

THE KING RETURNS



Wow-Church

END TIMES TIME LINE



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End Times Timeline

This study is a companion to the series The King Returns which can be viewed in its entirety on the Wow Church YouTube channel: @wowchurch51

This series is a light overview of the rapture, the tribulation, and the events that will happen in the End Times.

Are you ready for the return of the king?



Pastor Will Duke

The End Times

It's important to understand that no one knows the timing of the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ. Only the Father knows. Matthew 24:36, Acts 1:7.

In Rev. 22:3,12,20 Jesus said that He was coming soon. We must remember our perspective of time is much different than God's. 2 Peter 3:8-9, Psalm 90:4.

Matthew 24:3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age? NASB

Jesus answered the apostle's question as to when these things happen, and what the signs of His coming would be in Matthew 24:5-41. Other scriptures show the attitude of people in the last days. 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 2 Peter 3:3-9, Jude 1:17-19, 1 Timothy 4:1, 1 John 2:18.

How do we know we are in the last days? The Bible says we are in the last days.

1 Peter 1:20, Hebrews 1:2, Hebrews 9:24, Acts 2:14-18.

The Rapture

The Rapture

The basis for a belief in the rapture and what will happen at that moment is found in scripture.

Rev 1:19 "Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things." (NAS)

"The things which are" that Jesus spoke of to the Apostle John is the church age. The letters to the seven churches in Rev. 2 & 3 were all written in the present tense (The things which are). In Rev. chapter 4 the language changes. The focus changes.

Rev 4:1 "After these things I looked, and behold, a door {standing} open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like {the sound} of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." NASB

John's ascending into heaven is symbolic of the rapture! The church plays a prominent role in the first three chapters, mentioned over 18 times. After chapter 3, (after these things) the church age, the church is not referred to again until Rev. 22:16. The reason for that is that the church as we know it is removed from the earth. The Rapture ends the church age.

II Thessalonians 2:1 "Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him," (NAS)

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of {the} archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." (NAS)

"caught up" = [Thayer's] 726 harpazo- 1) to seize, to carry off by force. 2) to seize on, to claim for oneself eagerly. 3) to snatch out or to snatch away.

An open act, not done in private.

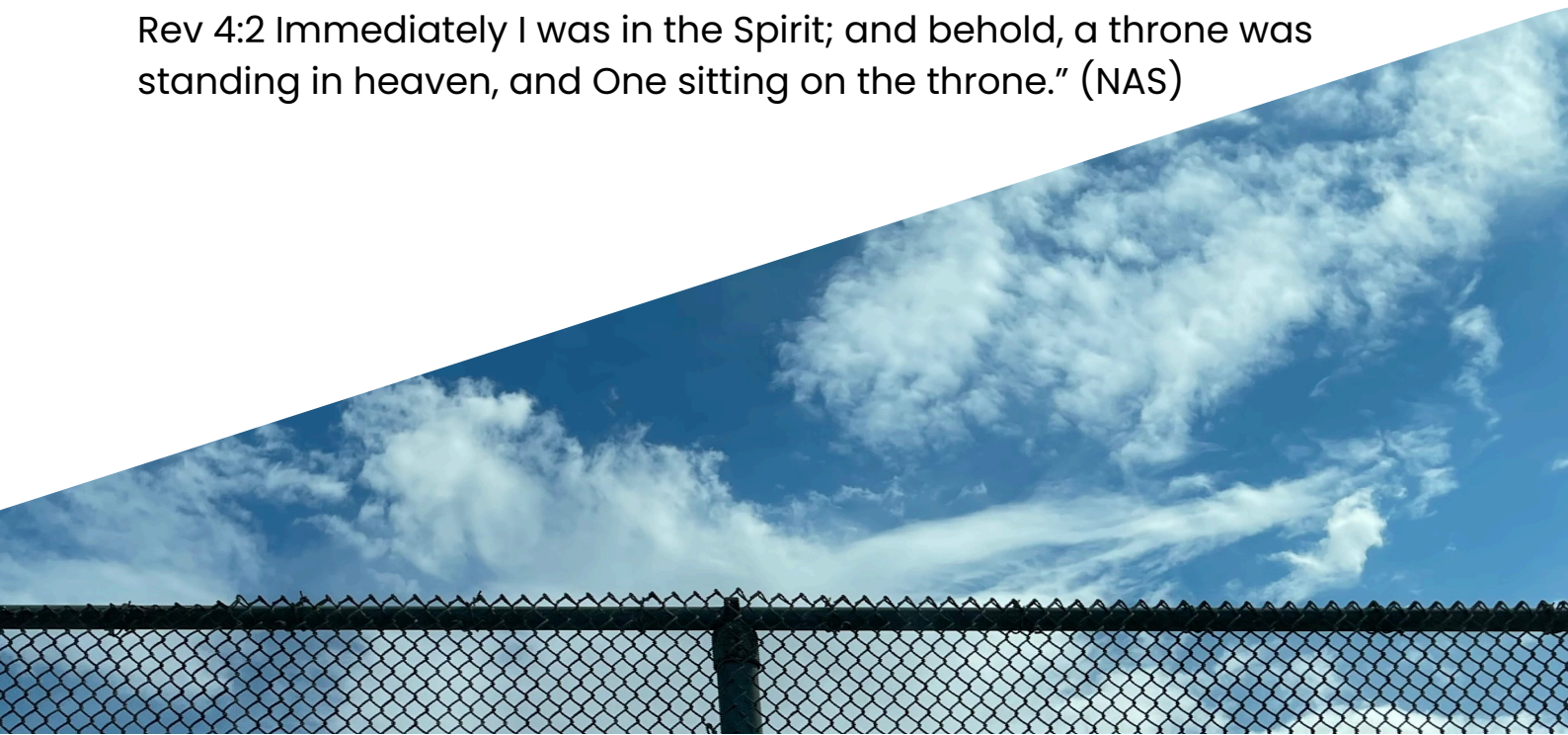
The Latin word for a state or experience of being carried away is the word Raptus, where we get the word Rapture.

The same word is used in describing what happened to Phillip when he was finished sharing the gospel with the Ethiopian eunuch.

Acts 8:39 "And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing." (NAS)

John's location also changed instantly; he went from having a vision of Jesus and Jesus speaking to Him about things while he was on the island of Patmos to now he is suddenly in heaven on the throne of Almighty God!

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne." (NAS)



“Immediately”

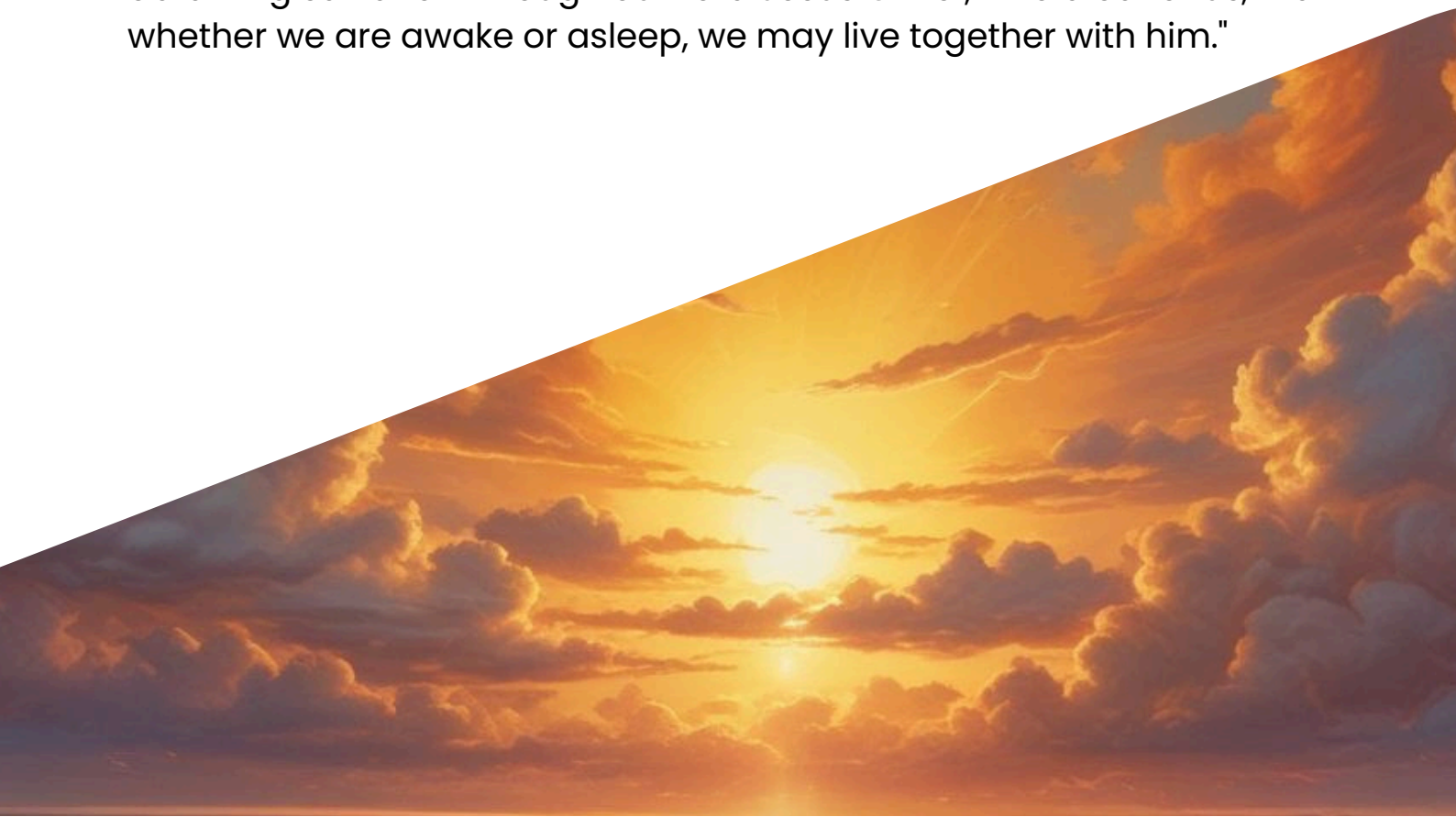
1 Cor 15:51-53 “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.” (NAS)

Isaiah 26:19-21, 1 Thessalonians 4:15, Phil. 3:20-21. Those believers who have died and those who are alive will all receive new bodies, immortal bodies instantaneously as we are being caught up to meet Jesus in the air. We will forever be in the presence of God.

The Timing of the Rapture

The tribulation is the judgment and wrath of God upon the earth. There are many who do not believe that the rapture will take place before the tribulation period. This escape from wrath is not based on merit, but on the basis of grace that is ours when we accept him as our Savior. This grace extends to the tribulation. Revelation 3:10

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.”



Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Romans 5:9 "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him."

I Thessalonians 1:10 "and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come."

Nahum 1:2 A jealous and avenging God is the Lord; The Lord is avenging and wrathful. The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies.

The tribulation period will commence with the Rapture of the church. The wrath of God will be poured out on unrepentant mankind for 7 years, and then Jesus will make His triumphant Second coming to the earth.

In I Thessalonians the Apostle Paul gives us insight into the correlation between the Rapture and what is known as the Day of the Lord.

I Thessalonians 5:1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.



Here in this verse, Paul begins to make the transition from teaching about the Rapture to what is going to take place after that.

Times (5550) (chronos) means a space of time, a period of time.

Epochs (2540) (kairos) refers to a specific and often predetermined period or moment of time and so views time in terms of events, eras, or seasons.

The same language Jesus used in Acts 1:7.

These periods of time are predetermined or fixed only by God the Father as to when they are going to occur and how long they will last.
Matt. 24:36

The solemn sobering truth is that the returning of the Lord and the catching away of the church at the Rapture will usher in a period of judgment for the unbelieving world. A period of time that will occur only when God predetermined it would, and last or exactly how long God revealed that it would through the scriptures. It's vital to understand that during the tribulation period God Almighty is still in control, not the devil, not the antichrist, God alone has predetermined when and what will happen.

In 1 Thessalonians 4, Paul's writing pertained to salvation, comfort, and hope. In the first few verses of 1 Thessalonians 5, he changes to judgment and wrath. In chapter 4 he uses the personal pronouns, "I, you, myself, and we. Here in chapter 5 the language changes to "they," "them.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.
NAS

The Day of the Lord

What is the Day of the Lord? Looking at the scriptures in the Old and New Testament we can begin to get an idea of what it involves and also of when it is going to happen. There are only five New Testament passages that use the phrase, the Day of the Lord while there are eighteen verses in the Old Testament.

A few key scriptures give us a firm idea about what that day is going to look like and who will be affected.

Obadiah 1:15, Isaiah 2:12, Isaiah 13:6–9, Jeremiah 46:10

Zephaniah 1:14–15 The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. 15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, KJV

Rev. 6 will be a fulfillment of the prophecy in Zephaniah.

Revelation 6:16–17 “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?”

Isaiah said it was a day of wrath; Zephaniah said it was a day of wrath; Jeremiah said it's a day of vengeance: Rev. 6 says it is a day of wrath. The day of the Lord will be a time of calamity and distress which will manifest in many ways in the physical world. God will pour out His wrath upon the inhabitants of the earth and deal with those who continue to refuse to repent.



The Rapture and the day of the Lord will come unexpectedly upon an unsuspecting world. 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10

The Day of the Lord is not just a specific singular day it is a specific period of time in which God will deal with wicked mankind directly and dramatically in fearful, fierce judgment. It starts with the rapture of the church beginning the Tribulation period. The book of Revelation details what will take place during this period. There are seven seals of judgment to be opened, followed by seven trumpet judgments and seven bowls of wrath yet to be unleashed upon those who are living on the earth at that time. It literally goes from bad to worse. Seven years will be its duration.

The majority of mankind will be preoccupied with the things of this present age and will exhibit no interest, and no belief in Jesus Christ and His Second Coming.

1 Thessalonians 5:3 When people are saying, All is well and secure, and, There is peace and safety, then in a moment unforeseen destruction (ruin and death) will come upon them as suddenly as labor pains come upon a woman with child; and they shall by no means escape, for there will be no escape. (Amp)

It is not hard to imagine how the world will respond to what appears to be Peace in the Middle East! The long-sought-after peace between Israel and her enemies will lead to a feeling of peace and safety, it will be the object of everyone's attention. Paul however tells us that right amid this atmosphere of peace and safety, then destruction will come upon them. The tribulation period known as the Day of the Lord will bring destruction upon the earth unlike anything ever experienced before.



The disappearance of a billion people or more in an instant and the chaos that results from that event is just the start. Paul encourages the believers in Thessalonica to not fret about things they may have heard but to stay focused on what they know.

2 Thessalonians 2:2-7 that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. NAS

As believers, we will not know the exact day or time when the Rapture will take place and the Day of the Lord begins, but we can recognize the signs of the end of the ages and the timeline given us in the word.



In the end times a revived Roman empire will develop as a federation or union of 10 nations. All in the Mediterranean/Middle East region. Rev. 13:1-2, Daniel 9:26-27, Daniel 7:23-27, Rev. 17:9-13

Immediately after the rapture, the antichrist will seize control of the leadership of this revived empire. Daniel 7:2-7, Daniel 7:8

The Rise of the Anti-Christ

Daniel 9:27 As leader he will mediate a 7-year peace treaty between Israel and surrounding nations.

Rev. 6:2. Daniel 11:21-41, He will deceive many with a false peace.

Daniel 7:8 called the little horn

Daniel 8:23-25 The King of fierce countenance.

Daniel 9:26 called the prince that shall come

Daniel 11:36-45 He is the willful king

2 Thessalonians 2:3 called the man of sin

Rev. 13:3 a mouth that speaks against God.

Rev. 6:2 Rider on the white horse.

Dan. 9:27, 1 Thessalonians 5:3 He will break the peace treaty



The Tribulation Period

The First, Three and a Half Years

- Two witnesses preach Jesus in Jerusalem. Rev. 11:3-7

Seven Seal Judgements

1. White Horse – Antichrist Rev. 6:2
 2. Red Horse – War and bloodshed worldwide lawlessness Rev. 6:3-4
 3. Black Horse – Famine and economic collapse Rev. 6: 5-6
 4. Pale Horse – War, famine and Disease Rev. 6:7-8 One-fourth of the earth's population perish.
 5. Many believers who confess Jesus after the rapture are Martyred. Rev 6:9-11
 6. Drastic physical changes on the whole earth and in the heavens. The world is shaken. Rev. 6:12-15
- The 144,000 Jewish evangelists are sealed. Begin to preach Jesus worldwide Rev. 7:2-8
7. Silence in Heaven. The seal is broken revealing the seven trumpet judgements.

Seven Trumpet Judgements.

1. Hail and fire mixed with blood. One-third of earth, trees, and grass burn
Rev. 8:7
 2. A mountain is thrown into the sea. Rev. 8:8-9
 3. A star named Wormwood falls upon rivers and springs poisoning one-third of them Rev. 8:10-11
 4. A Third of the Sun, moon, and stars are darkened. Rev. 8:12
 5. The plague of demonic locusts. Rev. 9:1-11 Torment mankind for 5 months.
The first Woe.
 6. The release of the Four Angels. The 200 million-man army wages war.
Another one-third of the earth's population is killed by war. Rev. 9:13-14.
- Approximately 70% of the population that was left on the earth after the rapture have now perished in the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation period.
 - Those left will still refuse to repent and seek the true God. Rev. 9:20-21



The Midpoint of the Tribulation

7. Woe on the earth, Rejoicing in Heaven

There is war in Heaven and the devil is cast out permanently by Michael at the command of God and is thrown to the earth. Rev. 12:7-10 The accuser of our brethren (Zech. 3:1-9, Job 1:6-11, Job 2:1-6) is cast down.

The antichrist is mortally wounded and appears to all the earth to be resurrected from the dead. Rev. 13:3

The world is amazed and worships him and the devil as being all-powerful. Rev. 13:3-6

The two witnesses are slain by the antichrist. Rev. 11:8-13



The Midpoint of the Tribulation

The antichrist suspends the sacrifices enters the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and declares himself God, demanding worship thereby revealing his true character. This is the abomination of desolation spoken of by Jesus. Matthew 24:15-21, Luke 21:20-24, Mark 13:14-23, Dan. 11:36-37

The remnant of the children of Israel who recognize what is happening flee as instructed by Jesus to the place prepared for them in southern Jordan (Petra) and are protected by God during their escape. Rev. 12:14, Exodus 19:4, Deut. 32:11-12.

The antichrist full of himself and also under the power of the devil will try and destroy them but God delivers them and cares for them the last half of the tribulation. Rev. 12:12-16

The antichrist then turns his anger and wrath toward the remaining Jewish population and believers in Christ and those who refuse to worship him. Rev.12:17, Rev. 13:7-8

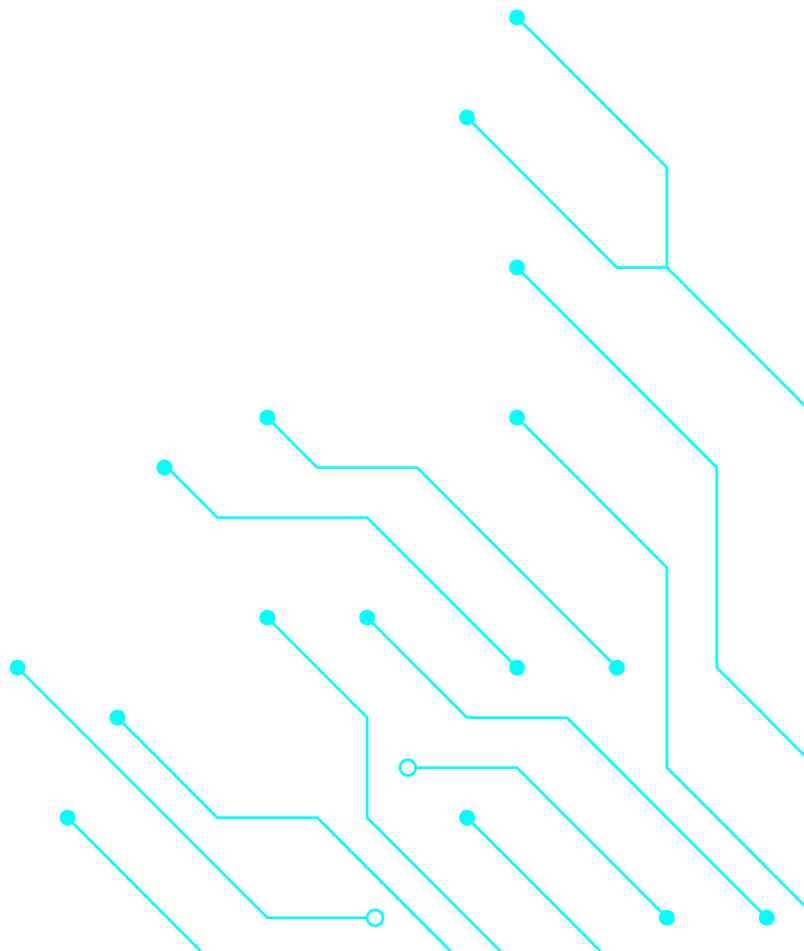
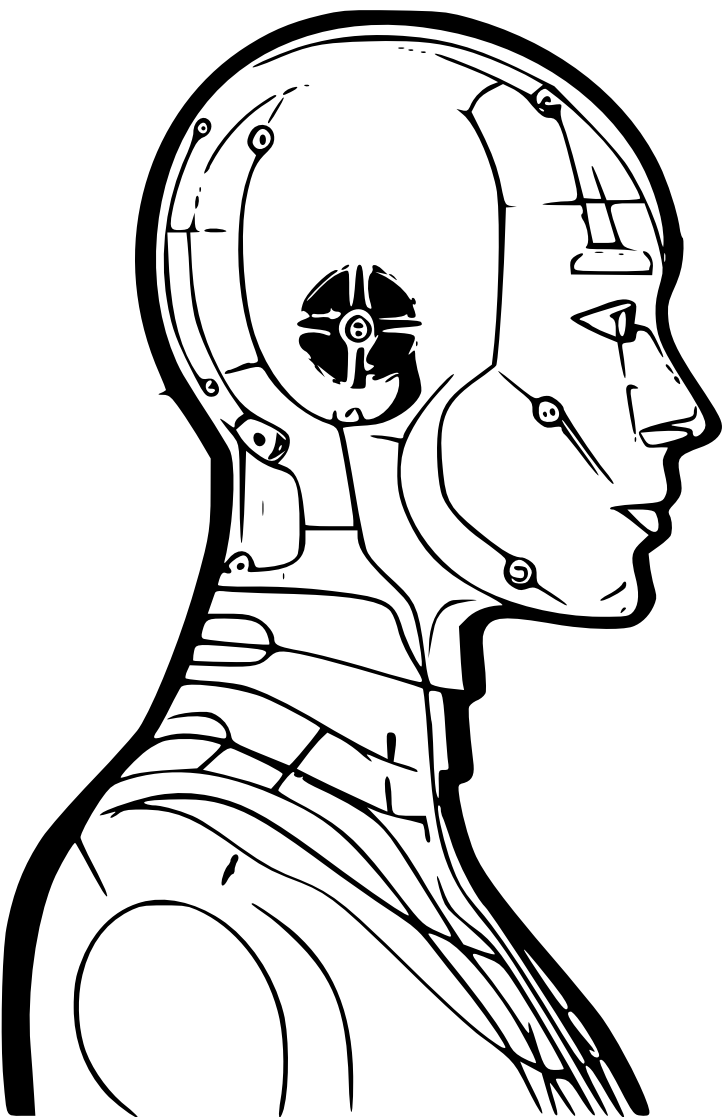
The beast from the earth also known as the false prophet (Rev. 16:13, 19:20, 20:10) becomes a key figure in the end times. Rev. 13:11



The false prophet will promote worship of the antichrist, He will make an image of the antichrist that comes to life (holograms, Virtual reality, robots, Ai all things he could utilize now) the image becomes an object of worship. He along with the antichrist will perform signs and wonders in view of everyone in order to deceive them. Makes fire fall from Heaven much like the two witnesses who preached Jesus and were killed by the antichrist. Deception is his main tool. Rev. 13:12-15, Matthew 24:24, 2 Thessalonians 2:9

He will also be the leader in forcing people to take the mark of the beast in order to buy and sell anything. This mark imitates the mark of God upon the 144,000. Does not matter what your station in life is. You will be required to take the mark. Rev. 13:16-17.

This unholy trinity the devil, the antichrist, and the false prophet will seek to force as many as they can to take the mark and worship the beast and the dragon either through deception or coercion.



The Next Three and Half Years

The 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Rev. 7:4, Rev. 9:4) are removed from the earth. Right after the midpoint of the tribulation, just like the church before them, they are taken from the earth in what appears to be a miraculous act much like the rapture. Jesus meets them at Mount Zion and immediately they are before the throne of God. Rev. 14:1-5

Three angels are now sent to declare three different types of messages for the remainder of the tribulation period.

1. The first preach the gospel to the whole earth. Rev. 14:6-7

Even though the church, the two witnesses, and the 144,000 have all been removed from the earth and are in Heaven, it certainly does not change God's desire that people come to salvation! 2 Peter 3:9-10, 1 Tim. 2:3-6. Also fulfills Matt. 24:14.

2. The second declares that Babylon is fallen. Rev. 14:8.

The fulfillment of this is seen in Rev. 16:17-21, and Rev. 18:1-24. This warning is directed toward those who are deceived into thinking there will be deliverance by following the same rebellious spirit that has enticed mankind for thousands of years. The warning is that the rebellion is done, it is coming to a fatal close.

3. The third angel warns his hearers against their participation in the worship of the Beast and the eternal consequences for those who do. Rev. 14:9-11



The Next Three and Half Years

The Seven Bowls of Wrath

1. Those who worshipped the beast and received his mark are now "marked" by God with painful and malicious sores. Rev. 16:2
2. Revelation 8:8-9 described a partial contamination of the sea. Here the contamination is made complete (every living creature in the sea dies). Rev. 16:3
3. The rivers and streams of fresh water now become blood. Rev. 16:4
4. The sun scorches men with fire and fierce heat. Rev. 16:8-9
5. The kingdom of the antichrist is plunged into darkness. They are in misery because of their sores and the scorching of the sun. Rev. 16:10-11. Yet people still refuse to repent. Rev 16:9, 16:11
6. The Euphrates River dries up, preparing the way for the final battle. Rev. 16:12. Evil spirits go and gather the kings of the earth to come and wage war. Gathering for The Battle of Armageddon. Rev. 16:13-16, Rev. 17:14,
7. A tremendous earthquake unlike anything ever seen before splits Jerusalem into 3 parts, mountains and islands disappear worldwide, 100 lb. hailstones fall to the earth, and cities around the world are destroyed. Rev. 16:17-21. Babylon the physical and spiritual seat of every false religion and abomination that mankind has used in rebellion against God is completely destroyed in an hour, Rev. 17 & 18

The Second Coming of Christ Rev. 19:11-21





Don't miss this series presented live from Wow Church by Pastor Will Duke. It can be seen at
YouTube@wowchurch51

Even more so, don't miss the rapture of the church. Be one of the ones counted in the calling up. It's effortless to follow these steps:

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Believe that Jesus died on the cross in your place for the forgiveness of your sins.
3. Believe that He was buried and rose again from the grave forever defeating the power of sin and death.
4. Make an aloud confession of faith that Jesus Christ is Lord
5. Repent and turn away from your life of sin.