

An Approach to Looking at the End Times

General assumptions to this approach:

- 1) There is a literal 1000-year reign of Jesus (Yeshua) the Messiah known as the **Millennial Kingdom** that is initiated at the END of **THIS** age (there are OTHER ages...) and begins at the **Second Coming** of Yeshua

Eph 2:7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Eph 3:5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

- 2) There is a period of time (approx 7 years) known as the **Tribulation** that precedes the Second Coming/Millennial Kingdom of Jesus
- 3) There is a smaller period of time (approx 3 ½ years) known as the **Great Tribulation** that immediately precedes the Second Coming
- 4) There is a much smaller period of time (???) embedded within the Great Tribulation that immediately precedes Second Coming I will refer to as the **Days of Awe**. This period is known or referred to by many names: the wrath of the Lamb (Rev 6:16), the great day of [Their] wrath (Rev 6:17), His wrath that has come (Rev 11:18), the cup of His wrath (Rev 14:10), great winepress of God's wrath (Rev 14:19), seven last plagues of God's wrath (Rev 15:1), seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God (Rev 15:1), seven bowls of God's wrath (Rev 15:7), the cup filled with the wine of the fury of His wrath (Rev 16:19), the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God (Rev 19:15), the coming wrath (1 Thess 1:10, 2:16, 5:9), the wrath of God (Col 3:6, Eph 5:6), the day of God's wrath (Romans 2:5), the coming wrath (Luke 3:7, Matt 3:7), wrath against this people (Luke 21:23), a pouring out of God's wrath in fierce anger (Zeph 3:8), the day of the LORD's wrath (Zeph 1:15, 1:18, 2:2), vengeance in anger and wrath (Micah 5:15), indignation/fierce anger (Nahum 1:2, 1:6), later in the time of wrath (Dan 8:19), my zeal and fiery wrath (Ezekiel 38:19), the wrath of the LORD Almighty (Isaiah 9:19), a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger (Isaiah 13:9, 13:13), rebuke in anger and terrifies them in His wrath (Psalms 2:5)
- 5) There is a **Rapture (Catching/Snatching Away)** of all believers (Jew OR Gentile) in Jesus that will precede Second Coming

By definition, most "**Pre-Millennialists**" would agree to the preceding list... meaning that a literal period of Tribulation will PRECEDE a literal Millennial Kingdom.

A “pre-wrath” Approach to looking at the end times:

- 1) The purpose of the Tribulation period is MANIFOLD and the ENTIRE Tribulation period does not *necessarily* equate to “the wrath of God”
- 2) The PURPOSE of the Rapture (whether Pre-Trib, Mid-Trib, or other) is almost always associated with **deliverance** of the *righteous* **from wrath**
- 3) The TIMING of the Rapture is not necessarily the *main* issue of an end-times study... but it is significant IF the expectation of a **deliverance from tribulation** is NOT the same as a **deliverance from wrath**
- 4) The Rapture immediately precedes the Days of Awe (Wrath) and the Second Coming of Jesus.
- 5) The terms “Second Coming”, “Day of the Lord”, “His appearing”, and “His coming” all have subtleties of meaning that can be significant in how certain end-times passage are read and interpreted
- 6) The “lens” or “paradigm” by which the End-Times is best seen and understood is first and foremost the Bridal Paradigm...

Questions that Shape this Approach:

#1 Who are the Saints/Holy People referred to by Daniel, the Elect referred to by Paul, the Elect referred to by Jesus, the Saints referred to by John (Revelation)? What is the relevance of the warnings of Jesus/Paul/John to YOU/US?

#2 IF the RAPTURE does not occur before the 7-Year Tribulation period, what is the role of the Saints/Holy People/Elect/Redeemed during this period of time up to the Rapture?

#3: What is the role of the Church at the end of **THIS** Age, regardless of RAPTURE timing and in consideration of inclusion during the Tribulation period?

#4: Why would God arrange such a drama?

Premises We Will Consider Under This Approach:

1) Concerning the End Times People:

- a) The Saint/Holy People of Daniel = The Saints of Revelation = The Elect of Jesus = The Elect of Paul
- b) The 7 churches of Revelation are called to hold fast, persevere to the end, and be overcomers
- c) The End-Times People are 1] Holy and 2] Powerful even though they are 1] Warred Against and 2] Overcome
- d) The End-Times people are recipients of the Kingdom & the recipients of the Kingdom are believers/followers of Jesus

2) The manifold wisdom of the Cross – which is in itself a DIVINE PARADOX – will be demonstrated in manifold ways through a Body of people know as the Church/Bride during the end-times period

3) Premises Regarding the End Times Period in regard to the Book of Revelation:

- a) The Great Tribulation is over by the 6th Seal
- b) The Trumpets occur late in the last 3 ½ years of the (this) AGE
- c) The Little Book of Daniel = The Little Book of Daniel
- d) Revelation 10 and beyond ALL refer to the last 3 ½ years of the (this) AGE
- e) Revelation 11,12,13, and 14 each present a different aspect of the last 3 ½ years of the (this) AGE
- f) Revelation 14 contains/refers to the trumpet judgments
- g) The earthquake of the 2 witnesses, the 6th Seal, the 7th Bowl, and the 7th Trumpet all refer to the SAME event

4) Trains of thought regarding the End-Times that will guide interpretation:

- a) The Harvest is at the End of the (this) AGE
- b) The "YOU" means YOU
- c) The connection between the Rapture, the Gathering of the Saints, & The Day of the Lord
- d) Jesus confirms US to the END.. and purifies us until that DAY
- e) Isaiah presents an EARTHLY viewpoint of the End-Times events
- f) John/Revelation presents a HEAVENLY viewpoint of the End-Times events
- g) Song of Solomon presents us with a view of God's EMOTIONS as End-Times events transpire
- h) The Feasts of the Lord and their agreement with the "pre-wrath" view of the End-Times
- i) The correlation of the minor prophets with the End-Times events

Key Bible Passages:

Luke 21

Matthew 13, 24

John 15/16

Mark 13

Revelation 1-22

Daniel 3, 7-12

Isaiah 24-26

Psalms 2, 27, 46, 149

Zechariah 12-13

Romans 11

1 Thess 1,5

2 Thess 1-2

1 Timothy 4

2 Timothy 3

1 Corinthians 15

Zephaniah, Zechariah, Micah,

Nahum, Hosea, Malachi, Ezekiel

Views of the Rapture

	Pre-Tribulation Rapture	Mid-Tribulation Rapture	Post-Tribulation Rapture	Partial Rapture	Pre-Wrath Rapture
Is there a literal 7-year Tribulation?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Are the Rapture and the Second Coming separate events?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
When is the Rapture?	Before Tribulation	In the middle of the Tribulation	After Tribulation	Before Tribulation	Before the out-pouring of God's Wrath
When is the Second Coming?	After Tribulation	After Tribulation	After Tribulation	After Tribulation	After the out-pouring of God's Wrath