

# An Apology for my Eschatology:

A big picture perspective of Revelation

## Matthew 24 – A Post-Tribulation Perspective

<sup>3</sup> As He was sitting on the **Mount of Olives**, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen? What will be the **sign of Your coming** and of the **end of the age?**”

<sup>4</sup> *Yeshua* answered them, “Be careful that no one **leads you astray!** <sup>5</sup> For many will come in **My name**, saying, ‘**I am the Messiah,**’ and will **lead many astray.** <sup>6</sup> You will hear of **wars** and **rumors of wars.** See that you are not alarmed, for this must happen but it is not yet the end. <sup>7</sup> For **nation** will rise up **against nation**, and **kingdom against kingdom.** And there will be **famines** and **earthquakes** in various places. <sup>8</sup> But all these things are only the **beginning** of birth pains.

<sup>9</sup> “Then they will hand you over to **persecution** and will kill you. You will be **hated**<sup>1</sup> by all the nations because of **My name.** <sup>10</sup> And then many will **fall away** and will **betray one another** and **hate one other.** <sup>11</sup> Many **false prophets** will arise and lead **many astray.** <sup>12</sup> Because **lawlessness** will multiply, the **love** of many will **grow cold.** <sup>13</sup> But the one who **endures** to the end will be **saved.** <sup>14</sup> This **Good News** of the **kingdom** shall be **proclaimed** in the **whole world** as a testimony to all the nations, and then the **end will come.**

### The Timing

- It would be fair to say that we are living in a time where **vs. 3-8** are **true today.** We have seen **False Prophets**, there are **wars** everywhere, a **famine** is active in Africa right now, **earthquakes** throughout the world are monthly if not weekly.
- **Vs. 9-14** are kind of true but will continue to get **worse.** Christians are not yet hated globally, but the name **Yeshua** is a flashpoint in most countries. People are **falling away**, the Millennial generation is the **least active** generation among Christian families, and it is expected that the current Gen Z will decrease also. The **Good News** is available globally in nearly every language, but we only need to browse the headlines to see the **love** of most men has **grown cold**; the violence and destruction of society is astounding.
- When a society decides to **define its own morality**, it must destroy, ban, and remove any vestige of a **higher moral teaching.** This is why **biblical morals** must be **attacked** so vehemently by the **progressively moral.** You cannot teach a lie when the truth is present.

Verse 15 “**So when you see ‘the abomination of desolation,’** which was spoken of through **Daniel** the prophet, standing in the **Holy Place** (let the **reader** understand), <sup>16</sup> then those in **Judea** must **flee** to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> The one on the roof must not go down to take what is in his house, <sup>18</sup> and the one in the field must not turn back to get his coat. <sup>19</sup> Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! <sup>20</sup> Pray that your escape will not happen in winter, or on *Shabbat*. <sup>21</sup> For then there

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<sup>1</sup> Miso – Same word used in Luke 14:26; denounce, to love less, or renounce one choice in favor for another. This is used throughout this chapter for Hate.

will be **great tribulation**, such as has not happened since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. <sup>22</sup> And unless those days were **cut short**, no one would be delivered. But for the sake of the **chosen**, those days will be **cut short**.

<sup>27</sup> For just as **lightning** comes from the **east** and flashes as far as the **west**, so also will be the **coming of the Son of Man**. <sup>28</sup> For wherever the carcass is, there the vultures will gather.

<sup>29</sup> “But immediately after the trouble of those days,

**‘the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light  
and the stars will fall from heaven  
and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.’** (Joel 2:31 English/3:4 Hebrew)

<sup>30</sup> Then the **sign of the Son of Man** will appear<sup>2</sup> in **heaven**, and then **all the tribes** of the land will **mourn**, and **they will see** ‘the **Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven**’ with **power** and **great glory**. <sup>31</sup> He will send out **His angels** with a **great shofar**, and they will **gather together His chosen** from the **four winds**, from one end of heaven to the other.”

<sup>37</sup> “For just as the **days of Noah** were, so will be the **coming of the Son of Man**. <sup>38</sup> For in those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day **Noah** entered **the ark**.

## The Deployment

- There was no **ramp up** – **Yeshua** went from “it’s gonna be bad” to a **Mid-tribulation** reveal of the **Anti-christ** as the **Abomination of Desolation** “Now concerning the **coming of our Lord Messiah Yeshua**... that day will not come until the **apostasy** comes **first** and the man of **lawlessness is revealed**.” 2 Thes. 2:1-3 (see Revelation 13)
- At the time of the **Anti-christ** breaking the **treaty** (Dan. 9:27) and proclaiming himself to **be god** (2 Thes. 2:4), there is a hasty **exodus** from Judah to **flee** the **persecution** (Matt. 24:15-22) described in Revelation chapters 12 and 13.
- **Signs of Messiah’s return**: Lightning (vs 27); Sun and moon darkened; Shaking of the powers of heaven; **Visible sign** of the **Son of Man** in heaven and a loud **trump** gathering **His elect**.
- Curiously: Leading up to this point, Messiah implies that everything will be going on as **normal**. Eating, drinking, marrying until the **Day of His return**.

**Perspectives and Presuppositions:** What you assume to **be true** will **define** how you interpret unknowns.

- We live on a **globe**.
- The most **common Map** we see to depict this **globe** is **flat**, rectangular, and its perspective is completely **inaccurate**.

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<sup>2</sup> Phaino – Bring to light, appear, become evident, became, visible.

When approaching the book of **Revelation**, it is important to remember that our **Western** 21<sup>st</sup> century **perspective** is completely foreign and inaccurate to an **Eastern** 1<sup>st</sup> century man. A traditional map (page 5, or [here](#)) of the book of Revelation is **flat, linear, and consecutively** occurring.

- As shown – the top row of the **timeline** has the **7 seals** followed by a more drawn out **7 trumpets** that crosses the **mid-tribulation mark**, and finally the **7 Vials**.
- The level below aligns the major **dispensations** to the where they fit into the book of **Revelation**.
- The bottom row corelates the book of **Daniel's prophecies** to their fulfilment in the **tribulation**.

It's a good outline, it is the same outline I was taught when I was at Criswell, it's thorough and clear and covers the major points of Scripture that deal with Revelation. But it assumes that the judgements are **linear** and occurs in **the order** as written.

Other books like Judges, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, and Ezekiel are **not written** in a **Chronological order**. The **structure** of the books has to do with the **message not the order of events**. So **why** do we assume the perspective of Revelation is **linear/consecutive**?

I made a basic outline (page 6, or [here](#)) to show visually what I am driving toward, a **concurrent view** of Revelation.

- The **number 4** in **Hebrew numerology** means **testing or trials**. What I mean by this: Israel was in the desert for 40 years, Yeshua was tested 4 times in the desert.
- The **Seal Judgements** (Revelation from the perspective of **Heaven**) will probably be the **first opened**, but the **Trumpet** (Revelation from the perspective of **Earth** [and later on the **Vials** [Revelation from the perspective of the **damned**]) **judgements** will be occurring **concurrently** through the **tribulation period**.
- I lean toward believing that the **Vial judgements** start **after** the **mid-tribulation** (after **3 1/2 years**) but this merely a guess.
- What about the **Metaphorical** passage at the **center** of Revelation (Rev 12-14) with **dragons** and **stars** falling to the earth, a **woman giving birth**, etc. Notice this timeline (green) extends before the Tribulation starts. It is the meta-narrative of all history and does not apply *only* to Revelation.

### **The Rapture in Revelation?**

- **Seals – Rev. 7:9** The **great multitude** in heaven after the **6<sup>th</sup> Seal** (6:14 – the sky rolled up like a **scroll**, and an **earthquake** so large every mountain and island was moved).
- **Trumpets** - Chapter 11 specifically vs 19: The **ark of His covenant** is visible, and **lightning, earthquakes, and hail**. The quote immediately before is from Daniel 12

describing the redemption of His servants and the judgment of the dead.

- **Meta-narrative** – Rev. 14:14- Son of Man on a cloud who harvests the earth.
- **Viols** – Rev. 16:15 “Look, I am coming like a thief...” Vs 17 – Proclamation from the throne of God “It is done.” The same proclamation **Yeshua** made from the **cross**. Vs 18-20 -Then great **earthquake** that leveled every **mountain** and **island** (again?) **hail** and **lighting**.
- Either all 4 of these descriptions of natural disasters are the **same instance**, or somehow mountains and islands will be **rebuilt** and **tumbled** repeatedly.
- And why the specific references in each instance to a rapture “**phrase?**” “Behold I come like a thief,” “Sky rolled up like a scroll,” “The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord,” And a great harvest from the Son of Man seated on a cloud.

### Observations:

3 months ago, I did not have a great answer on why “**Church**” is **not** mentioned in **Revelation** after chapter 4. But if the 3<sup>rd</sup> seal judgement is **plague and famine**, and the 4<sup>th</sup> is **death**, then I invite you to the possible **future of church in** the **tribulation period**. **Covid-19** has closed the physical buildings of most churches with a fatality rate of a little more than **2%**; 201,000 deaths at the time of this writing, “**Authority** was given to them over a **fourth** of the earth, to kill by the **sword**, by **famine**, by **plague**, and by the **wild animals** of the earth (**Rev. 6:8**).” That is nearly **2 billion** people that will lose their life in the **first years** of **Tribulation**.

Given that people will continue as in the days of **Noah**, it would not surprise me that this becomes the new normal. Not a membership as much as a viewership. If that is the case, then maintaining a **physical building** where members are **not “allowed”** to attend becomes **unnecessary**. We know a **body of believers** lives **through** the **Tribulation**, they are called **bondservants**, **chosen**, and **saints** throughout. To argue that the **church** was **raptured** is to claim these **tribulation saints** are **not** part of the **bride of Christ**, members of **His flock**; it would **split** the **body of Christ**. Rather – it makes more sense to see prophetic history unfold before our eyes. There may be no church at Philadelphia because the building will be off limits, it will be a worldwide **congregation of bondservants** meeting at a **social distance**.

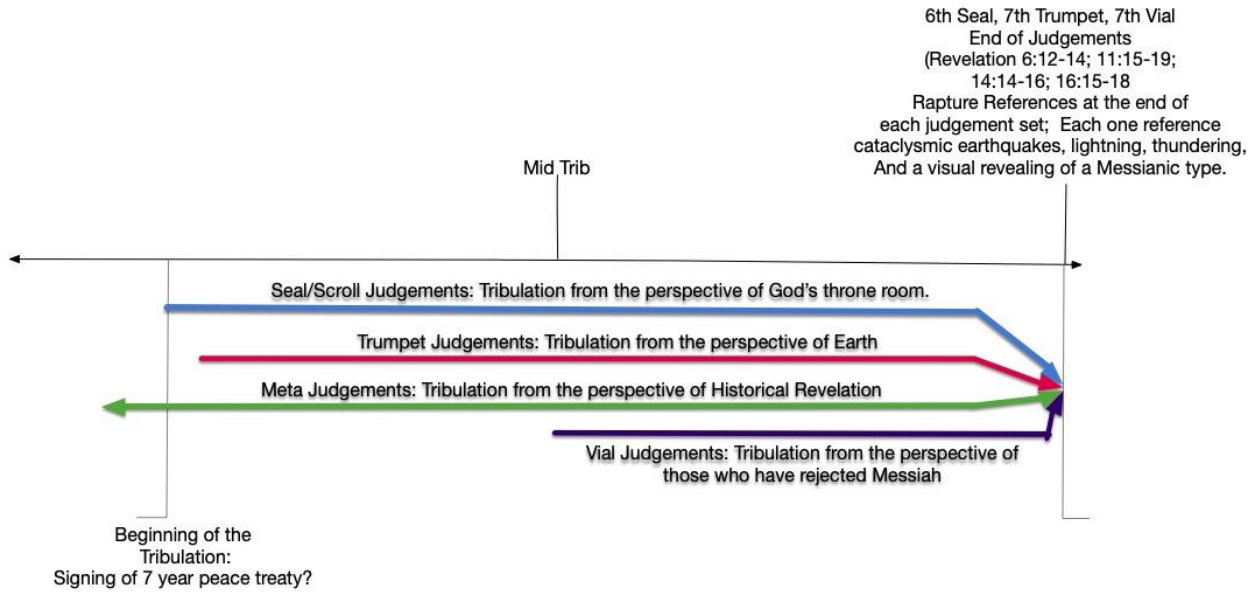
During the past 6 weeks – crimes in most areas and categories have fallen by as much as 40%, except domestic violence – it has increased drastically. One of the prophecies is **parents turning against children** and **children against parents**.

Geo-politically: We have seen more humans **losing their rights** to regimes that are using this epidemic to seize more power: China, Thailand, Cambodia, Venezuela, Bangladesh, and Turkey have enacted new laws to suppress journalists and detain anyone who criticizes the official response/statements regarding Covid. Hungary has declared an indefinite state of emergency that enables the Prime Minister to rule by decree, as has the Philippines president. Trump

claimed his powers were absolute, but this was quickly dismissed and ignored as just another Trump statement. Russia, India, and Algiers have criminalized protesting in any form. All countries are now leveraging digital surveillance to openly track their citizens. As one of my friends likes to say in regard to governments instituting more controls, "I am always waiting for them to loosen the reins when a crisis is over, but it seems that the screw only turns one direction."

During the tribulation, there will be crises like nothing the world has ever seen, and people will **eat, drink, and marry**. Because the world is a big place, and we are **anesthetizing ourselves** to the impact of crises today. The last 6 weeks upheaval of our world is an indicator to how the nations will treat the next pandemic, next time it will feel a little bit more normal.





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<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fyxVH93oViQ4JcAuh8bDyrtSJ1fTcY4Z>