

Prophetic Events Before the Tribulation

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Section One: Introduction

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The Book of Revelation has no direct quotations from the Old Testament, but it has about 550 references back to the Old Testament. Most of the things found in the first twenty chapters of the Book of Revelation are found elsewhere in the Old Testament. Only the last two chapters deal with things totally new.

So, “What is the importance and contribution of The Book of Revelation to the study of Bible prophecy?” The prophecies of the Old Testament are scattered throughout its various books. And because of this, it is almost impossible to organize these prophecies into a chronological sequence of events. Revelation does not provide a lot of new information, but it takes the scattered Old Testament prophecies and puts them in chronological sequence.

The Book of Revelation Outlined

The outline of the Book of Revelation is given by the book itself in 1:19: “*Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.*” This verse divides the Book of Revelation into three sections:

- the things that John saw
- the things which are
- the things which shall be

Given this threefold division, the Book of Revelation can be outlined as follows:

Introduction – 1:1-3

Salutation – 1:4-8

I. THE THINGS THAT JOHN SAW – 1:9-20

- A. The Glorified Son of Man – 1:9-11
- B. The Revelation – 1:12-16
- C. The Interpretation – 1:17-20

II. THE THINGS WHICH ARE – 2:1-3:22

The things which are is the church age:

- A. Ephesus – 2:1-7
- B. Smyrna – 2:8-11
- C. Pergamum – 2:12-17
- D. Thyatira – 2:18-29

- E. Sardis – 3:1-6
- F. Philadelphia – 3:7-13
- G. Laodicea – 3:14-22

III. THE THINGS WHICH SHALL BE – 4:1-22:21

A. Events in Heaven Preceding the Tribulation – 4:1-5:14

- 1. The Throne of God – 4:1-11
- 2. The Lamb and the Seven-Sealed Scroll – 5:1-14

B. The Tribulation Period – 6:1-18:24

- 1. The First Half – 6:1-9:21
 - a. The Seal Judgments – 6:1-17
 - b. The 144,000 Jews and the Worldwide Revival -7:1-17
 - c. The Trumpet Judgments – 8:1-9:21
- 2. Events of the Middle of the Tribulation – 10:1-14:20
 - a. The Little Book – 10:1-11
 - b. The Tribulation Temple – 11:1-2
 - c. The Two Witnesses – 11:3-14
 - d. The Seventh Trumpet – 11:15-19
 - e. Israel in the Tribulation – 12:1-17
 - f. The Beast from the Sea – 13:1-10
 - g. The Beast from the Earth – 13:11-18
 - h. Mid-tribulation Announcements – 14:1-20
- 3. The Second Half – 15:1-16:21
 - a. The Prelude – 15:1-8
 - b. The Bowl Judgments – 16:1-21
- 4. Recurrence: The Two Babylons – 17:1-18:24
 - a. Ecclesiastical Babylon (First Half of Tribulation) – 17:1-18
 - b. Political Babylon (Second Half of Tribulation) – 18:1-24

C. The Second Coming and the Aftermath – 19:1-20:3

- 1. Prelude to the Second Coming – 19:1-10
- 2. The Second Coming – 19:11-18
- 3. The Campaign of Armageddon – 19:19

4. Antichrist and the False Prophet – 19:20
5. The Gentiles – 19:21
6. The Binding of Satan – 20:1-3

D. The Messianic Kingdom – 20:4-6

1. The Reign of Messiah – 20:4
2. The First Resurrection – 20:5-6

E. The Aftermath – 20:7-14

1. The Last Revolt – 20:7-10
2. The Great White Throne Judgment – 20:11-14

F. The Eternal Order – 21:1-22:5

1. The Passing of the Old Order and the Creation of the New – 21:1-8
2. The Eternal New Jerusalem – 21:9-22:5
 - a. The Establishment of the City – 21:9-10
 - b. The Description of the City – 21:11-22:5

CONCLUSION – 22:6-21

- A. The Authentication – 22:6-9
- B. Declarations in the Light of the Revelation – 22:10-15
- C. The First Affirmation – 22:16
- D. The Invitation – 22:17
- E. The Warning – 22:18-19
- F. The Second Affirmation – 22:20
- G. The Benediction – 22:21

ISRAEL IN PROPHECY

If we do not have a proper understanding of Israel, we will not have a proper understanding of Bible Prophecy. God has a prophetic plan for Israel. In fact, you could say Israel is God's timepiece for prophecy. If you want to know where the world is on God's prophetic calendar, then look at what is going on in relation to Israel.

As you read the Bible, you find that Israel is God's chosen people. The Lord refers to Israel as His *special people above all people that are upon the face of the earth* (Deut. 7:6); His *peculiar people* (Psalm 135:4); and even *the apple of his eye* (Zechariah 2:8).

Why did God choose Israel above all other people? He chose Israel to be a light unto the world. Isaiah 42:6-7... *"I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, **for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.**"*

God made covenants or promises to Israel that He is committed to keeping. Leviticus 26:44-45... *"And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, **and to break my covenant with them:** for I am the LORD their God. **But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors,** whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I am the LORD."*

Eight covenants are found in the Bible. Five of these are made exclusively with Israel. Four of these five are the foundation of end-time prophecy. These four covenants are:

- The Abrahamic Covenant
- The Land Covenant
- The Davidic Covenant
- The New Covenant

THE NEW COVENANT

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:** ³² Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: ³³ But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: **for they shall all know me,** from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: **for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**

The New Covenant speaks of all Israel being saved and restored to a right relationship with God. Romans 11:26 sums it up in these words: “*And so all Israel shall be saved...*”

THE LAND COVENANT

Deuteronomy 30:1-10

¹ *And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,*

² *And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;* ³ *That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.* ⁴ ***If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee:*** ⁵ ***And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.***

After the national salvation of Israel, the Jews will be regathered from all nations (v. 3).

THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:18-21; 17:1-21

Genesis 13:14-17

¹⁴ *And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:*

¹⁵ ***For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*** ¹⁶ *And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.* ¹⁷ ***Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.***

God promised that a certain land would be possessed by Abram and his seed or descendants. Furthermore, this land will belong to Abram and his descendants forever.

THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

2 Samuel 7:11-16; 1 Chronicles 17:10-14

2 Samuel 7:11-16

¹¹ *And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.* ¹² *And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, **and I will establish his kingdom.*** ¹³ *He shall build*

an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴ *I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.* ¹⁶ ***And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.***

In these verses, David's son, Solomon, is referred to. However, God said He will establish the throne of his kingdom **forever**. Well, Solomon died, so how will the kingdom be established forever? It will be through one of David's future descendants, Jesus Christ.

Luke 1:31-33

“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

SECTION 2: Prophetic Events Before the Tribulation

1. The Regathering of the Jewish People

The regathering of Israel is a prophecy that has already been fulfilled. When we talk about the regathering of Israel, we are talking about God regathering the Jewish people from all over the world into the Land of Israel. This prophecy is important because before the Tribulation can begin, the Jews must be back in the land of their forefathers, and they must exist as a self-governing nation.

The regathering of Israel will take place in two phases:

- First, there will be the regathering of Israel in unbelief to prepare them for judgment.
- Secondly, there will be a regathering of Israel in faith that will prepare them to enter the Messianic Kingdom of Jesus.

A. There is the regathering of Israel in unbelief.

This regathering of the Jews is to prepare them for the judgment of God which will ultimately lead to their repentance and turning to Jesus as Messiah.

Ezekiel 20:33-38

³³ *As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: ³⁴ And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a*

stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. ³⁵ *And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.* ³⁶ *Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.* ³⁷ *And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:* ³⁸ *And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.*

Zephaniah 2:1-2

¹ *Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired;* ² *Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, **before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD'S anger come upon you.***

B. There is the regathering of Israel in faith.

Ezekiel 26:22-28

²² *Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.* ²³ *And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.* ²⁴ ***For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.*** ²⁵ *Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.* ²⁶ *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.* ²⁷ *And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.* ²⁸ ***And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.***

Think about this regathering in relation to the historical dispersion of Israel.

Consider the warning of God to the children of Israel as they were getting ready to crossover into the Promised Land.

Deuteronomy 28:63-64

⁶³ *And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; **and ye shall be plucked from off the land** whither thou goest to possess it.* ⁶⁴ ***And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other;*** and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

Yet, God promised to regather the Jewish people.

Jeremiah 31:10

*“Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, **He that scattered Israel will gather him ...**”*

Ezekiel 11:16-17

*¹⁶ Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come. ¹⁷ Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.***

But the question is, “When will God regather the Jewish people from the nations of the world?” According to Bible prophecy, the Lord will regather them in The Last Days. Addressing the enemy to the north of Israel, which later in our study we will see is Russia.

Ezekiel 38:8

*“After many days thou shalt be visited: **in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.**”*

The Lord says that in *the latter days*, which is a reference to The Last Days, Russia will attack a people who has been regathered from the nations. Furthermore, these people who have been gathered out of the nations are associated with the mountains of Israel. This is referring to the Jewish people. And God says this will take place *in the latter days* or The Last Days. So, when God begins to regather the Jewish people back into the Land of their Forefathers, that will be the beginning of The Last Days.

2. The Re-establishment of the State of Israel

Once the Lord began to scatter the people of Israel among the nations in 135 AD, they were homeless for almost 2,000 years. Yet during that time, the Jewish people were not only **homeless but stateless.**

Hosea 3:4-5

*⁴ For the children of Israel shall abide many days **without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:** ⁵ **Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.***

During the time of the Jewish people being regathered, they will no longer be *without a king or without a prince*. The nation of Israel and its government will be re-established. The returning people, the Jews, will once again exist as a nation with a fully functioning government. The Jewish people began returning to their homeland in 1882, and they were re-established as a nation on May 14, 1948.

3. The Rapture

The word *Rapture* is not found anywhere in the Bible. It is a theological term that Bible scholars use to describe this prophetic event. Our English word *rapture* comes from the Latin, and it means “caught up”. This is spoken of in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, where 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...*”

JOHN 14:1-3

*¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.***

1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-58

*⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,** ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The only people who will be resurrected and caught up from this earth to go to Heaven are those who are **in Christ**. In the last part of verse 16, we are told: “and the dead **in Christ** shall rise first.” When Jesus comes in the Rapture, He is coming only for those who have received Him as Savior.

What is the timing of the Rapture? When will it take place?

1. Luke 21:34-36 speaks of the Rapture taking place before the Tribulation begins.

³⁴ *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. ³⁵ For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy **to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.***

2. First Thessalonians 5:1-10 indicates that God has not appointed believers to *wrath*, which refers to the terrible events of the Tribulation.

⁹ ***For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*** ¹⁰ *Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.*

3. As we continue to think about the timing of the Rapture, we need to bear in mind that it is imminent.

- Philippians 4:5 – “*Let your moderation be known unto all men. **The Lord is at hand.***”
- Titus 2:13 – “**Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ**”
- James 5:7-8 – ⁷ *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. ⁸ Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: **for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.***

4. The Judgment Seat of Christ

In Luke 21:34-36 Jesus taught that believers will escape the horrible events of the Tribulation and “*stand before the Son of man.*”

When you compare this with other Scripture, it appears that once Christians have been raptured, we will go to Heaven and stand before Jesus at what is called the Judgment Seat of Christ.

A. The Judgment

ROMANS 14:10-12

*¹⁰ But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? **for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.** ¹¹ For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. ¹² **So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.***

2 CORINTHIANS 5:10

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-15

¹⁰ According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. ¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

B. The Rewards

1. There is the incorruptible crown (1 Corinthians 9:24-25).
2. There is the crown of rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19).
3. There is the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:7-8).
4. There is the crown of life (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10).
5. There is the crown of glory (1 Peter 5:2-4).

5. America's Decline from Being the World's Superpower

Revelation 16:12-16

*¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. ¹⁶ And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

These verses speak of how the armies of the world will be gathered to the Battle of Armageddon. The phrases *kings of the earth* and *the whole world* refers to every nation, which would include America. This would indicate that America does not have a significant role in Bible prophecy. It further indicates that America will no longer be a powerful leader in the world in the end-time.

6. The Northern Alliance Invasion of Israel

Ezekiel 38:1-39:16 describes the northern alliance of nations invading Israel.

Ezekiel 38:15-16

¹⁴ Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? ¹⁵ And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: ¹⁶ And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

I. THE NATIONS DEFINED 38:1-7

The nations listed in these verses were common in ancient times, yet these names are no longer in use today. However, through historical and geographical studies, we can identify their modern counterparts.

A. The national leader in this alliance (vs. 1-3).

The leader of this alliance is *Gog*. The term *Gog* is not a proper name but a title for the ruler of *Magog*. It would be the same as saying Pharaoh, Caesar, King, Czar, or President.

B. The nations led in this alliance (vs. 4-7).

Gog, the Russian leader, will lead an alliance of nations against Israel.

II. THE NATIONS DEPLOYED 38:8-16

Why do these nations deploy; what brings them together to invade Israel?

A. These nations invade Israel according to man's selfish will (vs. 8-13).

The selfish will of man is spoken of in verse 10: "*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*"

- 1. The selfishness of the Russian nation may be more related to the spoiling of Israel –** "*To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited...*" (v. 12a)
- 2. The selfishness of the Islamic nations may be more related to the sovereignty of Israel –** "*...and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land*" (v. 12b).

B. These nations invade Israel according to God's sovereign will (v. 14-16).

III. THE NATIONS DEFEATED 38:17-39:5

Verses 18-19 use some very expressive words to describe God's attack upon these nations: *fury, jealousy, fire, and wrath*. These words express the unrestrained intensity God will use in defending Israel. It's as if He explodes upon the invaders.

As these invaders charge across the mountains of Israel, they come face-to-face with the blazing wrath of God Almighty.

- They will face a barrage of hailstones, fire and brimstone (38:22).
- He will smite them so powerfully that weapons will drop from their hands (39:3).
- They will fall upon the mountains and open fields (39:4-5).
- Birds and animals will gather to feast upon their dead bodies (39:4).

It will be a miraculous victory on behalf of Israel so much so, that God will be known throughout the world!

What is the timing of this invasion?

1. This war will take place "in the latter years" (38:8).
2. This war will take place when Israel is dwelling safely in the land (v. 8, 11, 14).
3. This war must take place at a time that will give Israel seven years to burn the enemies left-over weapons (39:9).

This is a problem if you put the invasion at sometime during the Tribulation Period. The Tribulation will be a seven-year period, and it will take seven years for Israel to burn the enemy's weapons.

As long as this war takes place at least 3 ½ years before the Tribulation, there will not be any problem of burning the weapons for seven years. Israel could burn the weapons right up the middle of the Tribulation because they will not be in flight fleeing from the Antichrist till the middle of the Tribulation.

7. The One World Government

Daniel 7:23-24 describe three events leading up to the Tribulation.

Daniel 7:23-24

*²³ Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be **the fourth kingdom upon earth**, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, **and shall devour the whole earth**, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. ²⁴ And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.*

8. The Ten Kingdoms

The ten kingdoms are spoken of in the first part of Daniel 7:24 – “*And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise...*”

“*This kingdom*” is referring to the one world government of verse 23. And we are told this global government will function through ten kings or kingdoms or regions that will arise. Once the world falls under global governance, the one world government will split or divide into ten kingdoms. Ten kings will rule the world.

9. The Rise of Antichrist

The rise of the Antichrist is spoken of in the last part of Daniel 7:24 – “*And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: **and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.***”

The Antichrist will rise to power through the one-world government. Sometime after the world is divided into ten kingdoms, ruled by ten kings, verse 24 says, “*Another shall rise after them.*”

This king will rise against three of the ten kings and subdue them or overthrow them. This *one king* is the Antichrist and verse 24 is a description of how he rises to power.

In time, the seven remaining kings will give their power and authority to the Antichrist so he can become the supreme leader or ruler of the world.

Revelation 17:12-13, 17

¹² And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. ¹³ These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. ¹⁷ For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

Section Three: Live Today with Tomorrow in Mind

Live Today with Tomorrow in Mind

How can we live faithfully today while we wait for our glorious tomorrow?

1. Do Business Until Christ comes

Luke 19:12-13

*¹² He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. ¹³ And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, **Occupy till I come.***

In verse 13, Jesus exhorts His servants, you and I, “Occupy till I come.” When you look at this statement within its context, you will find that Jesus was saying, “Do business till I come.” While we are waiting and watching for our Lord to return, we are to be working.

- We are to be busy equipping believers.
- We are to be busy evangelizing the lost.
- We are to be busy encouraging the church.

2. Evangelize Until Christ Returns

Acts 1:6-8

⁶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? ⁷ And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Jesus warned that we should not get so caught up in the study of Bible prophecy that we neglect our duty to evangelize the lost.

3. Edify One Another Until Christ Returns

1 Peter 5:2-4

² **Feed the flock of God** which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. ⁴ **And when the chief Shepherd shall appear**, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

What does it mean to edify one another? According to Peter, it is about feeding others like shepherd feeds his sheep. If sheep are going to grow and become strong and healthy, they need to be fed.

If we are going to help fellow believers grow and become strong and healthy Christians, they need to be fed the Word of God. First Peter 2:2 speaks of this when it says: “*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*”

4. Pursue Your Reward Until Christ Returns

Over and over in Scripture, the Lord speaks of how He is going to reward our faithful service unto Him. God rewards His servants. And He wants us to be motivated by considering these rewards.

Revelation 22:12

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

5. Live In Hope Until Christ Returns

When you have hope of a better day to come, it will give you the strength and encouragement you need to persevere during the difficult times of life.

When we live today with tomorrow in mind, we have a blessed hope that will help us keep moving forward for the glory of God.

Titus 2:13

*“Looking for that **blessed hope**, and the glorious appearing of the great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.”*

Jesus related future truth to present situations. Bible prophecy is about the future. But it should affect the way you live today. Every time Jesus talked about the future, He connected it to the present.