notice that it includes the two nation of Ethiopia and Libya he once threatened back in Daniel 11:43. And among those nations joining him will be Persia (changed to Iran in 1935), who is also east of Syria. And for those that like to keep count, this will be his first coming, because like I said God has to force him this time to attack Israel.

Now let me add a little history at this pointy, which God foretold us was going to happen in this separation between the iron on the miry clay we read about in Daniel 11:41-45. There are differences of opinion as to what really happened and people do like to change their versions of history, but in one version it all started after June 8, 632 AD when Muhammad died and the ‘difference of opinion’ between the Sunni and the Shiite as to how they were going to be led. However it was on Oct 10, 680 AD when a Sunni group massacred Husain, the grandson of Muhammad in Karbala, Iraq, along with his family and friends, and they took his head back to Damascus. The two groups have hated each other ever since, in fact the Shia Muslim still remember that massacre each year on a day they call ‘The Day Of Ashura’ (W) (talk about holding a grudge!). Some say that the Shiite religion started out as a political movement and only later became religious and that the grandson wasn’t supposed to be killed, but this is where the differences between them started.

**Event 5 – Let’s Attack Israel**

It's after these nations meet and force him to lead them against Israel, a nation that previously they could never beat alone, that they attack northern Israel as a group as noted in Daniel 11:45 And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him. This, in turn, breaks his original covenant / peace treaty with them in Daniel.
9:27. But now things start to go downhill for everyone.

**Event 6 – The Wound**

Now we pick up the story in Revelations 13, where the first thing we see is a beast or a kingdom arise with ten nation but only seven leaders; this would be the same beast that was mentioned in Daniel 7:8, and chapter 24 that would subdue three other countries. So after this beast is formed, then according to verses three and four, one of these kings is to be wounded but is allowed to live for another 42 months (verse 5), in other words for another 3 ½ years.

This means that when he broke his covenant in the middle of this 7-year window that he is also wounded. So the beast is formed first, they all attack and take northern Israel and then he is seriously wounded.

**Event 7 – His Influence Grows**

After he’s wounded, we know that he’s got 42 months left, so when we look at Revelation 13:6-9, and the period-of-time following his wound, it says, *And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.* [7] *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.* [8] *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.* [9] *If any man have an ear, let him hear.* Watch the sequence of events here within these passages, because a lot of people have over-looked and ignored key parts to this.

In Daniel 2:41-45, we saw that they (the Muslims) would mingle themselves with those in the world and now, as the great Mahdi and long-expected 12th Imam appears, it would appear that his influence grows among the Muslims which would include those in other countries as well. So if you speak up against this leader of theirs, even inside the United States, you're liable to be attacked or even killed for it. Fear has always been a great tool of theirs.

Remember that this guy is both recovering from his wounds and becoming more and more powerful as his influence upon others grows, and this isn't some local influence. Once the Muslims have an initial toe-hold in a country, any country, then the reaction to this man, within these countries is magnified to others in the world. And as more and more of them believe in the prophesies of the Mahdi, people want to be on the side that is obviously winning.

**Event 8 – His Hatred of the Jews Grows**

But his attitude changes towards Israel in Ezekiel 38:10-11 here we read of a major change he is about to make, *Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: [11] And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates.* Wait a minute, didn’t we just read in verse four and five that he was forced to attack Israel, so how can they now be dwelling safely?

But this time he is the one that wants to attack Israel, so there’s an apparent time-lapse here. So let’s do a little math here and I’d like to introduce you to what Revelation 9:15 says, *And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.* If he originally had 42 months and we see 13 months mentioned here in Rev 9:15, then there must have been about 29 months from the time he’s wounded until the time he has this change of heart and begins to gather this mega army (the gap between when he was wounded and Ez. 38:10) because it should only take a couple of days to surround and take Jerusalem (in your dreams) after that.
Event 9 – Release the Mega Army

I won’t get into Joel chapters two and three and the terrifying description of this massive army, but the estimated numbers have ranged from 100 to 200 million men or as one version of the Bible puts it as myriads upon myriads. Zechariah 13:8, 9 tell us that by the end of this period, that 2/3rd of the Jews will be killed and very likely, while their still gathering, the mega army will put up a boycott around Israel to prevent any more weapons from coming in to resupply the Jews.

Can you imagine the pressure and the fear there’s going to be on the remaining Jews when they know that there is no escape from that dreaded massacre, coming to wipe out every last one of them. You know this would’ve been a perfect plan except for one small flaw, that if you’re going to have a holy jihad then you had better make sure that the only one who is holy, is on your side.

Event 10 – Jesus Returns and Armageddon

I’ll cover this day in a later section because of all the things that will be happening, but ask yourself that if you had a huge army to defend Israel, just how long would it take you to do the same thing that Jesus is going to be doing in just one day.

What this man originally wants is peace with his neighbor, Israel, however it appears that the blind religious hatred of his fellow Muslims will be leading all of them to a destruction of Biblical proportions, and we’ve been told that this is the path that they’ll be taking. Too many times, believers don’t really trust in the God as their Lord and as I see it, when the time comes to believe in what God has been telling us, as we face these coming last days before the return, many are going to fall away from the faith because things didn't go the way they thought they should have.

Future Reality

Okay, what does all this mean, and how is it supposed to affect me? You don’t have to know what day Jesus is coming back or all the details but you should also realize that it is going to be sooner than later so we should not only be knowing what the Bible says but especially warning others as well. Think of it like this, assume that all these things could begin within the next ten years, and then our job, as faithful stewards of God, is to warn others of the signs and events that will be coming. Someone once said that the future is tomorrow so prepare today.

Now imagine this friend of yours is sitting back in their easy chair when the nightly news announces that Syria and Israel have made a peace treaty with each other, which was the first sign you told them would happen. Sure, they didn’t believe you when you first started to tell them about this, but as time goes on, they begin to recognize even more of those events you warned them of and sooner or later they’re going to realize that the last event is the real Armageddon-event.

Sure, many are going to refuse to accept your warnings, and they will stand guilty before the Lord, but others may come to realize that you were like a prophet unto them and had their welfare at heart when you were warning them of these events. Remember that like the watchman in this world and we don’t have to be great orators, we don't try to trick or convince others of the dangers that are approaching, we need to just warn them.

You see the more we understand what events are going to be happening, then the more we're going to understand the other things not mentioned, like the reality of what is going to really happen when the meteor Wormwood hits the earth. This will no longer be just some Bible story to you but you'll also start to understand the reasoning 'why' behind all these events. You'll also recognize the fairy tales that others have have been telling us, because you're not only believing every word that God says but you'll also be seeing the big picture and how this all fits together.
Parallel Plagues

I also seem to have a different viewpoint of the three sets of plagues that are coming that many others, but all I ask is that you read for yourselves instead of getting a one-sided or biased view of these events. I believe that some have mistakenly put the three sets of plagues in sequential order, where the sets follow each other, and in one sense that would be logical, however after this comparative study, especially of the last two sets, I think you will also come to the same conclusion as I, that two sets are really parallel in time but not in their focus where you’ll see that -

- The **Seals** (the four horsemen of the Apocalypse) are for either all or a greater portion of the earth and could either precede the other plagues and sets the world up for what follows or would be happening at the same time but in other parts of the world.
- The **Trumpet** plagues cover a major region of the world, such as Africa, the Middle East and European area, with each of those plagues covering a different zone or third of it within it.
- And the **Vials** are for a more specific area within that major region, which is like watching the national weather forecast, and seeing how those conditions are going to affect my weather, because here is where they overlap.

For example, you’ll notice that God doesn’t specifically mention the antichrist until late in the third set of plagues, but we know he starts this whole thing, as ‘Gog’, the king of the north, so are we to believe that he suddenly shows up near the end of this period? When you look closer, you’ll find that the book of Revelation makes some very obvious chronological jumps at times, especially in the focus between the three sets. All I ask is that you verify what both I and others tell you.

So while some will point out that the church is never mentioned (directly so) between chapters 4 – 19, they fail to understand that God is focusing just on what’s going to happen to the world, and only addresses Israel once (Rev. 7). In fact he never mentions the covenant either being made or broken, not even in chapter 13 when the antichrist is wounded and has the same 3 ½ years left as mentioned in Dan 9:27, and need I mention the attack on those African nations to explain how those three of the ten nations came NOT to have a leader?

My goal here is to show you that two of the three sets are not only parallel in their time frame, but also how God is preparing the world, the Middle East and Israel for His return, and to broaden your understanding by even showing you some of the physics involved that we might be facing with the plagues and giving some logical connections you may not have seen before. Remember that this is history BEFORE it happens and as real as today’s news.

**The Seals**

We begin with the Seals and some will state that these are the first earthly events of the ‘tribulation’, although we’ve had these things even long before John penned these words so you can’t really point to some war and say this is when the tribulation will start. But I will agree to a point that when we see Jesus given this book or scroll with the seven seals, that it does signal the beginning of this period. My belief is that when these particular events are allowed to occur, that they won’t be like those of the past, indeed, very likely these could be the side show or the distraction for the rest of the world while the main events are going on around us.

Think of it like this, in Matthew 24:37 we told that it will be like in that days of Noah where everyone was ignoring God’s warning and never recognized the closeness of their disaster, well I believe that the same thing will happen here with these first four plagues (also known as the four horsemen of the Apocalypse) could begin slightly before AND during this 7-year window. We know that salvation and repentance continues during these final days, but it’s getting people to realize that the lost need to be saved and the evil servants to repent. Why do you think Jesus makes his statement in Rev. 16:15 right before the final plague where he says ‘**Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his**
shame.’ they’re all warnings up to this point.

I believe that these first four Seals are a very integral part of God’s plans to warn us and the world on the increased urgency of the time, like warning those that are still alive that the ‘play time’ is about over, but this time the ‘closing the door on the ark’ will be called Armageddon.

We begin this passage, not with the first plague but with their initial all-important introduction, which God deems important for us to see and ‘realize’ how important this is to him. In Revelation 5:1,2 it says, ‘And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside (a sign of this being a very detailed chronicle of events), sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?’

This angel, who stands next to God the Father, is obviously not Jesus, (very possibly the archangel Michael, Jude 1:9, Rev. 12:7) and it isn’t a matter of to whom this letter is addressed or who is authorized but rather who is worthy, of which there is only one, and the symbol of Jesus as a Lamb speaks volumes of why. In fact, this being ‘worthy’ seems to be one of two very important traits that God looks for even in us, as to fearing Him and to being worthy in His eyes (Rev. 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.)

But we can also get a glimpse of God’s ‘chain of command’ here, which Jesus confirmed when He was asked in Acts 1:6 as to when the kingdom of Israel would be reestablished as a free nation again and his response was that this was one of those things ‘which the Father hath put in his own power’, indicating that the Father had the final say as to when that major event was to happen. And according to John 1:36 it was Jesus that created all things, so we see that God the Father does the planning and says ‘how and when’ while the Son does the ‘execution’. So this book with all these seals, isn’t just the very detailed instructions but it’s also the Son’s ‘Letter of Authorization’ for each step in the plan. Would you be trust-worthy enough to faithfully and correctly do these things?

So even though these four horsemen of the Apocalypse don’t seem to have any direct correlation with the other two sets of plagues or have some uncommon ‘fingerprint’ to separate them from other similar events of the past, they do appear to be separate from the past events and are either in preparation before OR the ‘distraction-events’ during the main event. (note: this distraction may also be preparing other nations for the new kingdom)

The vials, as we’ll see later on, are to be ‘poured out’ or announced by ‘angels’, who testify that they are human saints in Rev. 21:9, 22:8,9 ‘And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me … And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things … for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets…’ (See also Rev. 17:1 with 19:10).

These chosen ones of God are His modern day prophets, as Moses was before pharaoh, to proclaim God’s plagues upon the earth (boy, talking about having a risky job!). So, even though some people may have never read or heard of these prophetic events, then at their appointed time, the prophets of God are back to warn people when the next vial plague will begin, so go ahead and bad-mouth or deny these coming prophets as they make their announcements because you can’t avoid their prophesies no matter who you are or what your current doctrine may be. Will God mark you down as, ‘not listening’?

So, let’s begin with the first five seals and cover Seal #6 later on because unlike these first ones, it is of a very specific earthly event, which includes nations from outside of the area normally covered by the trumpet and vial plagues7, which is why, I believe, it is one of the reasons God included it with the greater area covered by the Seal-plagues, but for now we’ll examine the first five seals.

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6 Referring to Jesus, John said ‘All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.’

7 Keep in mind that the mega army will include alliances from other areas (see trumpet / vial #6).

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. [2] And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

Think of these horses as symbolic (not a spiritualization) and you can see that they do effectively represent the scope and the power that their respective plagues are to cover, i.e., very large areas. Therefore when we see this first rider is given a bow (his weapon), he wears a crown (a symbol of legal authority) and he’s told to go forth conquering and to conquer, (his command) therefore we can conclude these are conflicts and wars between nations. One Bible dictionary mentioned that white was symbolic of victory and conquest (Zach 1:8; 6:1,3, Rev 6:2; 19:11,14;), therefore, we can expect to see a series of conflicts / wars, on a national level, which will include, but are not limited to the attacks by the ‘king of the north’ (Eze. 38-39, Dan. 11:40) against these other nations as a prelude to the end events, and may even have included the U.S. involvement in the middle-east conflicts.


And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. [4] And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

This rider has no crown (no kingdom or government), is given a sword (his weapon) and is ordered to take peace from the earth (his command). So considering the following facts that 1) he was not to conquer other nations but to take peace from the earth, 2) that red has always been associated with blood, and 3) that this is ‘a great sword’, then this is terrorism, civil war and national unrest with personal attacks and hence the red horse is the symbol of being wounded. (Author’s comment: I personally believe that people and crimes in general will also become more violent and that later the antichrist may incorporate terrorism, both within and outside his own territories to his advantage, especially by his zealots as they strongly support their ‘god’ in their own countries).


And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. [6] And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and his name that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

Famine is another tool of God and is a much slower form of death draining all the life out of both a person and a nation. I also believe this one will cover a large area and be caused by a number of previous events because famines just don’t happen, including weather extremes and politics (i.e., ‘nature’ and man). However, later on, the other sets of plagues will show local famines with crops being destroyed (burnt), water becoming bitter (Wormwood) and sea life and ships being destroyed (by a volcano), all factors in local and regional famines. Therefore, I see this one as a ‘global’ plague, but filters down to become more ‘localized’. (Note: one commentator noted the cost difference between the oil-wine vs. wheat-barley, as a separation between the rich and the poor during this famine. I only bring this up as a possibility.)


And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. [8] And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.
The color of this horse is even more frightening when you realize this is also the color of gangrene, of dead and rotting flesh, which combined with the previous Seals gives you a better understanding of why, in the book of Luke, the nations would be in ‘distress’ at this time. Could it be that the nations affected by each of these horses also takes on that ‘color’ in their general condition? What would a gangrene nation look like? What would the U.S. look like? Do you see the need for believers to be pro-active both now and during this time, knowing the truth and warning others? We’re supposed to be telling our neighbors the time is growing short, the countdown to Armageddon has begun, and it’s time to repent!

But what is also interesting here is that we see Death as the rider of this horse, with several forms of death listed, but then we’re told that ‘hell’ follows him, which at first is a puzzling because hell is actually a place prepared for Satan and his angels. While we know that God will send the lost to hell, I believe that the hell mentioned here might be more of a reflection or a symbol of the fear sent to those left behind of the very real possibility of their own impending death and hopelessness.

But when we combine these plagues, we can really see that they are just trying to warn the world to repent before it's too late. After all, if you stood on the brink of death, unemployment and / or bankruptcy, wouldn't you pray a little harder or seek God for divine intervention? No, these events are just the warnings, but the last one that’s still coming will be like when God closed the door of the ark and it was too late to repent, you’ve run out of time. And as you’ll see people can still repent and even die for the faith.


And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: [10] And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? [11] And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants (Jewish believers?) also and their brethren (gentile believers?), that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

There is no question as to the purpose of this plague when we’re told that more saints are to be killed after this point, a true war upon the saints by the world, the antichrist and his zealots. No, if God knows that saints were going to be killed after this point, then I suspect that this final phase is really going to be bad and this extra warning is needed to prepare us.

So if this time of tribulation is supposed to be God’s wrath upon the world and the church is supposed gone, as some tell us it would be at this time, then it would be only logical to conclude that 1) salvation and repentance would no longer be possible, that 2) these that are still to be killed for the faith are supposedly not a part of the body of Christ, not a part of the church or the bride of Christ and 3) not as privileged as the so-called ‘church-age’ saints, or so one might be lead to think. But if these first plagues are God's warning that our time is growing short and believers have been faithful in warning the world, then these believers are still a part of the church and we're fast approaching that point when even death will step aside on that last day of the tribulation when we all will be resurrected and raptured.

If you state that the tribulation is God’s judgment upon the world, you would only be half right because it's also obvious that people can still be saved and believers killed during this time. But when God closed the door of the ark or sent the Death angel in Egypt, then and only then was it too late to avoid God’s judgment. We as believers must expect to go through these final days and be targeted, no matter where we live.

The indisputable fact from Revelations 20:5 is that the first resurrection happens after the tribulation, none is mentioned as happening before this one, nor do these join previously resurrected saints. So if these same saints will be resurrected AFTER the tribulation ends and they’ll be ruling with Christ during his reign on earth then what will the supposedly church-age saints be doing and where is the proof? No, you start creating false groups, false events, and false doctrines then you have to create more and more false doctrines to cover the previous errors.
Let’s not forget that God wasn’t addressing the churches between chapters 6 – 18 but telling us what everyone, including the world would be seeing happen around them, and that believers WILL BE targeted more so than in the past centuries, which by the way He knew was going to happen.

But as we face this time of terror and unrest, these dark days, we can still find comfort to even strengthen our faith, not in the trouble and death attacking us, but knowing that even as Jesus faced his ‘terror’ of his coming crucifixion, we too know what our glory is still waiting for us. The proof is actually the persecution, so just because a ‘church’ is NOT directly mentioned in these chapters, the absence of fact is not proof of exclusion that we will be escaping this terrible period.

If even one believer dies during this time, then why does salvation continue if this truly was the time of God’s destructible wrath? Once God closed the door of the ark, you couldn’t repent and suddenly get on board, but here salvation continues until the last plague, as well as a new and a very centered war upon the saints like as no other time in history. So ask yourself, if God has told us so much about what is to happen, then why doesn’t he seem to have made any distinctions between the church and tribulational age saints, if there truly is any.

No, we’ve been told, even back in the Old Testament of a coming resurrection and repeated by Jesus in Matthew 24:29-31 of when it would be in relation to his return at the end of the tribulation, Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, ... [30] And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: ... [31] 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. Where else would Jesus tell us if there would be a pre-trib rapture or not? Where else in the scriptures do we read of the first resurrection but in Revelations 20:5, 6 when everyone is gathered together at this post-trib return event? The doctrine of the Trinity can be found in the scriptures because there are vital clues, but where are the traces for a pre-trib event? The hints and evidence that should be the tell-tale signs of clearly separated events. They’re only found with impossible implications, ignoring any other possible meaning other than what someone demands and the twisting of words.

Jesus didn’t tell us of a secret return in Matthew 24:27-28, but of a very visible and obvious event when he said, 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. [28] For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Which means that the tribulation ends after Jerusalem is surrounded, the nations really believe they’ve won and Jesus return was to be just so obvious that it couldn't be a secret event or go unnoticed. It’s only a secret if you’re NOT looking for it when it does happen, and that's obvious even in 1 Thessalonians chapter five.

With this in mind, we can then understand that Seal #5 is to warn us that this is coming and what special death the world will be inflicting upon us. Are you ready, not just to live for Christ but to die for him as well or are you just a ‘convenience Christian’ with no commitment to be faithful? God is answering our question even before we ask it as to why this is happening to us, and it’s because he’s warning us here, it’s a vitally important part of God’s plans that we go through this period.

We really need to be prepared for a massive rejection by our friends, family and in some cases even by our church, because this world, in mass, will be out to kill us for our faith. Just look at one of the key players in this future period, the Muslims and see that they’re committed to, concerning the believers. It’s important that we be determined, even beforehand, to be willing and ready to die as a believer and not to cave-in to the threats and pressures these other will put upon us.

So if God focuses on the world in these other chapters and not on the believers or the church, then the implication that we have been removed before this time has been wrong. Like I said, proof by absence of fact is not proof of exclusion, so yes NOT a single church is mentioned in these chapters but with Seal #5 that more saints are to be killed, then where’s the passage that actually says that the ‘church’ has already been removed or that these believers are NOT a part of the ‘church’.

So with the opening of this seal, our deaths are a part of God the Father’s authorized events that we...
are to be targeted and killed during this time, and probably in more number that previous ages. God gives us great insight into the details of these tribulational events and there is no doubt that there is a return and a resurrection AFTER the tribulation (Rev. 20:5), so us ‘modern-day Christians’ had also better be ready to not just to live for Christ but to die for him as well, as he warns us here. Or will you be one of those that will become apostate, turn and deny your faith, instead of dying for him?

So the Seal-plagues have begun and there has been no mention of the Holy Spirit being removed (a pre-trib notion held by some), of saints that have been raptured (although many want us to think so), or any rewards given out (that’s covered later), only God responding to these saints that more of us are to die. Therefore there hasn’t been a rapture event as of this point in time, and it is still early.

And with more saints to be killed during this time, we do find the church indirectly mentioned in the tribulation and being encouraged to remain faithful, only these others DON’T WANT to even consider the tribulational saints as being a part of any ‘church’ just because they can’t explain how the church can have a pre-trib rapture and still be in the tribulation.

I would also venture to guess, that most people have forgotten about the great depression that hit the U.S. and Europe back in the 1930’s, which help propel the rise of Nazi Germany to become a world terror, leading to WW 2. There will be multiple events and attitudes that will lead up to this terrible time and these first four seals could be doing the same thing, and things like global wars and famines don’t just instantaneously begin, nor do they end quickly but linger on and on.

The Trumpets and the Vials

WARNING: WE WILL NOW BE SWITCHING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE TRUMPET AND VIAL SETS OF PLAGUES. PLEASE FOLLOW CAREFULLY!

Many consider the trumpet and vial plagues to be at separate times, however if we look closer at them we can understand that they are actually the same ‘events’ where the focus of each is obviously different. For example, we can see that the trumpet set shows us a general area while the vials focus on a much smaller area within it. It’s like one part of the country getting hit by snow, then a later another part getting hit by rain but each time we see the same area within that territory getting hit by both storms. Keep in mind that although the first trumpet and vial plagues don’t match each other (Only 5 of the 7 match), they do give us an insight into their timing with the other events that we’ll cover in a moment.

Plague Number 1

We begin with the first trumpet-plague in Rev. 8:7 where we read ... and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. but this won’t happen until AFTER the 144,000 Jews have been sealed (Rev. 7:3). However the implication here is that this is a dry, no rain type burning and not an actual fire burning, based on the focus of the plants. So first we’ll see a generally destructive weather pattern in this area that will be hot and dry, keeping the rain away to cause this regional disaster.

So if the grass and trees are hit by this heat and drought then so will the crops, which in turn will affect the people and the animals of that area that depend on those crops, trees (fruit) and grasses; and this could also be affected by the global famine from the third horse of the apocalypse and so the local famine becomes worse.

In other words both the imported and the local goods will be affected, and when you import more than you export, your nation loses money and your financial problem become worse. Now while I’ve used Syria as an example in my footnotes, it was only to give you some idea of the impact something like this would


have **on just one nation**, now multiply that for the whole region, and there goes the budget for a lot of nations who are already stressed out financially because they spend more than they can sell.

The first Vial-plague, on the other hand, is found in Revelation 16:2, where we read of the first angel / saint; *And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and (upon) them which worshipped his image*. From Rev. 13:1+, we know that this mark won’t appear until **after this man is wounded** which will be shortly after the mid-point of Daniel’s 70th week, when he’s allowed to continue for another 42 months. It also sounds like this voluntary mark is a tattoo that they **can voluntarily get**, which **COULD** be in some way to identify themselves with this new leader, which means these sores could be some type of hepatitis or a carbuncle10, but I believe here may have more of a ‘divine push’ behind it. I don’t believe this simple and innocent looking problem really is just that.

And you have to consider that a greater percentage of those that **initially** receive this mark will be those within those 10 nations he controls, so his own countries are the first ones being targeted here.

So initially, we **do not** have a direct collation between the first Trumpet and Vial plagues, but indirectly we can see where they are in God’s time-line (just after mid-week) and when they will happen with regard to the plagues that are to follow, but just not clearly to each other. And we can also see the ‘tone’ or scope of what is still to happen, and they’re going to get worse, just like the initial warnings to Egypt by Moses.

**Plague Number 2**

As we compare the second trumpet and vial plagues we **can see the two plagues starting to match.**

- In Revelation 8:8, we read that *the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died: and the third part of the ships were destroyed.*

- Then we turn to the Revelation 16:3 where it says *the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead (man): and every living soul died in the sea.*

This is the first of the two major plagues where the following plagues seems to be the indirect result of these two. But here, this second set of plagues now match one another with both focused on the sea with the Trumpet plague resulting in only a **third** of the sea life in the area being killed while in the Vial plague **all** the sea life dies. As I see it, God wants not only different areas hit but also he wants the overlapping area to hit a more specific area harder and more often than the others, so while different thirds of some area are hit with different plagues, we’re likely to see one area where they all overlap.

Both these plagues are obviously a volcanic11 eruption at sea; making this a regional type event for the ships and sea-life to be affected, so ask yourself how an eruption, in say the Atlantic Ocean, could destroy the ships in the Pacific. And keep in mind that there are so many candidates for this volcano in the water scenario, that right now it would be difficult to even guess which one this might be, from **La Palma** (W) off of North Africa, to the ever-active **Mt. Stromboli** (W) in the Mediterranean Sea or any of the five or so just off of Greece. And because God cast it into the sea we can understand that everything about this event (timing, destruction, location) is by God’s design.

Now consider what happen when **Mt St. Helen** (W <= youtube.com pix) erupted as someone took a sequence of pictures as one side of the mountain was literally seen sliding away and then the actual eruption took place, which is where and how the notorious extreme horizontal destruction was caused. Remember that past events like these, can also be a pre-warning of what can happen.

When you consider the power of previously known volcanic eruptions such as **Mount Pinatubo** (W) in the Philippians (June 1991), **Mt St. Helen** (1980), or the island of Krakatau12 (Aug 26, 1883) in Indonesia,

10 An infection larger than a boil and with several openings for discharge of pus (WordWeb Dictionary Ver. 6)
12 **Krakatau,** small volcanic island, southwestern Indonesia, in the Sunda Strait, between Java and Sumatra. Until the night of
then we can see that –

1. The initial tsunami from the landmass entering the water would be large but small compared to the one following the explosion. So after the first one hits land, then suddenly we'll see all the water being pulled back out to sea and taking everything and everybody with it as the mega wall prepares to hit with an even bigger wave, going even deeper inland, and don't expect just one.

2. From the eruption itself and the passages in Joel 2:31, Acts 2:20 and Rev. 6:12, we can expect to see great volumes of volcanic ash and sulphur (creating acid rain from sulphur dioxide, \( \text{SO}_2 \)) sent high into the air effecting life above the water as well, including changing the color of the sky and effecting the world-wide weather.

2.1. After both the 1815 eruption of Mt. Tambora (W) on the island of Sumbawa, Indonesia and the 1883 eruption of Krakatau (W), several nations reported that the resulting ash and the sulphur turned their sunsets yellow or red for 3 – 5 years afterward. The 1783 eruption of Loki in Iceland was also blamed for the death and sickness of others as far away as France and England.

So we can expect this cascading effect to cause even more global problems today, impacting not just our weather but the world economy, air travel and communications as well. How? Consider the Wikipedia article ‘[Year without a Summer](W)’, where that volcanic eruption cause a lot of world-wide trouble, so we too can expect to see wide temperature swings, droughts and floods, that would affect both our high-tech communications and transportation systems (jet engines have been known to flame-out from too much volcanic ash in the air), which in turn would cause famines, health issues and so much more. People would become so desperate that wars would actually increase and crimes become more violent. Even the wild animals and the insects would become more dangerous because of the changes in temperature and the food availability with their cycles being changed. So the after-effects of just this plague would also be far-reaching and long lasting.

**Plague Number 3**

As we continue on to our third plague and our comparison, we read –

- In Revelation 8:10; *And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.*

- Then in Revelation 16:4 – 6 he says; *and the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters: and they became blood.*

According to Spaceguard’s Duncan Steel, an asteroid with a diameter of about 1 to 2 km (about 0.6 to 1.2 mi) could strike Earth with the force of 100,000 to 1 million megatons ... As the object made its way through the outer portion of Earth’s atmosphere, it would appear as a giant bolide (fireball) (burning star / lamp, see Rev. 8:10 above) streaking across the sky. ... When the object struck, the explosive force of the impact would generate a blast wave ... that could travel hundreds, even thousands of kilometers, leveling trees, houses, and other buildings in its path. The impact might also set off a huge firestorm that would consume anything flammable. Depending on the location of the impact site, hundreds of millions of people could be killed by the blast and firestorm.\(^{13}\) Similar articles can be found on-line.

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Note: while Youtube.com have videos of volcanoes, tsunami and meteor events, they can only give us a shadow or a vague preview of these tribulational events.

To some, this would otherwise be meaningless and pure fiction, but let me describe the reality here of what Duncan Steel and others have warned us to expect and what will likely happen during this event. According to another article\(^{14}\) (W), when this meteor hits, it would reasonable be traveling at about 25 km / second\(^{15}\) and because it isn’t some streamline bullet, there would be an extreme build-up of atmospheric pressure on the forward face, which could get as high as 9 million times the normal atmospheric pressure by the time it hits the earth. This in turn would cause -

1. A very loud and deadly sonic boom which would be created as it passes through the atmosphere, destroying buildings and trees far and wide. The one in Russia (Feb 2013) was 15 miles above the earth when the sonic boom hit 3 minutes later and caused damage to windows and buildings, but it had a shallow angle of entry, was made of rock and broke up before it could hit the earth, while the Biblical one sounds like it is metal in origin and it’s going to hit hard.

2. The Bible’s description of this object is not of a small object, like the 55’ – 65’ Russian meteor (Feb 2013), but of a much larger and more destructive object. So we can expect the atmospheric pressure on the face of this object to create a sonic boom, and would be super-heated to produce firestorms as the escaping super-heated air was pressed ‘between a rock and a hard place’ (Earth and the meteor, no pun intended), rushing horizontally away at supersonic speeds, causing even more devastation just before and as it dug into the earth.

3. The ‘heat shock’ from the bolide / fireball would cause a chemical reaction with the nitrogen in the air and the ground water to produce a Nitric Acid\(^{16}\) rain and a Nitric Oxide gas (NO, a poisonous gas), which would kill or affect people and plants not initially destroyed (see the Wikipedia article ‘Impact Event’ (W) for more details).

4. Because of both the atmospheric pressure on the face of the object and with the impact force (force = weight x speed) in the mega-ton range, it would create a shatter cone on the surface of the earth at the impact site(s), depending on its size, speed and angle as the one or more parts hit.

5. From the Revelations 8 description, we can expect this object to crack and move the tectonic plates as it drills into the earth, in what some might call a crust tsunami, causing new and multiple major earthquakes, volcanoes, and new stresses throughout the Earth’s crust with new cracks and fissures (W).

6. The aquifers (underground water system) for hundreds of miles around would literally be shaken or changed as the limestone and other minerals are released, like some giant ‘fracking’ (W) operation. Some of these caverns would collapse while others nearby may become larger or even come to the surface in giant explosions as they ‘bleed’ or pop through. And you can imagine what it would do to the rivers, lakes and sea above ground.

7. The impact mushroom cloud will send dust, debris, gases and even more acid rain all over the world. We’re lucky that this one isn’t a planet killer.

But note that both of these plagues affect the rivers and fountains of waters (aquifers) and again we have the Trumpet plague telling us that only a third part of them were affected, which is obviously a

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\(^{14}\) taken from ‘Impact Cratering on Earth’, Wikipedia.org  Look under the sub-section ‘creator formation’

\(^{15}\) About Mach 75.4 or 55,923.41 miles / hour although the Russian meteor of Feb 2013 was clocked around 40,000 mph (Mach 54), weighed about 10,000 pounds and was only 65 feet long. Note ‘Terminal Velocity’ is the maximum velocity of an object due to the wind resistance or drag, caused by the atmospheric pressure build-up.

\(^{16}\) Nitric Acid is used in explosives and fertilizers.
different third of the area than the one mentioned with the volcanic eruption at sea, while the Vial plague indicates indirectly that all the waters are affected within that region; an effect I call the wormwood-effect. So both the after-effects of the impact and the ‘ground water’ affected by it, seems to be very far reaching. Welcome to the reality of the last days, and these are just the forewarning of Armageddon. Yes, people will die in these events, as God is becoming much more insistent in his warnings of the coming judgment.

Some people have said that every river and all the aquifers in the world will be poisoned, which I seriously doubt, seeing God has already limited Trumpet #3 to just a third of its territory, besides He may want Israel excluded from the direct effects of this plague as I will show next, because they’re not the reasons for this plague.

However, to be fair, I am reminded of something I heard, whether true or not I do not know, that said that if there were a major earthquake in Alaska, it would affect the well water in Minnesota, which raises an interesting question of just how far this plague would cover? Not all of the water outside this huge area may become bitter but some could become ‘dirty’. And so we’ll see the after effects of this meteor hit both above and below the ground for months / years to come and over a huge area.

And it is very possible that this hit would also prepare the ground for the two new Jerusalem rivers mentioned in Zechariah 14:8 ‘And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.’ A little pressure here, and an earthquake there and we’re all set for these two new rivers with water possibly coming from as far as northern Lebanon at 3,000 feet with mountains as high as 10,000 feet feeding these new rivers by some underground aquifer flowing down to Jerusalem, and watering the area in-between.

Note: one pre-trib writer made the statement that this was very possibly a nuclear or chemical war instead of a meteor, which would then make this a man-made plague and not a God-made one. What next, are we going to be told that these aren’t the plagues God warned us of? I just don’t see God using man in this, especially in light of what is said next – who is doing the judging here, man or God?

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But God also tells us the reason for this last plague in Revelation 16:5-6; And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord ... because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. Now some people would argue that these are inferred to be the Jews here, however it’s more likely this is against the antichrist and his followers on their campaign against the saints. Consider the following –

- The first Vial plague (this is the third Vial) dealt with those that have the mark of the beast, which would lead us to believe that this plague is also dealing with the same ‘target’, only at a later time. So it’s obvious that there’ll be those that will refuse to take his mark (Christians) and they’re the ones mentioned here as being killed, including the prophets who announce these vial plagues in the first place (human messengers, as mentioned in Rev. 21:9 and 22:8,9).

- The saints under the alter at this time also declare here in Rev. 16:7 ‘And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous [are] thy judgments,’ so the slain saints of Seal #5 are being satisfied as they start to get their revenge on those that are killing these next believers.

- In Rev. 13 we’re told that this antichrist will make war on the saint for about 3.5 yrs., so this again matches the prophesy in Rev. 16:5 – 6 that more saints are to be killed. Here again are the ‘church saints’ during the tribulation.

- Then there are the 144,000 sealed Jews, and yet saints in God’s eyes (Rev. 6:3), which were sealed BEFORE all this started. The Bible tells us that they may have the seal of God on their forehead but it never says that they can’t or won’t be killed, but I’m sure that there are many, many others, in other

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17 From every indication, (see Rev. 14:1-5) these are very special to God because he says of them that ‘they are without fault before the throne of God. How would you like that said of you?
nations that are also being killed as well, but these Jews might be some of his primary targets.

➢ Three verses later, in Rev. 16:9, we see that people can still repent and turn to him and so while salvation and repentance can continue, so do the deaths of these that don’t follow or that even turn away from the antichrist. Again, it appears that the plagues so far have been of the warning type and the last one, covered later, will be the judgment plague. On the other side of the proverbial coin, Rev. 20:5, 6 tells us that these slain tributational saints are also worthy to reign with him and would be in higher esteem than those less faithful.

**Plague Number 4**

Now we seem to have an apparent split between this next set of plagues, although I believe they are both a part of the same ‘event’ (this maybe too complicated for some to understand). We see the Trumpet plaguing announcing that the sun and moonlight will be dimmed by one-third in one part of the earth, while its Vial counterpart has the power of the sun and heat being increased. Think of these two events as what happens when a mountain range blocks the rain from passing, so that one side may be well watered and the other side is like the desert of Death Valley. If Trumpet / Vial #2 and #3, (either or both the volcano and meteor plagues) changes the weather patterns, they could dim the light (the sun) in one place and increased heat in another, depending on the location and the position of the jet stream in the area.

And keep in mind that all these things have to have a logical reason for those in II Peter to say ‘all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation’. Christians, like the evil servant of Matthew 24:51 just have to have some excuse to ignore or deny giving God the credit for fulfilling what He says He was going to do, as the Jews of Jesus day did to deny he was the Messiah. They’ll see all these events but deny they’re the fulfillment of God’s prophesies, and to them their god is dead and their faulty logic would be their proof.

**Plague Number 5**

The next pair of plagues may have a logical connection but I consider that there is too much implication to state with any degree of proof, so I’ll just leave them as two separate, unrelated events with only a possibility that they are indirectly related. Trumpet #5 (Revelation 9:1-5) tells us that locust are to attack ONLY those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads, in other words the remaining 144,000 sealed Jews are exempt from their attack, so God wants everyone to know that these are His and have His Divine protection from this plague, just like the blood on the door-posts was for that final plague in Egypt but this time He is the one doing the marking and these believers are exempt, which is God’s way of marking them as a ‘hands-off’ for the locust, and a sign for everyone else.

But I still believe that I need to at least point out what I believe their connections might be. I begin with this plagues opening verse in Revelation 9:2-4 ... and he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. [3] And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. [4] And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

One of the after effects of the Wormwood meteor hit could be cracks or fissures in the earth from the impact which could cause eruptions and the smoke mentioned in verse 2, which in turn could irritate the local locust and drive them out of their home territory and if too many were crowded into an area too small

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18 Rev. 16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

19 Rev. 8:12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

20 Revelation 16:8, 9 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues …
for them, with the wrong type food or even less of the food they normally eat, then man may be next on their menu. I believe that there are too many conditions to positively state that they are from the same events.

I also find it interesting that God gives us both the Hebrew and the Greek name for the leader of the locust according to 9:11, which might indicate that they’re coming from the area of Greece. Visit Google Earth sometime and turn on the volcano and earthquake icons to view the fault-line and ‘volcanic fields of that area.

Logic would also tell us that this five month period that they’re given would be from around May/June until September/October, the summer months, and reasoning indicates that they’ll be in the region of Israel, the region of the greatest Jewish population, for the 144,000 Jews, who are trapped in that area by the army that’s about to be released. **Nowhere** do we read that these saints cannot or won’t be killed, are ever commissioned or sent out as missionaries (that’s our job), nor are they given special powers or authority, as some people report, just God’s protection against these locust. **In fact the only ones we are told won’t die are those that are bitten by these locusts (Rev. 9:6)**, and it’s only speaking of a very painful but non-lethal bite. Imagine being bitten a few times by these guys, and then seeing still another one giving you the eye (sleep tight tonight because that one is still watching you – waiting).

It is also possible that the real target of these locusts is the mega army during their 13-month build-up, found later in Rev. 9:15. And wouldn’t it be just like God to send this type of **annoyance** against this army preparing to attack his people. This sounds more and more like what God did against Egypt with Moses.

Vial #5, on the other hand (Rev. 16:10), causes darkness in the seat of the beast, which may have also come from the Wormwood hit or one of the ‘smokers’ that drove out the locust out of their original area. **And this plague is definitely for a local area centered on the ‘seat of the beast’, or the leader-nation of these 10-nations. So if this this same ‘smoke and darkness’ is the reason the locust that had been in that area to become irritated and to move into the area of Trumpet #5, then for God, this just like the movement of chess pieces on the board. And notice that this is also the first direct mention of the antichrist in any of the plagues. REPENT, for your time grows very short** (Rev. 16:9).

**Plague Number 6**

We see the next pair of plagues again match and this is the beginning-of-the-end for the antichrist.

- In Revelation 9:14-16 Jesus commands, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, **Release the four angels, those having been bound at the great river Euphrates. **[15] And the four angels were released, those having been **prepared for the hour and day and month and year**, that they should kill the third part of men. [16] And the number of the armies of the cavalry was two myriads of myriads; and I heard their number. [YLT, Young’s Literal Translation]. Different version of the Bible report this number to be anywhere from 100 to 200 million men, however it is more likely that John is telling us there are myriads and myriads of men’ (from the original), a countless number, in other words – a mega army. And by the way, the Euphrates River does flow through northern Syria, so this would not exclude Syria as ‘Gog’, the king of the north, where the leader/ Antichrist has moved farther away from where he had been wounded. So figure that if it had taken 13 months to gather this mega army in the first place and he originally had 42 months from the time he was wounded, then we should have seen about 29 months from time he is wounded until he **begins** to gather this larger army, and I’m guessing it will only take a couple days for them to take the rest of Israel, surround Jerusalem and the Lord’s return.

- While in Revelation 16:12-14 it says; **And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.** (Q: Could this river be dried up because of the Wormwood hit, after all it did affect the rivers as well?)
For hatred of the Jews or for whatever reason each may have, these four groups have come together for this one last annihilation and both of these plagues tells us they’ll be meeting in northern Syria on the Euphrates River, to form this mega army to be gathered at Armageddon in northern Israel (the next verse, Rev. 16:16) and it can only happen once and yet we have two views of this event from both the local and regional point-of-view when they call these others in. And remember that Armageddon is the same area taken by the 10-nation army (between the seas in the glorious holy mountains, Dan. 11:45), who are now joined by an even larger army. Scary isn’t it, to be told where your enemy will meet and what he will do 2,000 years before they even know it? The battle hasn’t even begun and they’ve already lost (okay guys, here are what your plans are going to be…).

Now compare the army mentioned in Daniel 2:41 – 43 (iron & miry clay) with the well-trained and organized army of Joel 2 and 3. That’s the difference this mega army makes. The 10-nation army had struggled and failed to take Israel but now an even bigger army is gathering to do their job, that’s better trained and better equip to the bloody task they’ve been called to do, and this time, no U.N. defense force is going to be stopping them. In a sense, you can think of them as a very well organized lynch-mob.

Do you really think it a mere coincidence that we have two plagues upon the sea and then two plagues upon the rivers and aquifers and now we have two plagues that includes not only the Euphrates River, but four groups that just happen to be preparing for ‘the battle of that great day of God Almighty’? All these plagues are parallel in time, but not in their focus and in one sense it gives us a 3-D view of God’s plans.

In the first plague, we saw the overview of four groups combining their power against Israel, and in the second plague, the one focused around the antichrist and his 10-nations, we saw them calling the other three groups to join them. Here is an army so big and so terrifying that the very fear of it would cause His people to call unto Him again and no one would dare come to the aid of the Jews against such a huge army. A brilliant plan and yet all these factors of hatred, revenge, fear and so on, all conveniently converge to one logical climax that would have worked, except for one small flaw.

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Next, I’d like to make a short comment about the seven thunders of Revelation 10 and then go to the warning Jesus gives in Revelation 16. John is deliberately told not to report what these seven thunders have uttered, which is strange because there’s been no hesitation to describe the devastation of these other plagues, so it is obvious these are not for the world. We also know that God leaves a lot of things out of the book of Revelations, such as the original attack on the African nations, or the covenant mentioned in Daniel 9:27 (making or breaking it); and as I’ve mentioned Israel is only directly mentioned once in chapters 4 - 19. No, I believe these 7-thunders are for us as believers at a later time and when He sees fit, about us cleaning up our act, as he did for the 7 churches in Revelations, such as stop making money off of God (the money changers of today sell books, movies and material all in the name of God but who gets the honor and glory).

So just like when we lay in bed at night and hear the thunder of a passing storm, so when these things are revealed to us there will be those that will need to examine and correct certain doctrines or attitudes, like those mentioned in Revelations chapters 2 and 3, that He demands that we address, before that day Jesus returns, and if you died before then and hadn’t corrected them, then it will be too late to make those needed corrections.

Hopefully this will bring a new revival, but woe to those believers that don’t correct those things that are needed. Remember what we were warned about in 2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. God wasn’t talking about the Jews here but this also includes the arrogant believers of any age who are called by His name who need to repent, especially just before the moment that Jesus returns, who may find it too easy to turn their back on the faith and make the excuse ‘hey, that guy was going to kill me if I didn’t stop following God’.

All I can say is that we all had better be listening when He speaks again because denying some problem in our spiritual life could be fatal, because every time God has given a warning like this to a nation or a
people such as what Jonah gave to Nineveh, Daniel to Babylon, or any one of his other prophets to Israel, there has always been some very serious consequences they were to face and right now we’ll facing the literal Armageddon.

The ‘dead-line’ God has made is almost here and with more prophets coming from God, we had better be ready to listen to them and reject the false ones. And no, they probably wouldn’t have letters behind their name or be called doctor for God to use them, but ignore them means that you’ll be ignoring God, which is NEVER a good idea, as we were warned in Matthew 7:22-23 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? ... [23] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. I believe these warning to us as believers to be very timely and necessary.

Consider these things as a reminder for us to ‘wash our feet’ as it were, our own Day of Atonement, which for the Jews, was a day that they were to afflict their souls, and went beyond just their yearly sin offering, this was a day of personal responsibly and reflection. These prophets may not fit the image, the talk or dress some would imagine or even want them to have, something like the men that Jesus chose, but I would very strongly advise against bad-mouthing them because chances are very good that God will be listening to your very words and watching your response to them, which is like seeing a warning sign that said the bridge was out, but it looked as if it had been hand written, so you ignored it, well don’t expect any of these guys to be of the same denomination or even be from the same country as you. Maybe it is you who needs the missionary.

Final Warning

Jesus then adds one final warning to believers as he begins Revelation 16:15, when he says; ‘Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame’. Every reference to Jesus’ return as a thief in the night has always been in reference to those not looking or ready for it, so after all these previous events and with Jesus making this statement about coming as a thief ‘lest he walk naked’ then there is a relationship between the watching and not watching, of being clothed and being naked.

But is this just for those that are alive at the time that Jesus returns? Sure we see this warning right before the actual post-trib return event, which would imply that it is primarily for the living, but what about those that die before that day AND WERE NOT KEEPING THEIR GARMENTS!? The evil servant in Matthew 24:51, for example, ended up in hell with the hypocrites, so what do you think Jesus is going to do to those that HADN’T KEPT THEIR GARMENTS? The living still have this one last chance to repent, but you don’t have to be alive on that day to be sent to hell.

Think about it, this is like the starter of a race who calls out ‘On you mark ... Set ... [bang]’, and while others take off running, some will complain and say, ‘I wasn’t ready’, or of the example Jesus gave of the five foolish virgins, who got left behind and didn’t get to attend the marriage supper that there were originally going to attend had they been ready. God decides who was ready and who wasn’t, for both the living and the dead – not you or me.

This then begs the question that if there had been a pre-trib rapture before Revelations 16, then why give this warning at all? I mean that if you were one of the tribulational saints who had just been saved wouldn’t you be checking off each of these passing signs and events and counting the days until you knew Jesus would be returning? But if there wasn’t any, then believers were either ignoring or not recognizing all these previous events as being from God.

No, we’ve been told about those apostate / rebellious believers who will be saying ‘Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the
beginning of the creation (2 Peter 3:4)’. They know of the coming, like the five foolish virgins, but they’ve been denying the idea that these previous events / signs were from God and now times up.

Remember what we were warned about in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ... [4] Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; [5] Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. And the countdown to Armageddon at this point is almost done.

So you’ve got to be one very dumb idiot to be ignoring all of the previous events and NOT be keeping your life right with God, but still we see Jesus making this warning just before the very last plague. This is the very same ‘coming as a thief’ that Paul mentions in 1 Thessalonians 5 that we’re supposed to be watching for, and we’re NOT to be like the rebellious servant in Matthew 24 who turns on his fellow servants. The post-tribulational return of the Lord and the destruction of the mega army are next!

But this is also a word of encouragement to the faithful, who are to see the darkest of days and live only moments away from death or are being beheaded (Rev. 20:5, 6), attacked and rejected even by fellow Christians. Don’t feel sorry for these political and persecuted outcasts who are willing to stand alone, but for those evil servants that will soon meet their very angry Master, because they’ve made the fool’s choice! Jesus has just mentioned ‘Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments’ in Rev. 16:15 and in Luke 21:28 he tells us that when we see these things then we are to ‘... look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh’, so hang in there, we are almost done, the return is about to occur.

Plague Number 7, Times Up

All the warning plagues are over and now it’s the judgment day itself, so let’s go back again and pickup Seal #6.

Revelation 6:12-17, Seal #6, 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 (the same as mentioned in Joel 2:31, 3:15 and Acts 2:20): .... 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, ... 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?

Revelation 11:15-18 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever ... [18] And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. We had just seen the mega army called in trumpet #6, and again we see an earthquake and great hail (verse 19). It’s at this moment that the KINGDOMS of this earth become His to literally ‘reign for ever and ever’ over, or at least the next 1,000 years. Some have placed this event during the tribulational which would make God’s statement in Rev. 10:7 that this last trumpet was a lie when he said ‘but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.’ No, this is when Jesus returns to begin his literal earthly reign, when all the prophesies for this time are fulfilled and when even those killed during the tribulation get their rewards.

Revelation 16:16-21 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. ... [18] And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake ... [19] And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and
great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. [20] And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. [21] And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent²²; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Together we see several ‘smaller’ events making up a signature event between them, with the very visible return of the Lord, the mentioning of a great earthquake and hail, and yet you can hear the pre-trib separate these passages and events to create their story, but it becomes confusing when you see where they take a part of the passage and explain it away BUT other parts of the same passage match up with one or both of the other two passages, which is like hearing a bell that goes ‘bonk’, it just doesn’t ring true, although they’ll tell you that their story is the only one that makes sense. Sure every version in the Bible of this one event doesn’t say completely the same thing and you would be wrong to expect it, but there is enough from each of these to give us a panoramic view of all these events, from the view of the doomed mega army to his effect on the islands, mountains and even distant ‘Babylon’.

All of the previous warning plagues are over and it’s now the great day of his wrath, not a period of wrath but a single day, with people the world over feeling or even being killed by earthquakes that moves the earth’s tectonic plates, or the tsunami that will roll over the land, and the mega army experiencing this great plague of hail, just watch them trying to hide from that! To some, they want to limit God's wrath to several plagues over a period of time and they discount even the possibility that the day of wrath (Re 6:17 and 11:18) is a single horrific day of destruction, AFTER salvation has ceased for them.

How many times do you need to have him repeat these things, to realize that these three plagues are all speaking of the same climatic event? In all three, we clearly see it stated that this is the day of His wrath (Rev. 6:17, 11:18)! If you keep them separate and never look at what each says nor what precedes them then you can never realize that they are all the same event.

Do we really expect him to repeatedly remind us that he’ll be sending his angels to the four corners of the earth to gather his saints (Matthew 24:29) or that the dead are raised first and then we which are alive are caught up to meet them in the air over Jerusalem? And yet despite all this evidence between Seal #6, Trumpet #7 and Vial #7 there are still those that claim that these are not the same event. No, we saw in Trumpet and Vial #6 the gathering of the mega army and then in Trumpet and Vial #7 is their destruction and with Jesus’ return with our rapture / resurrection this completes the mystery of God we were told would happen both by the prophets and in Rev. 10:7.

Then you’ll notice, starting in Rev 19:2, as the saints rejoice over the destruction of Babylon, it continues on into verses 7-9 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. [8] And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. [9] And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

But the pre-trib have again, have done a ‘cut and paste’ to move this marriage supper to sometime during the tribulation which would exclude those that were still to die during this time, however God never changes his plans just because some group demands it, because it’s mentioned here as coming AFTER the tribulation. Now follow this, because I’m sure that many have ignored what God is showing us here to prove their faulty doctrine. In Revelation 6:17 – 21 we have the final vial-plague poured out with the mention of the destruction of Babylon, which God expands upon in chapters 17 and 18 as the people of earth wail over her destruction. In Revelations 19:2 we switch from the earth to heaven and see the saints rejoicing over her destruction, and as they rejoice we see the one and only place that the marriage supper of

²² A talent has varied in weight from 85 to about 95 lbs. over history. This weight could be either the actual weight of each stone or the impact force (weight times speed) but either way it would be lethal, and you wondered why men were hiding in caves in Revelation 6:12 – 17.
the lamb is mentioned.

What happens is that God jumps back to Revelation 19:11 – 20:6 to the heavenly side of the story when Jesus returns to fight that battle, just before he destroys Babylon. Now is when we see the antichrist and the false prophet are cast alive into the Lake of Fire, Satan bound for a thousand years and those slain during the tribulation join the previous ‘sleeping’ saints (see Dan. 12:1) in what Jesus calls the **First Resurrection.** It would be very strange indeed if we saw the destruction of the whore, suddenly there’s the marriage supper of the lamb supposedly during the tribulation and before the first resurrection, and then we’re strangely back to the other post-trib events. From the context, the marriage supper is more closely linked to AFTER the destruction of Babylon than it would to sometime during the tribulation.

So it becomes obvious here that this event of Jesus destroying the mega army and so on, are not some separate series at some other time, but **logically we can see that we’ll first have the first resurrection, then Seal #6, Trumpet and Vial #7 are what is to happen to the mega army when Jesus destroys them, which is then followed by the destruction of Babylon,** which is followed by the marriage supper.

If there were a pre-trib resurrection before this all happened, then why wasn’t it mention previously, especially in this one book that declares the first resurrection as **AFTER all this happens?** So with only one post-trib resurrection mentioned here, then here is where God puts it. This business of implying two resurrection events is like taking two pictures of the same ‘fish’ and claiming you caught two of them.

But as pointed out in 1 Corinthians 15:23 *‘But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming’,* and this is definitely **THAT** coming with the resurrection here in Revelations 19 – 20:5, 6. So Paul in his letter to the church at Corinth was supporting a one resurrection-rapture event as a post-trib event both here and in **2 Thessalonians 2** which he mentions was to come **AFTER** an apostasy and the son of perdition revealed!

In Matthew 24:31, Jesus only told us of a post-trib return where ‘**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’, and Paul declared in 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 that ‘**For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [17] Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**’ (Note: this is the **only place** we are told of meeting previously resurrected saints, and yet none would argue that they were resurrected on different days.)

When people separate multiple reports of the same action like this, **that allows them** to start implying ‘facts’ and doctrines not supported by scriptures, which just proves their falsehood and they end up with more ‘implied’ facts and fairy tales than the true-proven ones. Remember that you can’t hide a lie forever because someone is going to expose it, so you had better be checking out your doctrines carefully.

So what if Jesus **didn’t mention** that he was going to set foot on the Mt of Olives, or what if Paul **didn’t mention** that we were to meet Jesus in the air over Jerusalem or be gathered by the angels in either letter to the church at Thessalonica, he did tell us in Titus 2:13 that the resurrection and rapture was to be at the same time as the glorious appearing.

I state again that the trumpets and vial plagues are parallel in time and you should use the Berean Principal to verify what I have just shown you and **to take a hard and truthful look at your current doctrines.**

**The Day of the Lord**

Now let’s take a closer look at what happens on that final day when Jesus returns, to get an idea of the **many things that will be happening.** This will be the end of man’s age and the beginning of God’s age, and by gathering these passages together, we can get a pretty good idea of the events for that fateful day. **Parousia Day – The Coming, the Day of Wrath!** This isn’t the end; it’s just the beginning.

1. In what should’ve been literally the last day of the nation of Israel, the remaining Jews will face the hopelessness of being trapped within the city and the temple area by this massive army. (Zech. 12:2
Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about (the world will see and know of their fear and their expected fate), when they shall be in the siege both against Judah (southern Israel) and against Jerusalem. Zech. 13:8, 9 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire... they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God. Zech. 14:2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken ...)

2. Most likely, this day will start with a very high barometric pressure from the very heavy layer of rain clouds overhead when a ‘breeze’ comes in from the Mediterranean Sea that will relieve this pressure by blowing a hole in the clouds east of Jerusalem (Rev. 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together). The updraft will then suck all this rain and humidity into the colder upper air to create a mega storm.

3. The Day of Wrath is about to begin. (‘And I will plead against him (Gog) with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people (the mega army) that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire (lightening?), and brimstone.’ Eze. 38:22). The weather forecast for Jerusalem will be cloudy and light rain with Jesus and an open sky above them, but for everyone else – you should've stayed home! The hail mentioned here will kill and pulverize countless and then the overflowing rain will bury both the dead and those still alive. What did you think this ‘overflowing’ rain was?

4. The release of the high barometric pressure under the heavy clouds will shoot straight up, creating straight-line winds on the ground and the mega hail in the upper atmosphere, (Rev. 16:21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent (weighing 80 – 90 pounds): and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great). This storm will stop the armies outside of Jerusalem, however the Jews trapped within the city and the Temple area may see a lighter rain and no hail. Remember that Jesus and open sky are now above them. But who said the enemy within the city would be safe as 7,000 are killed when the 2 witnesses are raptured (covered in a moment).

5. Meanwhile, the mega army will have the infamous ‘front row seat’, which in technical term is called ‘OOPS’, i.e., too late, as all of the warning plagues are now over! (Matthew 24:30 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. Rev. 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindsred of the earth shall wail because of him. (Funny, John’ opening statement to this book was looking forward, not to some secret pre-trib event, but to this visible post-trib return.) Rev. 6:15 – 17 (Seal #6) ‘And the kings of the earth... 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?’). Here is the glorious coming of the Lord that Paul told Titus (2:13) we’re to be looking for, which also happens to be our blessed hope in the first resurrection (Rev 20:5, 6), and the only one Jesus told us would happen in Matthew 24:27 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. No scriptures mentions or hints at a secret OR a pre-trib return.

6. At this point, Jesus commands his last trumpet to be sounded (the one we’ve been waiting for) as Matt. 24:31 declares, 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. (Jesus is at Jerusalem when this trumpet sounds, Zech. 14, 1 Cor. 15:52 and last trumpet), Rev. 11:15 ‘And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of
his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever’ and His reign begins, Rev. 20:4, 5 ...and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, ... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years ...This is the first resurrection. (Dan. 12:1, 1 Thess. 4:16, 17 ‘For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [17] Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord’, (destination Jerusalem). Note: things like trumpets have long been used in battles to signal others, such as in Judges 7:19 (used by Gideon) and in Job 39:25 (used by God), so this one appears to be the signal for more than one group to attack or actions to begin. And in both the Matt. 24:31 and the 1 Thessalonians 4:16 references, each trumpet was followed by the gathering of the saints. How many resurrections with the trump of God do you demand be separate events or that you can clearly prove to be separate! God only needs one so don’t ask for more.

7. At this same time, we see the two witnesses are also resurrected, will be seen walking around and then visibly raptured as a part of this first resurrection. Revelation 11:11-13 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. [12] And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. [13] And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. There is no reason to believe that this not so secret resurrection and rapture won’t be at the same time as the first resurrection mentioned in Rev. 20:5, 6 which includes the Great Jerusalem Earthquake. And just where does it say that this needs to be a separate event and that our own resurrection and rapture cannot be at this same time and be just as bold and open; besides why would He hide our resurrection / rapture?

7.1. In Rev. 16:19 – 21, this same earthquake will divide the city into thirds (a tenth of the city destroyed and divided into thirds). That is one major earthquake to kill so many and it doesn’t appear to be a plague against the Jews if only a tenth of the city falls and it divides the city, especially since Jesus is coming back to rescue them from this army that's invaded and have already destroyed part of his city. The perfect escape plan for so many Jews, just like the plan he used to get Israel out of Egypt, only this time the Jews will not be leaving in the end, they're just stepping out of the way.

8. And now He goes on the offensive (Zechariah 14:12 ‘And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.’) 2 Peter 3:10 ‘But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat...’). We’ve seen mentioned that God’s weapons on this day have included hail, over-flowing rain and even a major earthquake, but I believe this ‘weapon’ is very likely to clear the army off of the Mount of Olives, which he is NOT about to share with those who have come up against HIS city (and they thought they had the easier and safer job).

9. The trapped Jews watch, as this lone figure descends from the opening in the clouds as the raptured and resurrected saints wait above him, as he sets foot on the Mount of Olives and in a mighty earthquake it splits in two. 23 (Zech. 14:4, 5 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives ... and ... shall cleave in the midst thereof ... And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; ... and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.) This is the cause of the Great Jerusalem Earthquake repeated so often here in these ‘return’ passages which will create a valley big enough for all the

23 The West side of the Dead Sea (Israel) has a deep and softer limestone base with chalk and clay, while the east side (Jordan) has a harder granite base with Nubian sandstone on top of that so it appears only the Jewish side will be affected this day.
remaining Jews to make their escape. In Job 42:5 we read, ‘I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee’, and now we all see Him, even the dead in Christ. Nowhere do we read of a secret or unseen event, and why would He hide it from the world?

9.1. Personal opinion: I believe that when Jesus sets foot on the Mt of Olives, that the split will occur on the south side of the mount (see east side of Jerusalem, local highway 417, on Google Earth) and destroy the two Muslim holy sites. If the Jews initially stay out of that area, they should avoid being killed at that time.

10. Meanwhile, this mega army is in a complete panic as fear sweeps through them when they see Jesus coming in the air and it soon becomes apparent that He’s out to destroy them! (Seal #6, Rev. 6:12-17 And I beheld ... and, lo, there was a great earthquake; ... And the kings of the earth, and the great men, ... and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said ... hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb). This is really going to change their religion. Remember that you can’t have a Jihad, a holy war without the only one that is Holy, and this time it’s too late for repentance or escape. This one-day ‘disaster’ will really impact all the nations not to cross the God of Israel and the King over all the kings of the earth. With the resulting worldwide destruction from these earthquakes and tsunamis, and the annihilation of this mega army all in the same day, by the same God, will frighten all the nations for a long time to come. This is what Ezekiel 38:16 was all about. Note: the Muslims know that ‘Isa’ / Jesus will be returning at this time but they think he's coming back to protect them, but it’s too late as they realize how wrong they’ve been.

11. Two angels visibly take the antichrist and the false prophet (Rev. 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet ... These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone). Can’t you just imagine these two guys ending up some place like on the surface of the sun, where there is no place to hide or to rest and no silence from the roaring flames and the bubbling surface?

12. Another angel comes and binds Satan (Revelation 20:1+ And I saw an angel come down from heaven and he laid hold on ... Satan, and bound him a thousand years). I believe this could be the strong angel that personally stands beside God the Father in Rev. 5:2, possibly Michael, the archangel, from Jude 1:9, who now has the authority from God the Father Himself, to bind Satan.

13. The Great Jerusalem Earthquake, as I call it, appears to have started a chain reaction of multiple major earthquakes that includes moving islands, which in turn will include an almost continuous set of tsunamis throughout the world for a time, which also means that the Antichrist's naval fleet will also be destroyed. Warning: the coastal cities of the world will all face these tsunamis. This IS NOT a ‘local’ event! The after effects were bad enough when the meteor Wormwood hit the planet but this seems more like a worldwide nightmare, talk about rock and roll (for those that didn't get it, it's falling rocks and rolling water).

14. God has already determined that 5/6th of this mega army will be destroyed (Ezekiel 39:2 – 5 ‘And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee’.) So even those that are allowed to escape are known and numbered by Him, making his enemies his witnesses to those left on the earth.

15. Rev. 14:20 says ‘And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs’, see also Is. 63. God’s bloody battlefield will cover approximately 183 to 200 miles from Jerusalem and it is only 135 miles to Damascus, 146 miles to Beirut Lebanon, and 188 miles to Tripoli in northern Lebanon, which will all be a part of the new Israel, which is how God is going to fulfill his promise he made in Genesis 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.
15.1. It is also possible that while the nation of Israel will occupy its own state up to this point 200 miles north (see Ezekiel 48:1), that the rest of the nation of Syria could be a part of the territory of Israel all the way up to the Euphrates River and this newer area of Israel might’ve been where the supply stations and air bases that supported their Armageddon attack had been.

15.2. Note: we can expect with this overflowing rain mentioned in Eze. 38:22 and hail that will literally ‘pound’ the body to a pulp, that some areas will have a bloody flash floods (W), some place 4+ feet deep of very heavy soil-laden water capable of knocking a person over and burying them. The rain could start in some of the mountains in Lebanon that rise to 10,000 feet, then it could flow down towards the Sea of Galilee and then to the Dead Sea.

16. After this army is destroyed, God then slowly turns and sets an angry eye towards Babylon. (Rev. 16:19

And the great city was divided into three parts (the Great Jerusalem Earthquake, the 7th vial, when the Jews escape, 10th part city falls [Rev. 11:13]), and the cities of the nations fell (earthquakes and tsunamis): and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath) in other words ‘you’re next’. Note: Rev. 17:3, 12 – 18 seems to indicate that this Babylon (very likely in reference to the Vatican), and the 10-nation beast will have some sort of relationship with each other, such as if the Vatican were trying to meddle in this guy’s affairs and it may have backfired and affect all ‘Christians’ and not just a ‘church’ when all the faithful are attacked and killed (Seal #5).

17. It’s AFTER the first resurrection and the destruction of Babylon, as the saints are rejoicing over her destruction that we’re gathered together for the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:1 – 9), which will include every saint that has ever lived. None are excluded, no matter when they might have lived, because according to Hebrews 11, we are even equal to the pre-Moses saints. You will note that both the prophecies of the marriage supper and our going to the mansions are noted here as post-tribulational events. Some people claim that the marriage supper happens DURING the tribulation, but here God tells us that it’s AFTER the destruction of Babylon. Who would you call the liar?

18. I leave this section with the passage from Isaiah 4:2 – 4 ‘In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that 

he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem,

shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion...’.

Glory and honor to those surviving Jews who will pass through this ‘hour of testing’; for in God’s eyes they deserve this honor. They remained true, even in the face of certain death.

Now think about the power of God for a moment on this day. Destroying this mega army in one day and leaving but a sixth part (Eze 39:2) doesn’t seem to even work up a sweat for him. Now consider that this day also includes that we’ll also see a rapture and resurrection, the saints become immortal, Babylon is destroyed, islands and mountains are relocated and so on. And suddenly the world, like the local bully finding himself suddenly out-numbered, finds itself to be on the very wrong side of a very angry God. Do you really think that God is showing his full power here?

He warned us that believers will be killed in the preceding days so if the previous plagues were God’s judgments then why does salvation continue or why weren’t new believers removed? No, God is so powerful that warning us of what was to come and allowing believers to go through these dark days, allows us to be prepared and to warn others that the Armageddon-judgment is coming and that the first resurrection of Rev. 20:5, 6 at the end of the tribulation is not only a show of his powers to even raise the dead and make us immortal but to show the world that he can also reward those that had been faithful.
The Death of the Pre-Trib Doctrine

So what would it take to Biblically prove a doctrine, like the pre-trib return? There is no doubt that Jesus will be visibly and gloriously returning AFTER the tribulation and it includes the first resurrection, as mentioned in Rev. 20:5, 6, so that is never in question. Someone once said that it is easier to prove some doctrine or some scientific theory wrong as it is to prove it right, so the question comes down as to what does the Bible really teach on the return of the Lord? Will believers be going through this time?

I believe that the most important thing that they should do is to first establish the original or base-facts. In other words:

1. Where is there a passage that clearly presents a return statement followed in the same passage by something from the tribulational period to establish their sequence?

2. Where is there a passage that indicates that believers are not in the tribulation, meaning that this period excludes the believers? If salvation continues during this time then this could not be considered one of the greater judgments, such as when God closed the door of the ark or sent the death angel in Egypt. At both of those moments, it was too late to change your mind and you no longer had the opportunity for salvation that just before had been offered to you.

2.1 During minor judgments, believers were still to go through them as well, such as when Daniel and his friends were taken captive.

3. Without proof of this pre-trib event then every secondary passage describing some aspect of the return, resurrection or rapture would automatically point to the single and proven post-trib event.

3.1 And if there were a pre-trib event, then there should be some major distinction that would help distinguish it, in the supporting passage, to which of the two events it applied to.

3.2 Note; a secondary passage is any passage describing some aspect of an event without defining the event itself. For example, a passage such as 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 18, is a secondary passage because it doesn't define WHEN it is to happen in relation to other outside events, and therefore could also be applied to the post-trib event. Just because someone says it's a pre-trib event doesn't actually prove it is. So if there were a pre-trib event then what evidence in the text would prove this was either a pre or post trib event?

However, the death of the pre-trib doctrine won't come with this ‘me vs you’ approach, in some argument but in God’s way, by de facto. God told us in Deuteronomy 18:22, When a prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah, if the thing does not happen or come about, that is the thing which Jehovah has not spoken; that prophet has spoken it proudly; you shall not be afraid of him. In other words, this ‘In reality or fact’ will be seen on news reports of the events that the pre-trib say we won’t be seeing. In Jesus day there were those that denied he was the Messiah, and I imagine that in Noah’s day there were also those that denied what he warned them of as well, but the reality of all this is that it cannot be stopped or changed by our opinions.

This doesn’t mean we wait until these things begin to happen, nor do we ignore our appointed responsibility in Matthew 24:32 to be looking for those ‘leaves to start to bud’, but we still need to ask ourselves are we willing to challenge those that have wrong or misleading doctrines, including ourselves? If you start with a false doctrine or even have some misunderstanding, and through reason you connect other doctrines to it, then you're very likely to make other false assumptions and create an even greater false doctrine based on your original false conclusions. And denying it to yourself only makes you the judge of your own doctrines you only believe are true.

Several of the pre-trib have defined the premise of the ‘imminent return’ or the doctrine of the ‘any-moment rapture’, as: ‘... that the rapture could take place at any moment. While other events may take place before the rapture, no event must precede it. If prior events are required before the rapture, then the
rapture could not be described as imminent. Thus, 

\textit{if any event were required to occur before the rapture, then the concept of imminency would be destroyed}. \(^{24}\)

My understanding of this statement is that there are two very fundamental, but vulnerable points, which are, 1) there are no prophetic events to occur before the Lord’s return and 2) the tribulation is to follow this rapture. So this raises several very serious questions:

1. Q: Is there any passage proving point #1 that there are no events to precede the Lord’s return. A: No, Jesus told us in Matthew 24:32 to be looking for specific signs just before the actual return and that when we did see them he told us in Luke 21:28 \textit{And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh}. Every reference to Jesus return as a thief has always been in reference to those that either don't know about it or have turned away from the faith as the evil servant in Matthew 24 turned on his fellow servants.

1.1 Note: I’ll cover \textit{Matthew 24:36}, that mentions that ‘no man knows the day nor the hour’ later.

2. Q: Is there a clear Biblical passage showing their second point of a ‘rapture’ event and then followed by something from the tribulation in that same passage, thus proving their sequence is Biblical true? A: There is not one passage demonstrating that sequence, either directly or indirectly mentioned, such as it already having happened in the book of Revelations BEFORE the plagues started or by any of the other writers. Some claim that it’s implied but upon closer examination, we can see that they’ve taken passages out of context, such as 1 Thess. 4:13+ and it doesn’t support their claims. Watch out for the faulty logic here!

2.1 Some pre-tribbers believe that this concept was to be understood later, and was not clearly understood by the early church, much like the concept of the Trinity. But this assumes several things that 1) that there actually is a secret pre-trib event that was never openly mentioned, and 2) this pre-trib event was some hidden aspect of Jesus return, while the minor events were openly revealed.

3. Q: Is there any scriptural evidence of a difference between the ‘church-age saints’ and the tribulational saints? A: Only the pre-trib have defined separate groups but no Biblical writer ever defined or made reference to any separation. We need to ask then why are saints killed during this time, and salvation allowed to continue, if this is supposedly the wrath of God on the world? \textit{Why can’t the final plague be the only plague where salvation is no longer an option but a judgment}? For the pre-trib this is NOT a consideration.

4. Q: What about the Dispensational or time-periods factors involved? A: Not one Biblical writer ever mentions what time period, present or future that we might live in, as making a difference to our salvation, resurrection, position in heaven, or to any doctrinal application. Others have created these ‘\textit{methods of interpretation}’ to falsely prove their doctrines, which is something like using evolution as a means of interpreting the Bible. No one can show that the so-called church age ever ends BEFORE the tribulation, is not in it or can’t continue after it. So if there are tributional saints resurrected in the first resurrection of Revelations 20:5, 6 then how can they not be a part of God’s church, are they NOT saints and a part of the body of Christ?

5. Q: Did Jesus ever mention or imply a return BEFORE the tribulation? A: Jesus’ statement in Matt 24:27 was that his return was to be as obvious as lightning flashing across the sky, however these others try to tell us that this was in regards just to his post-trib event while their pre-trib rapture and resurrection events are never referred to by Jesus, as if it were some mystery only intended to be ‘discovered’ later on by ‘special’ interruption. If the pre-trib event were a real event then either Jesus (the one doing the returning) or John (the book of Revelations) would’ve made some mention of it.

5.1 Note: in Rev. 20:5, 6 we’re told of a single post-trib ‘first’ resurrection, so why wasn’t it

\(^{24}\) ‘\textit{Imminency And The Any-Moment Rapture}’ by Thomas Ice, Pre-Trib.org, archived article.
mentioned before all this began? I don’t believe that neither Jesus nor any of the other writers were ignorant of this **fundamental detail** of when any return / rapture would be in regards to these other events. This is not one of those things God would want left out, and there would be no reason to leave it out, which leads us to suspect that this pre-trib doctrine is false. This lack of sequential proof makes the pre-trib rely too heavily on implication.

6 Q: Do passages like 1 Thess. 4:13 – 18 really teach a pre-trib return and rapture? A: that passage was actually intended to assure us that those who had already died would be resurrected and raptured before us. The implication is made that this is some pre-trib event, we go to heaven and come back later instead of meeting Jesus in the air over Jerusalem just as he is about to set foot on the Mount of Olives. The pre-trib ignore any possible connection between this passage and the first resurrection of Revelation 20:5, 6 and must imply that this is actually the first phase of the first resurrection and the reference in Revelations is the second phase, but they lack the evidence to support their claim of multiple ‘first’ resurrections.

There are so many other questions I could ask, but I only need to get you to question and search out these things for yourselves, so ask yourself what does the Bible say, seriously question all you hear and DON’T consider all that good sounding ‘opinion’ of others as facts. What we desire to happen and what God has planned can be two different things. We’re accountable to God and He’s the one who’s given us all this information on the end times, so it’s our fault and not some other guy if we believe a lie, no matter how knowledgeable or convincing they might be. My job in this paper is just to show you these things and not to convince you, so go look for yourself, **try the spirits**!

There are a few things that we can justifiably imply, such as the burning mountain that’s cast into the sea is a volcano, but if 1) you don’t have a base passage that other passages can refer to then you must use circular reason to justify a false doctrine, or 2) you have to imply something that other passages don’t support and may even contradict, or 3) you have to ignore the possibility that some passage actually has a different meaning or intend than what you think it does, then you’ve got a problem that needs to be faced or questioned because someone will notice and it won’t make any difference who they are if God says you’re wrong! God warned us in Revelations 22 that you can’t add or take from God’s most basic doctrines without there being some very serious repercussions from Him, so we had better be very careful we test all our doctrines.

Some will even point out differences between passages but most times it’s just describing the same event but they’ll demand that you take one as a pre-trib event and the other as a post-trib. Just remember that if anyone implies something and it’s wrong, then sooner or later someone else is going to notice it, and if it’s one of your doctrines then you had better be the one to change, because God isn’t going to. Look for what God says, not what you or someone else wants it to say.

So with Revelations 20:5, 6 as the only location that mentions any resurrection and it as being the ‘first’, it's obviously the only one and includes the tribulational saints, which takes us back to 1 Corinthians 15:23 where we read, **But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.** Paul only mentions two resurrections: Jesus as the first fruit and the other of the believers when Jesus returns. So where is the pre-trib first resurrection mentioned or that this post-trib one a continuation of it?

There’s no hint of multiple resurrections of the saint but just the one at the end, which we see later is in power and great glory as Titus was told it would be (Titus 2:13). Go look in your electronic Bible for every reference to the Lord’s ‘return’ or his ‘coming’ and see which ones actually do define separate events or one that the Bible defines as before and the other as a post tribulational event? But be prepared because this point **WILL BE** where Christians will turn on and even betray other Christians.
Proof by Fulfillment

No, it will be this *Proof by Fulfillment*, by de Facto that God warned us of in Deut. 18:22, when these fulfils begin, that the pre-trib doctrine will be proven false or will you be one of those that firmly state, ‘Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation’ (2 Peter 3:4). They ignored the signs and passages and they demand that the coming of the Lord be on their understood terms and before the tribulation starts, so they'll explain all these events away and declare them NOT to be the fulfillment of the prophetic events. So just because someone appears to be so knowledgeable and is some great spiritual leader, that doesn’t mean their message is true.

These are the same ones we read about in 2 Timothy 3:1-4 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. … [4] Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God,* which brings us to the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:21-23 *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; ... [22] Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied (preached) in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? [23] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.* Do you really want to follow someone like that into hell and his form of belief?

So after the first prophetic events, and based on Deut. 18:22, we can see that their doctrine will be proven false. This is also true for those that say that some event is going to happen this year or next year, but when it doesn’t that too will prove that they’re not from God, but people will still blindly follow them in their false hopes. Therefore, the death of this false doctrine will not come from some eloquent argument or crafty words but by *de facto* as one prophetic event after another destroys it, and that is the true Biblical test of prophesy, as each of these irrefutable signs tell us that the countdown has begun. Still this doesn’t excuse us from searching the word and testing even our own understandings.

In this paper, I haven’t been telling you that the first event was to be something so general as Seal #1, (wars and rumors of wars) because we’ve always had them, even before John penned those words, but we’ll all be watching as the foundations of the pre-trib doctrine begins to be washed away (Matt. 7:24+), when someone, like the *BBC World News* announce the first overt action of Syria was to attack Egypt and followed by two of the other African nations. So when the pre-trib keep telling us, ‘*that these are not the signs of the tribulation because we’re still here*’ (II Peter 3:4) we can stand back and watch their foundation of sand being washed away right from under them, even as they deny it.

For so many, this was *never even a possibility*, because they wanted you to believe we would escape the tribulation, that we wouldn’t have to face this time of testing, no matter how many witnesses God was to send against them or what experts they may have had to back up their false claims. Where was the serious exploration of the scriptures and discussions of discovery instead of the “I’m right and you’re wrong” attitudes? Like I said, that’s exactly like the pride that locked Jesus out of the church at Laodicea in Rev. 3:14, and those we read about in 2 Timothy 3:5 ‘Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.’ And denying the 'power thereof' doesn’t necessarily mean denying Christ outwardly, but in your practice.

Pre-trib Challenge Responses

I am hesitant to respond to points that the pre-trib have made, but there are some issues they have pressed, that have been taken out of context which must be challenged, just to show what some of their passages really say, and to remain silent would mean that I wasn’t willing to speak up for the Lord when given the chance.

Matthew 24:36

Many of the pre-trib have taken Matthew 24:36 out of context, which says, *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.* At face value, alone and out of context...
then they would've made their point, but step back and a new light appears on this passage.

Remember, back in verse 32, Jesus commanded us to learn this very important parable to be looking for and being ready for when the signs begin, which were mentioned in Luke 21:25-26, ‘And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars (ash from volcano and meteor). And on the earth will be anxiety of nations with bewilderment, roaring of sea (tsunami) and of surf; [26] men fainting from fear, and expectation of the things coming on the earth’ (the four Seals). He then follows that in verse 28 with, And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. In other words after we see the signs then we would have our literal redemption, including, as covered by later writers, of our resurrection and rapture.

Through some magical power, the pre-trib have determined that Jesus is switching here from the post-trib return (verses 29 – 31), then in verse 36 to a pre-trib return, and then back to a post-trib return in the verses following, and where Jesus is returning as some unexpected thief in the night and again in Rev. 16:15 that he was returning as a thief AFTER the tribulation, so where does he mention is pre-trib return?! And here Jesus specifically compares his return with the days of Noah, where everyone had been told it was coming but they ‘knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be’?? None of the accounts in Matthew, Mark, or Luke reported Jesus was doing any switching between two separate events? There is nothing in any of the three Gospel accounts that he has done any switching or of another return event.

Obviously, Jesus commanded us to be looking for these signs, so why do these others tell us that verse 36 means that there are no preceding signs? It’s because in order to prove their ‘error’ they need to confuse verse 32 and the commands about the signs and take it out of context, which is easy to do. They don’t deny that we need to be ready, but they need to separate their one verse so that you’ll have no choice but to accept the ‘imminent’ doctrine.

But Jesus is actually telling us in verse 36 that, ‘that this may be a long wait (we may have to wait 100, 1,000 or even 2,000 years), but when you start to see the signs then you’ll know it’s close.’ Watch what Jesus does here as he continues to emphasize the importance of this WAITING for the leaves to bud forth. He first compares his return with the days of Noah, who knew and expected this coming judgment (it took him over a 100 years to build the ark) while the others ignored his warnings until it was too late. So we too are to warn others of what is coming and to be living in expectancy, even as Noah had to wait and warn.

But in the following verses, Jesus goes on to give other examples of being ready, like if the owner of the house had only known that a thief was coming, he would’ve been ready but we as believers do know and expect Jesus return, so we need to be telling this ‘owner’ to be expecting the ‘thief’? Of course there were some N.T. writers that didn’t want God to wait too long as they earnestly looked forward to that day, which is something like our kids asking on those long trips, ‘are we there yet’ or ‘how many more towns until we get there’ (all in due time).

Jesus then goes on to the wise servants who were ready for their returning master and then to the evil servant who’ll turn on the faithful ones, and then he even adds the 5 virgins in the next chapter that also knew of, but we’re not prepared for the bridegroom when he came, but the theme here is not that they wouldn’t be seeing any signs but to be ready because it could be a very long wait. So when we re-examine verse 36, it’s actually warning us, not that there wouldn’t be signs or even that it was imminent, but rather to be expecting a long wait and to continue to be looking and ready in our life for when those signs do begin, and as we can see, it’s been a very long wait so far. What did you expect Jesus to tell us, that it was going to be in 1,234 years, 5 months and 6 days? The foolish believers would think that they had all this time and didn’t need to be ready.

1 Thessalonians 1

Some use 1 Thessalonians 1:10 as part of the proof that we as believers are to be removed from this earth BEFORE the tribulation begins when Paul states ‘And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he
raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.’ But we need to ask some very serious questions as to their conclusion. Based on the fact in verse 10, that Jesus was raised from the dead, is this wrath actually the tribulation, as some insist, or our deliverance from hell, which Jesus’ death did deliver us from?

First of all, the extent of this passage as even being a pre-trib event would only leave this as some secondary reference, because there’s no real statement addressing the tribulation itself, the timing of it or giving us proof that this was even meant as a pre-trib statement. Yes we ALL will stand before the Judge of the whole earth, even those who have already died, but Paul’s statement here was that because of the testimony of this church had gone even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, so they were being encouraged to continue to wait for Jesus, just because we are saved from hell.

In fact where does any Biblical writer clearly speak of believers not going through or being rescued from the ‘tribulational’, or of a return at any moment without any previous signs, when Jesus himself spoke of his return with signs and would be as bold and obvious as the lightning flashing across the sky (Matt. 24:27).

I Thessalonians 4

The purpose of this passage was to clear the air about the resurrection of the saints who had already died when we’re told in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord,* which is likely over Jerusalem, because no one says anything, anywhere of a secret return that goes unnoticed by the world, why should it be? God doesn’t sneak around because he’s out to boldly show the world that he’s real and not some religious icon.

Back in verse 16, he says ‘*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout …*’, and that doesn’t sound like some hidden or secret event, as if he had anything to hide from the world. Does it say anywhere that this was some imminent event, or that it’s supposed to be some secret or hidden event, no they just add it because someone wants it to be?

But the pre-trib seem to miss the part about a trumpet being sounded here (4:16), which paul mentions as the last trumpet in 1 Corinthians 15:52, AND the same one mentioned in Matthew 24:31 where the elect are gathered ‘*with a great sound of a trumpet*’ and THEN we see the gathering / rapture / resurrection (Rev. 20:5, 5) in each of them. When you have a trumpet sounding and a resurrection / rapture event then you had better have something a little more supportive than just some implication that they're different events. Where's the proof that this actually is a pre-trib event or that it CAN'T be a post-trib event.

Now ask yourselves, is 1 Thessalonians 4, a coming with his saints or for them because both are mention in this passage (the pre-trib like to define the two events that way). In verse 14, it says ‘*even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him*’ and in verse 17 it says ‘*Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.*’ In Zechariah 14: 5 we can plainly read ‘… and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee’ as Jesus sets foot on the Mount of Olives so if Jesus comes for his saints that are still alive, and he brings those who have died with him, he then has the first resurrection of Revelations 20:5, 6, he can then be coming with ALL his saints as he sets foot on the earth once more, just before the battle. Of course the pre-trib have to deny that as even a possibility.

But there is no indication in any of these passages of there being multiple parts to the return / resurrection, like the one in Revelations 20 being a continuation of an earlier event. And if there was supposed to be one before the tribulation then why does John only mention the one? This business of it being implied can only take so much abuse before it become obvious that their doctrine is beginning to look more and more like a fairy tale than reporting what God says. So where is there any statement that we leave and then come back some seven years later or is that also assumed (or implied again). And just where is there any proof that this or any return of the Lord is supposed to be a secret or imminent event if we’re told to be always ready and looking for the signs?

In verse 13, this church had been troubled over the saints who had already died, so his conclusion to them in verse 18 was ‘*Wherefore comfort one another with these words,*’ and is proof that he wasn’t speaking of the
saints avoiding the tribulation but that the dead are raised and raptured first before those that are still alive.

I Thessalonians 5

I could begin in verse 1, but the major error I wish to address is in 1 Thessalonians 5:9 where it says, ‘For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ’. Some imply again that the wrath mentioned here is in reference to the tribulation (See Rev 15:7, 16:1), but the previous verses show that he wasn’t referring to our escape from the tribulation, as you’ll see.

Starting back in verse 4, Paul says, ‘But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. [5] Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. [6] Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. He’s referring to a single day that affects both the saved and the lost, which in this case is the day that Jesus returns, and to some it will come very unexpectedly but we should be looking forward to and expecting it and we’re not supposed to be ‘spiritually sleeping on the job’.

This spiritually falling asleep is actually the same thing Jesus warned us about in Matthew 24:45 – 51 with the evil servant who turned on his fellow servants (verse 49) and again with the five foolish virgins that were not ready when they should have been, but both of these passages point to believers who know of the return and a warning for us NOT to be like the world (1 Thess. 5:6). We would be pretty foolish to think that we couldn’t do these things, especially when we see both Jesus AND Paul giving us the same warning.

Now he makes his point in 1 Thessalonians 5:8-9 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. [9] For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the very thing Paul first mentioned in chapter 1 about Jesus delivering us from the wrath to come (verse 10). We need remember to keep living the faith, and that our salvation, our literal redemption is still coming because, in verse 9 we are saved and shouldn’t be going to hell as those who are spiritually asleep. Paul isn’t promising that believers will be escaping the tribulation, no one says that, but warning us of not to be ‘sleeping on the job’ because we are saved.

Sure it would be nice for us that are alive at that time to avoid these dark days, but so what if we have to go through ‘THE’ tribulation when those in our past were burned at the stake, beheaded, killed by wild animals, disowned, beaten or thrown in prison for their beliefs as some will during this time. This isn’t about us and here in 1 Thessalonians 5 Paul is telling us to keep on living with this one very important goal in mind, NOT to fall asleep in our faith, and that includes turning away from our faith (called apostasy) as Paul addresses that in his second letter to this church.

God told us that saints will be beheaded during this troubling time (Seal #5), but all you’ll hear is the OPINION that they must have been saved after some pre-trib return event and never that these could have been believers for quite some time or that they might actually be us. As I said, one false assumption based upon another can lead to other even larger errors, but saints, never-the-less will be killed during this time, so the first six trumpet and vial judgments are actually warning but the final one, when Jesus comes back and gathers all the saints, is the one where the preverbal door of the ark has been closed.

II Thessalonians 2

Another issue that seems to never be cleared up is that of the restrainer mentioned in 2 Thessalonians 2:6 And now ye know that which restraineth, to the end that he may be revealed in his own season, (ASV). Now while other versions of the Bible use words like ‘retraineth’ and ‘withholdth’, it’s the context of these that sheds light on what is really going on here. So when Paul begins verse 6 with ‘And now ye know that which restraineth’ we need to ask what did the readers of this letter now know, who is doing the restraining and what was being restrained? So to understand what what’s going on here, let’s back up to the beginning of the chapter to understand the ‘story’ that Paul is telling us.
Back in 2 Thess. 2:1-5 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, [2] 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. [3] 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 ... [5] Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

The main subject of the matter, concerns that single day that Jesus returns to gather us, and we’re told NOT to be confused as to WHEN this day is to happen in relation to other known events, as he states in verse 2 – 3, so his focus is on THAT day and then he adds that it won’t happen until after these two other events happen.

The problem at this point is that the pre-trib want you to believe the first event of a ‘falling away’ (verse 3) is some type of departure of the saints from the earth, but when we look at this same verse in other versions of the Bible, their doctrine falls apart in more ways than just one. When they playing off of just one word and ignore the rest of the context, it blows up in their face. Here are just some the other versions of the Bible of verse 3.

1. (ASV) let no man beguile you in any wise: for it will not be, except the falling away come first,
2. (BEB) Give no belief to false words: because there will first be a falling away from the faith,
3. (CEV) But don’t be fooled! People will rebel against God. Then before the Lord returns, the wicked one who is doomed to be destroyed will appear. Can believers be fooled and deceived?
4. (Darby) Let not any one deceive you in any manner, because it will not be unless the apostasy have first come, and the man of sin have been revealed, the son of perdition;
5. (ERV) Don’t be fooled by anything they might say. That day of the Lord will not come until the turning away from God happens. And that day will not come until the Man of Evil appears, the one who belongs to hell.
6. (ESV) Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,
7. (GNB) Do not let anyone deceive you in any way. For the Day will not come until the final Rebellion takes place and the Wicked One appears, who is destined to hell.
8. (GW) Don't let anyone deceive you about this in any way. That day cannot come unless a revolt takes place first, and the man of sin, the man of destruction, is revealed.
9. (ISV) Do not let anyone deceive you in any way, for it will not come unless the rebellion takes place first and the man of sin, who is destined for destruction, is revealed.
10. (KJV) 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;
11. (RV) let no man beguile you in any wise: for it will not be, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition,

The Greek word that was used here was ‘apostasia’ which was the same word the Jews used of Paul of being guilty of in Acts 21:21, but the pre-trib still try to convince others that this is not a spiritual departure as the word implies, but the physical action of saints leaving the earth. So did Paul physically leave the law of Moses?

Not one of these versions of the Bible actually describes this event as a ‘rapture of the saints’ type of event where we supposedly all leave or depart from the earth, but instead as a great apostasy. And in each case, the context tells us that the day we’re to be gathered, CAN NOT come unless these other things happen first. So two conflicts arise from this ‘interpretation’ dealing with both 1) the meaning of the word / which word was used and 2) how a ‘falling away’ of the saints from the earth can happen BEFORE we’re gathered.

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So the pre-trib seemed to have created their own version of the Bible to make it conform to what they want their doctrine to be. But like I pointed out, Paul clearly states that our expected gathering isn’t to take place until after these two events and he very obviously doesn’t make one of those events our gathering, nor separating the coming of the Lord from our gathering together as some would want us to believe. The warning was to not let others deceive us, but to be expecting these events, while the pre-trib tell us there are no previous events – who’s the one deceiving us, Paul who said to be expecting these things or the pre-trib? Paul clearly states that day won’t happen until …

Now we come to his conclusion in verse 6. Back in verse 3, Paul began with ‘for that day shall not come, except …’, he then tells us what events are to come and now in verse 6 he states, ‘And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.’ He’s telling us that we are to wait, according to God’s schedule of events, for these other events to happen first, and no one can change that, so we’re to wait and keep looking for the these signs in addition to the ones that Jesus told us about.

And now we can understand who the restrainer is, starting in 2 Thessalonians 2:7-9 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. [8] 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: [9] Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. Note the sequence of events within this passage and apply them to what we’ve covered in the previous verses, especially who is revealed:

1. Verse 3 – except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition
2. Verse 6 – And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time
3. And verse 8 – And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth

When we examine verse 7, it tells us that someone, who is now holding back this evil one, is going to be stepping aside or removed, so that this wicked one can proceed when it’s his time. There is no question that no one can remove or restrain God the Father, so we must assume that this maybe more of a stepping aside type of action on their part, so one day God is going to allow this son of perdition / antichrist to have his ‘hour upon the stage’, and then according to verse 8 God will destroy him. So the events will be:

1. First there’s going to be an apostasy or falling away from the faith, then
2. God ‘steps aside’ or allows this wicked one, the antichrist to ‘run amuck’ for a season and then
3. We will be gathered after that, which is also when God destroys the antichrist.

That’s what the sequence describes here, and it would be nice to think that it’s the believers in this world holding back sin from its full control on this world and our removal allows this evil to come, but according to this schedule and what Paul describes here, we’re not removed until later, so it’s God’s plan to hold things back and then his ‘stepping aside’ is to allow the worst one this world will ever see, come to power.

The idea is not that God is presently holding back this evil and then someone bigger and stronger then removes him and he gets his power back to destroy the antichrist, but rather according to God’s schedule, just like Jesus having to be crucified, so too has this time of trouble been scheduled to come upon us. Why? For God’s honor and glory and to justifiable prove that he really is all-powerful: not just to destroy this mega army in one day, but to raise the dead saints from the first until that point AND that we can no longer be ignoring or making excuses to deny he is real and God.

New Terms

One slick way to get people to follow your doctrine is to introduce new or to secretly redefine existing terms as if they were already biblically based, like having both a tribulation and a great tribulation or having both a ‘return of the lord’ AND a ‘coming of the lord’, or as some prefer a coming FOR his saints and another coming WITH his saints. And in one sense, they are already there but the definitions are
biblically different from what these others want you to believe. In this case, we really need to recognize the fairy tales that are out there.

In one place, a writer, could be speaking of the Lord’s return in regards to just our gathering and in another in regards to his coming in judgment at Armageddon, sure the wording and the phasing is going to be different but that doesn’t make them two completely different events. The one is supposed to convey hope for us, while the other a type of dreaded doomsday event for the world, but it doesn’t prove them to actually be on different days, some 7-years apart. So are you waiting to be rescued or destroyed?

Just because someone uses a bunch of fancy terms, says that some passage implies a pre-trib event and has a bunch of other people like-minded with degrees behind their name supporting them, that doesn’t prove them right; you can follow them off the cliff if you like, but the choice is yours. Martin Luther saw this same deception when the Pope and the Catholic Church started indulgences during his days, and they claimed at the time that it was also biblically based, but that doesn’t make those who stand by it right in God’s eyes.

Conclusion

My job is not to convince anyone of what is going to happen but to be like the watchman of Ezekiel 33:4-6 Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. [5] He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning: his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. [6] But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman’s hand. If you’re driving down the road and you see something happening up ahead, are you one of those that starts to prepare for something that might happen or are you one of those that doesn’t wait until it’s too late to avoid a worst-case scenario?

We are each required as faithful stewards and watchmen to know what God says and to warn the world what is coming. Like the parent that sees their young child reaching up near the hot stove, we too know, or at least should, what could very soon happen and to be warning others the time is getting very short. Imagine that the first events could begin within 10 years, well within the time line of most of us. So if you were to tell that unsaved neighbor what those ten events that they could expect to see, then most likely they wouldn’t believe you, but they just might remember what they were after the first five or six events, and they would remember too that the last event in your list was the real Armageddon. They would look around and see what was happening around them and maybe even recognize what could be coming next, instead of being like those in Luke 21:26 (ASV) men fainting for fear, and for expectation of the things which are coming on the world: for the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. They might even turn to the Lord later on all because you warned them.

We need to understand, among our other Bible studies, what is going to be happening in our very near future, some 2,000 years after Jesus first described his return. But like I said, all we can do is warn others and if they choose not to listen (2 Peter 3:3 – 6) then all we can do is keep on warning because sooner or later that 7-year countdown is going to begin and those domino of events are going to be happening and broadcast on the nightly news.

So the question that each of needs to face is; am I not only willing to really live for Christ and let it be shown in my life but also to die for him as well? Do I truly believe that he can raise me from the dead and reward me, if I really believe him then do I die daily to myself will? Do I trust in what he says and search the truth out or do I believe some fairy tale others tell us and we think is true? To answer these questions you need to ask the most important question that a believer can truly ask of themselves – how much do I really love the Lord my God? Is he truly my Lord full-time or just some part-time advisor, whose advise I take when I think it suites me?