

Anticipating the Greatest Event!

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Anticipating a great event is a pleasant thing—we look forward to the occasion and what we expect to experience—giving *hope* and the *promise* of a good time. What we *should* anticipate every day, however, is being ready to meet Jesus at His sudden return—**being worthy to stand before Him.**

The condition of the world—politically, spiritually, morally, and in every other way is strong evidence that it could all *end*—all too *suddenly* and all too *quickly!* Revelation 22:20 “*Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*”

Those who are ready by keeping their faith in God and their trust on the Blood of Christ; those who have repented of sins and are willing to meet all situations in a godly way—they are anticipating the greatest of all events! As the world’s spiritual condition *worsens*, we must remain in a high state of alert—spiritually.

Daniel 12:1 “*There shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time.*” Jesus warns Matthew 24:21 “*For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*”

We wonder *why* such terror and the dreadful Tribulation is permitted, but the main *cause* is the great *sin* Adam committed—rebellious against God, shutting Him out of his life, and starting on his own to obtain what he wanted. Adam desired

a paradise—but a paradise by his own plans and power—even though paradise conditions had already been *given* to him.

When Adam rejected *God’s plan*, he *had* to accept *Satan’s plan*—there *are only two!* When Adam rejected the *Truth*, the devil took possession of his *life!* Adam became obsessed with doing things in his *own way*—a way that would make him happy by being his *own god*, he thought.

Satan had already deceived Adam and Eve by saying Genesis 3:5 “*Your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil*”—but the truth is they would be *like the world*. We all begin life with that same attitude and controlled by the same devil—whose only object is to have people *want* what *Adam* wanted—to make their *own* Eden, by their *own* might and muscle. Doing so, however, will rob them of God’s blessings and take them to Hell forever.

All the sorrows and sicknesses; all the trials and troubles that have ever plagued individuals and the world, is the *result* of turning *from* God and turning *to* Satan. Things will get worse and worse, until the very end of the world. It is a time of trouble “*Such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time*” Matthew 24:21.

Individuals need to be *shown* the spiritual *cause* of these problems, and the world has to *realize* that it cannot *make* this world what everyone would *like* it to be. The Tribulation will show *everyone* that humans *cannot* make this world what God always *wanted* it to be.

Jesus came to give us a *way* back to *God*—to trust Him in *faith* and enjoy the *benefit* of His mercy and power. These benefits include deliverance from the *devil’s* power and now having the *Spirit’s* power instead. The result is victory over

troubles of this life; enjoying inner peace; and being prepared for eternal life under the personal training of God Himself.

The Tribulation will *end* Satan’s control and *begin* God’s control—showing the world how willing He *is* to make the world like it *was* in Eden. Many details of the Great Tribulation; the Second Advent of Christ; and of His Millennial reign on earth are explained in the Book of Revelation. Many events *described* in this last Book are *yet* to be fulfilled.

Numerous prophecies of the Old Testament give details of the Tribulation and the Millennial reign of Christ on earth. If we separate these Old Testament prophecies from New Testament verses on the Tribulation, it is easier to understand. Old Testament prophecies do not mention the Gospel Age. They speak of the *First* and *Second* Advent of Christ as if they were *one* event. The key to understanding OT prophecy is to separate what happened at the *first* coming of Christ from the prophecies of His *second* coming.

Jesus made this separation when He read from Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19. He spoke of the primary reason for His *first* advent. Luke 4:18 “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel [good tidings Isaiah 61:1] to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*”

When He *spoke* those verses, Jesus did *not finish* the rest of the sentence Isaiah 61:2, because *that* prophecy would not be *fulfilled* until the end of the *world*—Isaiah 61:2 “*The day of vengeance of our God.*” This would be the Tribulation—which does *not* begin until the end—*that* is why the Gospel Age is not mentioned in the Old Testament. It is a *parenthesis* between the *first* and *second* Advents of Christ.

Revelation describes the *start* of the Tribulation. Revelation 6:4 “*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 parallels Matthew 24:7 “*For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.* Every day there are military conflicts around the globe, pandemics, and there has been two world wars since Jesus said that. He also added Matthew 24:6 “*See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet; 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.*”

Revelation 7:4 “*There were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel*”—this seal protects them during the horrible plagues that follow—¹ Thessalonians 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: 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.*”

Jesus said Revelation 3:10 “*Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*” This refers to Luke 21:36 “*Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.*”

The supernatural judgments are terrible—hail mixed with fire and blood; a third of the ocean turned into blood; a third of all fresh water turns bitter; a third of the sun, moon, and stars darkened; a plague of locusts; and a massive earthquake.

The Antichrist is *opposite* to the *true* Christ. Jesus is the exact *image* of our heavenly Father’s *person*—revealing His character and nature. *Jesus was God on earth*—and He loves *us* as much as the Father loves *Him*. **He even gave His life for us when we were enemies and sinners—proving His pure and perfect love for us.**

The Antichrist is controlled by Satan who hates us with a malicious hatred. **The devil’s only desire is to make us unhappy here, and then destroy us in the flames forever.** This Antichrist will be the worst dictator *ever*—he will pass a law that no one can buy or sell unless they accept the mark of the beast—666.

An angel says Revelation 14:9, “*If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*”

Revelation describes a wild beast rising out of the sea with seven heads and ten horns. A woman is sitting on the beast, and she is called the mother of harlots or false religions, and of all *abominable* things on earth. The Catholic Church is the mother of all false religions. The ten *horns* represent ten *kings* who rule with the Antichrist. These kings *hate* the harlot—or Catholic Church—and destroy her with *fire*—fulfilling God’s judgment of that *false* religious system.

The seven *heads* represent seven *kings*, or seven Roman *emperors*. Five had already reigned and died when John saw this vision. One was *still* in power, which could be Domitian who

reigned in 96 AD—about the time Revelation was written.

Another Roman king succeeds him. Then the beast, who was once living—but not *now* living and yet will live *again*—is the *eighth* king, which has not happened yet. He is *of the seven*, so the conclusion is that he *was* one of the five Roman *kings* who had died, and who will come back and enter a human body—doing the evil things that the Antichrist is inspired by Satan to do.

There is no specific time mentioned for the Tribulation to *begin*. Many try to compute this from different figures in the Old Testament, but there is no Bible reference to the actual *time* of the Tribulation and return of Jesus. We are just told Luke 12:40 “*Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.*” Everything beyond *this* is speculation.

Knowing that the *end* could come, and the Tribulation could begin, keeps us spiritually alert! ² Peter 3:14 “*Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*” We are blameless *only* by believing in faith on the Blood of Christ—and that faith includes a *forgiving spirit* and a *loving attitude* toward everyone!

² Peter 3:17-18 “*Seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*”

We are *anticipating* the *greatest* of all events! **We must watch, and pray, and repent, and forgive—to be ready!**



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