

Rapture Ready – Part 5

The Tribulation - The Hour of Trial and the coming wrath of God.

The Book of Revelation is about the Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega, the Mighty Conqueror, the One who has all authority and power and His victory over a defeated enemy. It is the total crushing of all rebellion and the final demise of all evil and of all sin. Total and complete annihilation!

Eph. 1:10 *That in the dispensation of the fullness of times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth: even in Him.*

The time of this current dispensation of grace and God concentrating mainly on the Gentiles is coming to an end. The entire chapter of **Rom. 11** speaks about the future salvation of Israel.

The Seventy Weeks – Daniel's prophecy in 539 BC.

The last 7 seven years of this dispensation are the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy in **Dan. 9:24-27** and are about getting Israel saved.

To simplify this prophecy...God tells Daniel that He is giving Israel 70 weeks to finish the transgression and to make an end of sin. To make reconciliation for iniquity and to bring in everlasting righteousness. Each week represents 7 years...therefore 70 x 7 = a total of 490 years.

It starts with the rebuilding of Jerusalem which will take 7 weeks or 7 x 7 = 49 years.

From the time of the completion of rebuilding Jerusalem until Messiah is cut off will be 62 weeks or 62 x 7 = 434 years. So from the time that they start to rebuild Jerusalem until Jesus is crucified it is a total of 69 weeks or 483 years. This part of the prophecy has all been fulfilled.

There is still one week or 7 years left for the Jews to finish the transgression and to make an end to sin, to be reconciled and receive everlasting righteousness but that week only starts when the fullness of the Gentiles comes in (**Rom. 11:25**).

The Tribulation and its purpose. The Tribulation is that 70th week. It's a 7 year period, split into 2 periods of 3 ½ years. The first is known as the tribulation and the second as the great tribulation.

During this time God is testing, searching the inner depths of man's heart to see what really is there in order to distinguish 'the wheat from the tares.'

With the church gone, who is still on the earth? The unfaithful (unbelieving believers) and the unbelieving which includes the Jewish nation.

The Tribulation is the time when God focuses on getting Israel saved

We therefore must understand that this being their 7 years, a lot of what is going to happen is about them. The prelude to this is all the unease surrounding Israel. They have always been a greatly persecuted people. They went through all of this so that we could come into the Kingdom of God but God is about to set the records straight. **Rom. 11:25-26**

Understanding the metaphors, peoples and events of the Tribulation.

The domination of Israel.

Over the centuries, Israel has been under the domination of 6 Empires. During the time that Daniel is held as a captive in Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar has a dream which Daniel interprets for him.

Dan. 2:28-45

Nebuchadnezzar sees his kingdom and the three that will follow...therefore 4 kingdoms. Yet before Nebuchadnezzar there were two other kingdoms had taken them captive – Egypt and Assyria – a sum total of 6 kingdoms.

The domination of Israel - 6 Empires – Kingdoms PAST

1. EGYPT EMPIRE
2. ASSYRIAN EMPIRE: 670–626 BC.
3. **BABYLON EMPIRE**: 626-539 BC Nebuchadnezzar -*Head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream – Dan. 2:28-45*
4. **MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE**: 539-330 BC Cyrus - *Chest and arms of silver in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. .*
5. **GRECIAN EMPIRE**: 330 BC-323 BC. Alexander the Great - *The belly and thighs of bronze*
6. **ROMAN EMPIRE** - *The legs of iron in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.*

Kingdoms still to come. History tells us about the rise and fall of these 6 kingdoms - 4 of them represented by the head, the chest and arms, the belly and thighs and the legs of iron in Nebuchadnezzar's dream but there remains one part of his dream that must still be fulfilled - *The feet and the ten toes of iron and clay* – these are 7th Kingdom and the 7th will morph into the 8th kingdom (*ruled by the beast*).

7th Kingdom - Revised Roman Empire which consists of 10 kingdoms who rule together independent of the Anti-Christ in the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation. They will be under the religious influence of Mystery Babylon. The Anti-Christ defeats 3 of these kingdoms towards the end of the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation.

8th Kingdom – Revised Grecian Empire – The Anti-Christ has become satanically empowered in the last 3 ½ years and the rest of the kingdoms give their power to him but still continue as kings under him. The Anti-Christ is now the earthly king of the 8th Kingdom.

Note that all of the 6 kingdoms ruled and reigned in a similar area. One kingdom may have been larger and another smaller but there are many countries who are common to all 6 kingdoms. Israel was one of these. Both the 7th and the 8th kingdoms will continue to persecute Israel. For that reason, and the fact that the 7th kingdom and 8th kingdom will be the feet of iron and clay with the 10 toes, it is safe to presume that this Revised Roman Empire will arise from those regions as well. Interestingly enough, a very large number of these countries make up part of the 10/40 window of the unreached.

Mystery Babylon and the beast with seven heads and ten horns.

Rev. 17:1-6; Rev. 17:7-18

Mystery Babylon. The fact that she is sitting on top of the beast shows that she is independent of the beast. They are two separate entities.

She is not a political power but a religious system in a great city, Babylon, where she has her headquarters. She has religious influence over the 10 kings. **Rev. 17:18**

These are 10 persons who will rule over 10 kingdoms yet to be formed. They will be in existence at the same time and place and will be reigning over the 10 kingdoms before the beast comes. They will make up the 7th Kingdom - Revised Roman kingdom and will rule independently.

However as we can see these same 10 kings will turn on her in the last 3 ½ years. The 10 kings give their power to the Beast – the Anti-Christ who is now satanically empowered and they turn on her to destroy her so that the beast worship may be established. **Rev 13; Rev. 17:12-13.**

The religious system. She is a symbol, a conglomeration of faiths and of apostate religions being linked together **before or** after the rapture. The world will commit religious harlotry with her.

Multitudes of peoples, nations and tongues will follow after this new religion. Rev. 17:15

The Great City. Babylon will be rebuilt. In the Hebrew bible it is mentioned 8 times as part of the land of Shinar - in which it is referred to as Babylonia. It is here in this land that the Tower of Babel was built (**Gen. 11:1-9**). It is here that Nebuchadnezzar brings some of the articles of the house of God into the house of his god. **Dan. 1:1-4.**

It was part of the Babylonian Empire, part of the Persian Empire, part of the Grecian Empire, part of the Roman Empire in Southern Mesopotamia.

Today the land of Shinar is located in Iraq (almost all of it), the northern part of Kuwait and a small part of Iran.

From these scriptures we can see that Babylon plays a big part in these last days.

Is. 13 & 14; Rev. 14:8; Rev. 16:17-21; Rev. 17:1-18; Rev. 18:1-24

According to the Dakes bible it will become the capital city of the Anti-Christ in the first 3 ½ years before he enters Israel to make the Jewish temple his capital the last 3 ½ years of this age.

It will be a great commercial centre of earth.

The city of Babylon will be destroyed by a great and mighty earthquake. **Rev. 16:17-21**

The Beast with seven heads and ten horns. The beast is a symbol of 3 things: The Anti-Christ, The Beast Kingdom and the satanic angel out of the bottomless pit.

The Anti-Christ is the Beast out of the sea.

He is an ordinary mortal who will arise to power out of the sea of humanity. He will not come on the scene until the 10 kingdoms are formed and until after the rapture of the church. He will come at the beginning of Daniel's 70th week. He is identified as the Assyrian in **Is. 10:20-27**. He is the man of sin, the son of perdition, the lawless one in **2 Thess. 2:1-12**; the beast in **Dan. 7:11 and Rev. 13.**

Rev. 13:1-8 He has 7 heads and 10 horns. He is not one of these heads or horns. He is separate from them. He symbolizes something different to them. He rules the 8th Kingdom. It says he has them. They are his...therefore what belonged to the 7 kingdoms before him now belong to him which includes the 10 kings of the 7th kingdom.

The 7 heads represent the 7 empires / kingdoms. The Beast that arises out of the sea of humanity will become ruler of the territory symbolized by the 7 kingdoms.

The dragon gives him his power, his throne and great authority.

His kingdom is exceedingly strong, dreadful and terrible, devouring and breaking into pieces anything that comes against him. No wonder the kings the power of their kingdoms to him. **Dan. 7:23-24**

He is a blasphemer – 'He shall speak pompous words against the Most high...' **Dan. 7:25**

The Beast out of the abyss / bottomless pit.

Rev. 11:7 When they (the 2 witnesses) finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them, **Rev. 17:7-8**

This Beast is not a man. He has been kept bound in the bottomless pit.

This Beast was, (lived out of the bottomless pit before John's time), is not (is in the bottomless pit and not on the earth in John's time), and will ascend out of the bottomless pit during the tribulation. No human being has ever been kept bound in the bottomless pit.

In Dan.10:7-20 Gabriel explains that he was dispatched by God in answer to Daniel's prayer but the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood Gabriel for 21 days. Gabriel couldn't get through but then Michael, one of the chief princes, (Michael is the prince, the chief ruler over Israel) came to help Gabriel. Gabriel goes on to say, 'Now I will return to fight with the prince of Persia and after I have defeated him, the prince of Grecia shall come.'

So by the same token, the Anti-Christ is the earthly beast, the ruler of the 8th kingdom.

The 8th kingdom – the Beast kingdom will rule over its lands and will continue to try and expand that territory.

The Beast from the Earth – the False Prophet – last 3 ½ years.

Rev.13:11-18 The seventh trumpet – The seventh angel sounded. It's the beginning of the Third Woe.

The angel from Rev.10:1-7 had announced that there would be no more delay. The judgment and wrath of God is about to be poured out on all mankind with the coming of the 7 Bowl judgments.

The Great Tribulation – the last 3 ½ years is about to begin.

There is a great shift now as the Anti-Christ is given power and authority and his throne by the dragon. The satanically empowered Anti-Christ arises now as the Beast. The rest of the kings give their power to the Beast (Anti-Christ) forming the Beast kingdom. The Beast out of the bottomless pit is the satanic angel over the Anti-Christ and over the Beast kingdom.

He has had the two witnesses killed

The False Prophet has arisen out of humanity and is operating in the authority of the Beast.

Everything is in place now...it's time to show this world who is boss...who really is God.

The False Prophet is performing great signs in the presence of the Anti-Christ and is causing those who dwell in it to worship the Anti-Christ.

The Anti-Christ ridicules God and his tabernacle and those that dwell in heaven.

The Anti-Christ breaks the covenant with Israel and stops the priests from sacrificing and ministering in the temple. They are thrown out.

'I will sit show you who is God. I will sit upon the throne in the temple.'

Daniel 12: 11 *And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be 1290 days. (3 ½ years and one month).*

The persecution of the Jews is about to begin. The Great Tribulation is about to begin. **Mark 13:14-20**

The woman and the male Child and the Dragon Rev.12:16

The woman represents Israel and the male Child are the first fruits of Israel that are born again during the Tribulation. The 144000 Jews. The devil or dragon is seeking to destroy them but God has sealed them and they have been protected during the 7 trumpet judgments. They are caught up (raptured) by God to His throne and are seen in heaven in Rev.14 with the Lamb on Mount Zion. Together with the saints (all who were part of the first resurrection) they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with Him for a thousand years.

War in heaven.

Michael, the Prince of Israel and his angels fought with the dragon and his angels and defeated them and they were cast out of heaven (not the presence of God but the 2nd heaven, the space between earth's atmosphere and the third heaven where God dwells), down to earth.

So now, in the Great Tribulation, the dragon and his evil angels are on the earth. He persecutes Israel but God protects her and she is safe in the wilderness.

The dragon is enraged and goes off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and who have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The False Prophet coerces the world to create an image of the beast, which they do, and the False Prophet is given power to give breath to the image of the beast and that the image can speak. He causes those who will not worship the beast to be killed. He causes all to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads. No one will be able to buy or sell without it.

The Warning Proclamations of the Three Angel Messengers. Rev.14:6-11 The warnings have gone out to all the world. Encouragement follows for all believers still on the earth, who are about to experience extreme persecution, who will refuse to take the mark.

Rev.14:12-13 These will be the last harvest of the earth to be raptured by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reaping the Earth's harvest Rev.14:14-16

Reaping the grapes of wrath. Rev.14:17-20

Prelude to the Bowl judgments. Rev.15:1-8

And so those who are left on the earth will have to endure the wrath of God in its completeness.

There is no escape. There is no reprieve. There is no longer an opportunity for repentance.