

**THE
TIMES
OF THE
END TIME**

A Study

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Much has been written and many references are made to the End Time in the Bible, of which three major sources provide us with an overview or complete picture. The sources are: Daniel's prophesy, Jesus' references in the gospels, and the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Although it may not seem too clear at the first glance, the events as they are set out in both Daniel and in Revelation are chronologically in order and correct, and should be borne in mind when studying those two books. In comparison, the references in the gospels and in the epistles to the End Time events, mainly serve to fill in the gaps or to put in some detail and help to complete the picture.

In dealing with mankind as a whole, God only gets directly involved three times.

In creation, in salvation and in judgement.

Of these three times when God gets directly involved, the coming of the Lord Jesus as Messiah directly impacts on the End Time, whilst the return of the Lord Jesus, or "the Day of the Lord" as it is termed in the Bible is very much part of the End Time. The day when the Lord Jesus returns to rule and reign, when God's will and purpose for mankind is fulfilled, is also the day of God's judgement, which in itself is not a joyous occasion, but for us a day of restoration and of victory, and that is where we are heading!

To fully understand the sequence of events of God's dealings with man, especially those events that surround the coming and the return of the Lord Jesus, it is necessary to read and bring together the three sources we are studying. Not one of these sources is complete in itself, for reasons that will become apparent as we go along, so it is important to not rush through. It is not just about finding an answer at the end, but also to understand it, lest it be futile and a waste of time.

Let all things be done decently and in order. (1 Cor 14:40)

The time we are heading for, the End Time and the “Day of the Lord” is a very important time, and we need to be clear in our thinking and reasoning, so read, understand and use wisdom.

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Prov 9:10)*

I believe that wisdom is to let God speak for Himself, for only that way will we get anywhere close to the truth or to understanding the events that lie before us.

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,
who gives to all liberally and without reproach,
and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)*

When wanting to hear God, it is fundamental that we look past the modern translations and word usage, not to limit ourselves or hinder us from expressing ourselves in the modern usage of the language, but that we study and understand God’s Word as it was spoken, as the Holy Spirit inspired it, and as God wrote it.

*Blessed is he who reads and
those who hear the words of this prophecy,
and keep those things which are written in it;
for the time is near. (Rev 1:3)*

Therefore do not just read, but hear and understand what is written, for in that understanding and acting upon that understanding in the knowledge of God, lies the blessing.

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God,
a worker who does not need to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim 2:15)*

As the King James Version puts it: “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God*” be diligent, make that extra bit of effort, dig just a little deeper, for the reward will be great.

Be diligent to read, to hear and understand, to be blessed!
The times to come are going to be exciting, awesome times.

Exciting because with every day the return of the Lord Jesus draws closer,
and so also does our being joined to Him draw ever closer.

*For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?
Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
at His coming? (1 Thes 2:19)*

Awesome, because of God's wrath and judgement which accompanies or rather dominates this time in man's history. This time which marks the end of time and the return of God's order, the beginning of Jesus' reign and rule and the step into life eternal with God.

Before we start, there is one truth, reality, fact, call it what you may, and that is

God is a good God!

Of this we can and should be sure. It is the foundation of creation and the basis of God's actions and His judgement towards mankind ...

God is good!

That God is good does not diminish His righteousness in judgement but it does open the way to understanding His Word and His Will.

So ...

... do not judge God or His impending actions,
... do not judge His dealing and outpouring of wrath,
unless you see it in the light of His goodness,
and certainly not before you have heard Him out.

A last Word!

Let the Word be its own judge ... and you be the blessed.

Where to start?

It is always best to start with the Word, and with the Word Himself.

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached
in all the world as a witness to all the nations,
and then **the end will come.*** (Matt 24:14)

What is the end time about?

What, where, when and to whom?

What is the Tribulation and who is the Antichrist?

How will it affect the Church of Jesus Christ?

Will the Church of Jesus Christ go through the tribulation?

Will the Church of Jesus Christ be raptured, and what is it?

These are some of the questions we will be looking at, but this we know...

The end will come!

To venture an answer to some of these questions and to begin to understand what is going to happen, there is much to learn, and as Jesus said in Matthew 24:14, there is also much to do. So in finding out about the End Times, we must also look at the part we have to play in it all.

The Book of Revelation, or “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”, in addition to its theme, “The Lord our God the Almighty Reigns” also expounds on the times of the End Time. We will be referring to and dealing with the Book of Revelation as we go along, yet doing that without following God’s instruction to us, as we noted in the introduction, will be both foolish and certainly not blessed. For too often we hear or have even said ourselves,

Blessed are those who read this book..

A statement that is not actually correct ...

... so let’s go see what God’s Word actually says ...

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

(Rev 1:3)

(see also Jesus' words in Mt. 24:15)

The Greek word for hear, “**AKOUO**” means to hear and understand, as in a king who gives audience to someone with an important message to which he must respond, and his response is dependent on understanding what he heard

... to hear means to understand!

The verse goes further, instructing us to keep those things which are written. The Greek word for keep “**TEREO**” means guard as in “Keeper of the keys”:

**... to guard what you have heard and understood,
so you can act upon it when the time comes!**

Finally, the word “revelation” means to reveal:

So some secrets have to be revealed or uncovered!

Therefore in understanding the End Times, we are going to have to uncover a number of secrets, for the truth of the End Times to be clear.

... and that is secret #1

We must read, understand and guard what is revealed

Which leads us to another secret that we need to know, to fully understand what we read and what we hear, which is that in all of God’s dealings with man, God has not always revealed everything to man.

Not to keep man in the dark, but **to keep Satan in the dark.**

We can get to know all of God’s truth, but for our protection God has kept Himself as the standard, and dealt with us in His special way ...

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come,

He will guide you into all truth;

for He will not speak on His own authority,

but whatever He hears He will speak;

and He will tell you things to come.

(John 16:13)

That is secret #2

Not all is known,

but the Holy Spirit will reveal all, to those He indwells.

Most everything, at least about life here on earth, has in one way or another been revealed to man in times past, enough to already have filled thousands and thousands of books, and John's words are certainly very appropriate ...

And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen. (John 21:25)

Yet there is one secret that remains, **the time and day of Jesus' return**. A specific time that leads to another secret, which because of its impact on events surrounding the Tribulation and Rapture, we will only reveal later in this study.

That is secret #3 ... which we will keep for a while!

No! don't be tempted to read from the back, it's just confusing and it's like reading Revelation before the Gospels and that doesn't make any sense!

1. Jesus' prophesy on the end time or the end of the age!

Let's take our own advice and start in the Gospel according to Matthew, when His disciples asked Jesus about the End Times. In Jesus' reply there is a description of what the End Times will be like as well as reference to a secret that starts to reveal some of the sequence of events that surround the end times.

Matthew 24 Jesus' prophesy

*1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, **when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**" And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. "**And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. "All these are the beginning of sorrows***

- 9 “Then they will deliver **you up to tribulation and kill you**, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. “And then **many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another**. “Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. “And because **lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold**. “But **he who endures to the end shall be saved**. “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and **then the end will come**.
- 15 “Therefore when you see the ‘**abomination of desolation**,’ spoken of by **Daniel the prophet**, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), “then let **those who are in Judea flee to the mountains**. “Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. “And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. “But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! “And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.
- 21 “**For then there will be great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. “See, I have told you beforehand. “Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it.
- 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be “For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then **all the tribes of the earth** will mourn, and they **will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory**. “And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
- 32 “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. “So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near – at the doors! “Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place**. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

36 *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”*

Jesus’ prophesy spans thousands of years, yet a secret reveals the times!

2. **The Secret that unlocks the End Times:**

In reading Matthew 24, Jesus’ prophesy on the End Times, it is all quite clear, and awesome in its extent and description, until in v.34, time suddenly gets lost.

... this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

From the time Jesus spoke, the generation to whom He spoke, until the time in which the verse ends, there is an enormous gap in time. Similarly, there is a gap in time in Daniel’s account to which Jesus refers in v.15, and Jesus specifically told us to understand the significance, which we will discover. But first we need to know what that secret is ...

... the **secret that unlocks** the times or ages of the End Times.

The reality of the **Time or Age in which we are, the Church age!**

Up to the time of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection, the **Church Age** was never mentioned, **it was a secret**. Considering the Church age already covers more than a third of man’s existence, why was it necessary to keep it secret?

It was kept secret for a very special reason, which we find in Ephesians ...

(by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 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: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,
(Eph 3:4–6)

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith –

(Rom 16:25–26)

The truth that the gentiles, the world or the non-Jews would partake in the Kingdom of God by way of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord may not seem such a great reason for a secret, but let's dig a bit deeper to find out ...

... Why the Church Age was kept a secret?

It was kept secret because God did not want Satan to know ...

... **how He was going to bring man back** into His Kingdom, or what power would be released through the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit upon man.

God said in Joel chapter 2 that He would pour out His Spirit on all flesh, whilst talking about the end time, without referring to the Church age, the power that would be released, or the result that this all would have.

The exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe ...

*... that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the **exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*
(Eph 1:17–20)

Satan would most certainly not have crucified Jesus if he had had any idea that it was actually God's plan, and that an innocent death would seal his defeat, whilst at the same time procuring salvation and restoration of man.

Is there some proof of that, or does it just sound good?

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. However, we speak wisdom among

*those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; **for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.** But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has **revealed them to us through His Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.* (1 Cor 2:1–10)

Satan did not know about the Church Age. Today the secret of the Church Age is known, but **this knowledge is useless to us unless ...**

we take hold of that reality ...

and walk in that power ...

... the demonstration of which will open the doors for Jesus’ return.

Back to Jesus’ prophesy ...

If the church age remained a secret until after Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection, then it becomes important to know or understand to whom Jesus was speaking or addressing His prophesy.

Obviously He was not speaking to the Church or about the Church Age ...

So ...

Who was Jesus talking about and who was He talking to?

Who would be affected by His prophesy?

Could something else be hidden in this prophesy?

Jesus had been asked by His disciples about the end times, and in answering His disciples in Matthew 24:16–20, Jesus confirms that He was specifically speaking to a distinctive group ...

Jesus was talking to the people of Judea!

Jesus was talking about the Jews!

In Jesus’ reference to a generation in Matthew 24:34, He is talking to a specific group of people, a generation of Jewish people, and was therefore also referring to a particular time or age.

We will be dealing with that in more detail when looking at Daniel's prophecy, but what is very evident, is that not just people, but time, time periods and ages are referred to in Jesus' answer to His disciples ...

Why is this information important?

What does this secret reveal?

The secret in Jesus' reply to that question about the end of the age, is that His answer does not necessarily apply to everyone who reads it, but to a specific group to whom He was talking and about a specific time frame. This brings us to the next question ...

... Was Jesus only talking to the Jews?

... Would they alone be affected by the End Times?

Questions that will be answered later, but for now ...

... Secret #4

The Church Age was unknown, and

The effect of that on End Time prophecy is important!

We have uncovered 4 secrets, found some answers and at the same time many questions, which we will endeavour to answer as we proceed, without running ahead or getting over complicated, but constantly bearing in mind the importance of ... hearing and understanding.

We started off with some questions, which we have not directly answered, but have rather laid a foundation on which to build those answers. But let us at least answer part of our original question based on what we read so far and based on what Jesus answered His disciples.

3. What is the End Time all about?

According to Matthew 24, Jesus said that the end time is going to be a **time of extreme lawlessness**, a time of **hardship and tribulation** for those on the earth, a time such as has not been since the beginning of the world, nor ever shall be.

**There will be wars and rumors of wars ...
... Nation will rise against nation.
There will be famines, pestilences and earthquakes.
... and nature will be turned upside down!
False prophets will rise up.
The powers of the heavens will be shaken!
... and there will be mighty changes.
A time when God's wrath is poured out on earth!
A time after which Jesus will rule on earth!**

It is a time in which no one would want to be on earth. A time when those on earth will be drastically affected by those happenings, and therefore ...

A time to avoid having to go through, for everyone here on earth ...

The importance of gaining knowledge about the End Times, is not so much about the times that are coming, but rather about the motivation to take the Gospel to everyone, so that when the end times do come, they will have Jesus as their Lord, and be on their way to heaven!

That does not mean that we should not want to find out more ...

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
deceiving yourselves.* (James 1:22)

We have begun to see what the end time is about, but what does that age refer to in the question to Jesus ...

*“Tell us, when will these things be?
And what will be the sign of Your coming,
and of the end of the age?”* (Matt 24:3)

The End Time is not just a space in time that is going to happen randomly, but a very specific time period that is going to affect a specific group of people, signifying the end of an Age or possibly Ages, and the beginning of another. The interplay with “time” “ages” is very important, as will become evident.

The disciples’ question to Jesus was:

*“Tell us, **when will these things be?**
And what will be the **sign of Your coming,**
and of the end of the age?”*

(Matt 24:3)

Before we go any further, we need to define what an Age is and look at what it is made up of or what it consists of, so we get to know why there are different Ages referred to in the Bible, and what their importance is.

1. The Times or Ages in the Bible:

Realise or understand right at the beginning, that God does not live or operate in time. God is eternal and not limited to any time frame or time span.

*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise,
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

(1 Tim 1:17)

The concept of time is a limitation that God introduced to define the duration or space in which something would be allowed to happen or continue. Time, as we know it, years, days, hours etc., are a phenomenon that is confined to earth and will cease with the final defeat of Satan by Jesus and the heavenly hosts.

This time space or duration is not just one period, but is made up of different periods in which God deals differently with man, and in which different conditions apply. So, in God’s plan of the redemption of man, man’s time on earth is divided into time zones in which different situations or rules apply.

These time zones or time periods that represent man's time or stay on earth are termed Ages or dispensations. (*Eph. 3:2, Luke 18:29–30*)

What is an Age or dispensation?

A dispensation is a time during which a specific way of doing things or specific type of administration is in control, of which the differing administrations of the various American presidents is a good example. In other words it is a period of time when certain rules apply, and when certain things are allowed, that may or may not apply or be allowed in another age or dispensation.

The Ages or dispensations of the Bible:

Bible students differ on the number of dispensations or Ages, and speak of 3, 4 or 7 Ages. As 7 is the number of God's perfection, we will simply name all 7, but it is only the last 3 that we will be concerning ourselves with.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Innocence. | Man created innocent, sinned, was judged and expelled ...
<i>Gen 3:24</i> |
| Conscience. | The Adamic covenant, accountable for known good & evil, ended in the judgement, Flood ...
<i>Gen 6–9</i> |
| Human Government. | Noahic covenant, Man is responsible to govern the world for God
<i>Gen 8:20–9:27</i> |
| Promise. | The Abrahamic covenant to the Mosaic law
Exclusively Israelite or Jewish ...
<i>Gen 12:1 – Exod 19:8</i> |
| Law. | From Sinai to Calvary. Priesthood, Judges and Kings. Mosaic covenant (Ten commandments)
<i>Exod 20:1–31:18</i> |
| Grace. | Began with the death and resurrection of Christ
<i>Rom 3:23–26; 4:24–25</i> |
| The Kingdom. | The last of the ordered ages, Israel's restoration, Christ's millennial Reign on the earth
<i>Rom 11:25–27, Zech 3:1–10; 6:9–15</i> |

So He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, “who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come everlasting life.”

(Luke 18:29–30)

As we will be referring to the last 3 Ages many times, for ease of reference and to help make understanding simpler, let us define these ages as follows:

The Jewish Age, the Age of the Law or the dispensation of God’s Mercy:

Before Jesus’ birth and death, the **Old Covenant**

The Church Age, the dispensation of God’s Grace.

Since Jesus death and resurrection,

the **New Covenant**

The Age to come, the Kingdom of God.

The new earth, the new heaven,

our **Life with God!**

What now about this interrupted time? – Lunch time in the ages?

2. The Ages of the End Time!

In chapter 1 we uncovered 4 secrets, the most important of them being the reality of the Church Age. We also learned that different conditions apply in different Ages. What however is important, is the relevance and the significance these Ages have to the End Time, which will help our understanding of the End Time.

Back to our scripture in Matthew 24 where His disciples asked Jesus about the end time, and in answering them, Jesus put time and the End Time prophesies into perspective, so read, hear and keep those things that are written.

*“Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.** “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. **“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only”***

(Matt 24:34–36)

No one knows the exact time, but the Father only. That in itself is not a problem, except that some 2000 years have passed since Jesus spoke about a generation that would not pass away, before the end would come. Yet that generation or a 30 year period since Jesus spoke, has long passed away!

And still no END?

How is that possible? What has gone wrong?

It seems confusing, more than a generation has passed, and still Jesus has not returned, so it's obvious that something has not passed. This we do know, if Jesus said it, and He did, then it is so ...

... so we must be missing something here somehow!

Which age was Jesus speaking about?

Remember that until the time of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the Church Age had not been revealed, and remember also Jesus' reply on the End Time was made before His crucifixion. Jesus' reply was about a generation, or a time frame that would not finish before those things, still to come, were completed. Something must have happened to time, to that Generation that Jesus was speaking to or about. Something must have happened to the Age that that generation was part of.

That generation must obviously have been interrupted by something!

If we accept Jesus' words as the truth, then **that generation would still have to be completed**, and there must therefore still be a **part of** those 30 years, making up **that generation**, a time within an Age, that **has not yet happened!**

Is that possible? Can time simply be interrupted?

What could possibly interrupt a generation?

What could possibly interrupt time?

What for instance, daily interrupts your working day, around noon,
Lunch TIME !!

Is God going to do something like that?

Well ...

What we must bear in mind is that to God time is relative. God does not live in a time zone or under any time restriction. As I often say, God has got forever. So if God wanted to interrupt time, or even if He wanted to stop time, He could.

God not only can interrupt time should He desire to do so, but He even had it recorded in the Bible for us ...

Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.

(Josh 10:12–13)

God stopped time for Joshua, and He can stop or interrupt time for us as well, if He wanted to. This interruption in time will become clearer when we look at the Book of Daniel, but in the mean time, note this ...

Secret #5

Time, and therefore an Age, can be interrupted

3. The Age between.

If time or an Age can be interrupted in the same way as our working day is interrupted by a lunch break, or our working year is interrupted by a vacation, then during this interruption in time another time period or Age is present or active.

The time in which Jesus was speaking in Matthew 24 was shortly before His crucifixion and resurrection, an event that would usher in ... what?

The Church Age!

So the Age or generation to which Jesus spoke, the Jewish Age, was about to be interrupted by the Church Age. A generation or a 30 year period, that was both part of the time in which Jesus spoke and would also be part of the End Time. The Age of God's mercy, or of the dispensation of the Law

(the Old Covenant) was about to be interrupted, leaving a small part of it still to be completed.

Lunch Break in the Ages.

How long would this Lunch Break be?

Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:36, that no one, except the Father knows, but ...

That is secret #6

A bit of the Jewish Age (Law) is still to come.

4. Is there proof of this time “between”, that we are in?

Between Jesus’ prophesy and the prophesy being fulfilled, some 2000 years have passed ... the Church Age, the mystery of which Paul spoke ...

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles – if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 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: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,
(Eph 3:1–11)

The Church age, the dispensation of Grace, was kept secret, and not directly referred to in the Old Testament, for the sole intent that Satan could not stop it from coming to pass.

The secret was not that an age was coming, but the irreversible step in God's plan of redemption, the dispensation of grace, that would reveal God's power as it has never been revealed before, and that, that power would be in us ...

Eph 1:17-23

The Age in which:

*... the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;
(Eph 3:8-9)*

Why was this time kept a mystery?

The coming of the Church Age was kept secret simply to stop Satan from messing in God's plans, and that nothing could stop it from being fulfilled!

This is the Age in which we live, and ...

... it is no longer a mystery, but **special**, very special, and if we apply God's Word in the right way, it will open the way, so that Jesus can return.

An Age within an Age,
As if trapped in time
Yet within us, is the answer!

5. End Time Prophecy, in time!

Time within a time!
Age within an Age!

When does the Age of the Law finally come to an end?
When then is the end of the Age Jesus spoke about?
Where does the Church Age fit in?

God showed Daniel the entire time frame of earth,
until Jesus' triumphant return,
but let's not run ahead of ourselves ...

In studying the End Time, and in particular Jesus' statements regarding that time, this reference pops up numerous times ...

And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
(Matt 10:7)

Is this still another Age that fits in somewhere, before, in or after ...
The Age of the Law or the Jewish Age,
The Age of Mercy or the Church Age?

To complete the entire picture and so that there is no confusion, it is best that we also look at where the kingdom of heaven fits in, and whether it influences or impacts on the End Time at all.

1. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!

Two thousand years ago, two very special people walked the earth, and both brought the same message!

John the Baptist

*In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:
"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight."
(Matt 3:1–3)*

Jesus

*From that time Jesus began to preach and to say,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
(Matt 4:17)*

If Jesus and John preached that the kingdom of heaven was at hand, then is it not possible that we may already be in the kingdom of heaven?
What is the kingdom of heaven in any case?

The Jews were certainly expecting it and had no problem when Jesus spoke about it.

What was at hand and when?

The “kingdom of God” and the “kingdom of heaven”

The “kingdom of God” comprises all created beings or intelligence, in heaven and on earth, who are willingly subject to God and in fellowship with Him.

The “kingdom of heaven” describes the rulership of God (or Jesus) on the earth at a given time. To the Jews this represented the kingdom of Israel restored on earth.

*Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6)
Ps 2:6; Isa 11:1; Jer 33:15; Dan 7:13–14;
Mic 4:1; Zech 9:10; 2 Sam 7:4–17*

Jesus and John the Baptist were announcing the kingdom of heaven, but the Jews who were expecting a physical ruler and a national kingdom, totally missed God’s plan and rejected His offer, in the same way that they (Israel) rejected God’s offer of being a kingdom of priests unto Him.

*‘Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ‘And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.” (Exod 19:5–6)
Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.” (Exod 20:18–19)*

The Jews rejected Christ’s rule and therefore would also seem to have rejected the manifestation of the “kingdom of heaven” on earth, at that time.

What was or is necessary for the kingdom of heaven to be established?
Is the kingdom of heaven still to come, after Jesus' return?

Have we already missed the kingdom of heaven?

Or

Is the kingdom of heaven dependent on the Messiah's (return) rule on earth, as it has always been expected by the Jews.

2. The Kingdom of Heaven is, when?

In his writings Matthew reported much of what Jesus said about the end time and the coming kingdom of heaven, and in all of those answers that Jesus gave, is there a simple answer to our question or is it still a mystery?

Well let's start where Jesus sent out His disciples with a specific message and instruction ...

These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"
(Matt 10:5-7)

"Go tell that the kingdom of heaven is at hand" Jesus told His disciples. Our clue is not found in the instruction that Jesus gave, but ...

To whom did Jesus send His disciples with this message?

Jesus had a specific group in mind, which in this case was the lost sheep of Israel. "*Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans*" He said, but the lost sheep of the house of Israel. The message and pending event obviously would directly affect that group, the Jews.

For whom was the kingdom of heaven at hand at that time?

The kingdom of heaven was at hand for the lost sheep of Israel, or for a people who were living during that time, during that age or dispensation!

Did they understand? Did they accept Jesus, the Messiah? No!

The kingdom of heaven has always been at hand, but man has not been ready!

What does this all mean and what is this all about?

Jesus' disciples asked Him the same question, as they also wanted to know ...

And the disciples came and said to Him, Why do You speak to them in parables?" He answered and said to them, Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. (Matt 13:10–12)

Jesus replied and said to His disciples ...

... look I have shown you the heart of the Father, that you may know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, those revelations from God that open up all that God has planned for mankind ...

Jesus constantly explained to His disciples what He had taught, so that they would know and understand what He was talking about, and He finished off His answer with this statement (v.12) ...

... If you want revelation, God will give you revelation in abundance, but if you shut your understanding up, even the little you know, you will lose ...

God's ways have always been open to His children, but their receiving that knowledge or revelation, is up to them and not to God.

The kingdom of heaven is in God, in Jesus, and is therefore Jesus' rule on earth, the rule of the Messiah over Israel, God's people, over everyone who would call on His name. Therefore the manifestation of the kingdom of heaven will be when the Messiah rules over Israel, over God's people.

When will this kingdom be established?

When Jesus returns to rule, on earth, fulfilling those Old Testament prophecies, those the Jews still expect, to rule in victory over God's people.

3. What about the gentiles, what happens to them?

When God planned redemption, already in the garden of Eden, He did not just have part of His man in mind, God had “Man” in mind. God was not about to sacrifice any part of mankind that would turn to Him, and He proved that so many times in His dealings with His man.

And we have this promise in the Bible, just for us!

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

(2 Pet 3:9)

God’s heart and desire have always been,
... are and always will be for His man.
The only question is ...

How is man responding?

What is man deciding?

What is man’s heart?

An Age within an Age

Jesus constantly warned us to be prepared for His return at any time, and at the same time He also told us to discern the times in which we live.

(Matt 16:2–3)

Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. “So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near – at the doors!”

(Matt 24:32–33)

What is this time that is drawing near?

The time of the End Time, and all that it represents and all that comes with it. One event that comes with the End Time is the reign of the Antichrist, whom we will study in greater detail as we proceed. What is a reality though is that there will be a time of preparation for the arrival of the Antichrist, which will open the way for his acceptance by the world. An anti “Christ” philosophy with its root in the New Age philosophy.

What or who is Antichrist?

The Antichrist or an antichrist is quite simply anyone who is anti-Christ, against the Lord Jesus Christ ... That is Antichrist.

What is New Age?

The New Age philosophy is in essence this, that there is no God out there and that man is the centre of everything.

Discerning the times.

“Discern the times,” Jesus said, and *“take heed that no one deceives you.”* Because in the last times, in particular, there will be an onslaught on man’s mind, with all the technological tools that have become available to Satan. And if man is going to endure, he had better surround himself with the Truth ...

...the truth that God is (Heb. 11:6)

And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

“All these are the beginning of sorrows. “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. “And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. “Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

“But he who endures to the end shall be saved. “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matt 24:4–14)

How can we discern the times?

Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. “So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near – at the doors! (Matt 24:32–33)

What is this time we are living in?

We are living in a time that is preparing for the arrival of the Antichrist, which is evident in so many ways in our daily life, most of which we accept without much consideration.

For example:

1. In the banking system, the debit and credit cards have become the norm, not that the card in itself is evil, but the record and control of personal movement and patterns it provides, can and will be so easily misused.
Financial Institutions all over the world are merging, which will lead to total control over the world finances.
2. The world council of churches and so many governments recognising all kinds of philosophies and religions.
3. The United Nations is slowly but surely changing from a peace keeping to a peace enforcing, world political body.

In other words:

One world economy, One world religion, One world government.
(666, *Total control, mark of the beast*).

Who then is the Antichrist?

The Antichrist is the world ruler under the control of Satan, whose rule will characterise Satan's attempts to stop God's work in the world. That deception which began in the Garden of Eden, will continue to the end when Jesus will return in victory.

Therefore Jesus' urgent warning ... "take heed."

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.
(1 Jn 2:18-22)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the

flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

(1 Jn 4:1-3)

Where is the world today in relation to the fulfilment of scripture?
Let no one deceive you ...!

The New Age philosophy.

What is NEW AGE?

Where does NEW AGE come from?

New Age evolved from Astrology, the Babylonian philosophy of the dependency of man's fate and future on the signs of the Zodiac or position of the stars under which influence a person is born, and is the foundation of witchcraft.

This is not to be confused with Astronomy, which is the science about the stars and the universe and their relative position as mere heavenly bodies, totally divorced from any influences on man.

Astrology advocates the great year, which according to this philosophy, is the time it will take to pass all the signs in the Zodiac.

This great year is divided in 7 ages:

Leo	(10000 – 8000 BC)
Cancer	(8000 – 6000 BC)
Gemini	(6000 – 4000 BC)
Taurus	(4000 – 2000 BC)
Aries	(2000 – 0 BC)
Pisces	(0 BC – 2000 AD)
Aquarius	(2000 – 4000 AD)

The year 2000 brought the Christian dispensation represented with the sign of a fish (Pisces) to an end. At present we are living in the New Age, or the of Aquarius from 2000–4000 AD.

This new age is in expectation of the appearance of a Messiah or Christ (Antichrist?). In this philosophy, the Christians are seen as the negative force on earth and until they are removed (rapture?) man cannot develop his full potential.

Without going at length into Astrology or the Zodiac, it is worth knowing that the sun god, or the all seeing eye, rules over the Zodiac, and that the Zodiac is made up of 36 chambers. (Add up 1 through 36 and you arrive at 666). So also many card games are derived from and based on the Zodiac, and are extensively used by fortune-tellers.

Today the New Age is using the rainbow (or Antha Karama) as the international sign of peace, but in the higher order of this movement it symbolises the bridge between the personality (man) and the great universal mind (Samat Kumara, Lucifer) So also the Peace sign, the broken, inverted cross is a sign of the rejection of Christ.

The fundamental philosophy of NEW AGE.

1. There is no God or no personal God with a moral standard.
There is no truth and there are no absolutes.
Man does his own thing, in his own way, in control of everything.
Therefore man does not need a saviour.
The book of the law by Aleister Crowley (1875–1947) British occultist, states ... Do what thou will and that be the whole law!
2. Man is god. Man is perfect.
Man is the centre, the force, energy or cosmos,
... there's nothing else.
His problem is not moral trespass (sin), but lack of knowledge.
Man forgot that he is god, and he needs to find that out again.
So man has to come back (incarnation) ...
in another life as a lifetime is not long enough to learn everything
and to grow into your god potential

To learn how to finally do it right!

But, can you make it right(2), if there is no truth(1)?

Who started the NEW AGE?

Adam Weisshaupt, a Jew converted to Catholicism, who turned to witchcraft, founded the Illuminati, a sect with the intent of destroying Christianity and creating a one world government, uniting all governments under one ruler (Lucifer). Financed by the Rothschild family, Weisshaupt sought to reach the goal of destroying all governments and religions.
(French Revolution)

Weisshaupt's main goals were:

1. Abolition of all ordered governments
2. Abolition of all private property
3. Abolition of all inheritance
4. Abolition of all patriotism
5. Abolition of all religion
6. Abolition of the family
7. Creation of a world government

Marx and Engels continued the writings of Weisshaupt. The name of the movement was changed to the League of the Just, but later was changed to the League of the Communists.

The New World Order.

NOVOS ORDO SECLORUM

(new order of worldliness or New World Order)

Has as its symbols: The all Seeing Eye (of Lucifer)
 The triangular pyramid
 ANNUIT COEPTIS
 MDCCLXXVI

How serious or how threatening is this all?

This philosophy and its symbols are showing up everywhere, such as the pyramid appearing on so many financial institutions' logos. More significant though is the fact that it has found its way on to the most handled document in the world, the United States One-Dollar Bill.

All of these symbols are boldly displayed on its rear side, and one can only wonder at the true significance of that, and the leverage that the monetary system already has.

How will all this be implemented?

Apart from the Biblical revelations, which we will still look at, the signs are already visible and active all around us, and we need not look that far either.

A New World Government (by the overthrowing of all national governments and religions...) written about in the 18th century by Adam Weisshaupt, updated by Karl Marx in the 19th century and recently by Alice Bailey, the international leader of the NEW AGE movement.

The United Nations, totally contrary to previously stated intentions, have become a heavily armed and active military force, which is used to enforce its intentions (good or bad).

The New Age and New World Order come in the name of World Peace, disarming the nations of the world, under the flag of peace, whilst employing their own One World Army, operating as a so called Peace Police!

In the previous chapters, we looked at times and Ages, present, past and future that have a bearing on and in some way affect the End Time and the events that surround the End Time. However to fit that together so as to understand the sequence of events that lead up to the coming and the return of the Lord Jesus, it is necessary to have an overview and a chronological order to those events.

In looking for some chronological sequence, there are three major sources that together provide an overview or complete picture, but it is important to realise that they need to be read together.

The three sources are ... Daniel's prophesy,
Jesus' references in the gospels, and
the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

We will start with Daniel, or Daniel's prophesy, which gives us a short but total overview of God's dealing with man, right up to the end. For reasons also that will become obvious, a definite period of time is skipped over, which is all part of our quest. So, in continuing our study, we need to be clear in our thinking and reasoning, as we head for the End Time and the "Day of the Lord".

1. The book of Daniel !

Who was Daniel and why do we want to study what he wrote?

The first and most important reason is because Jesus told us in Matthew 24:15, to not only read it, but Jesus is urging us to understand what Daniel prophesied.

Secondly, in reading and understanding Daniel's prophesy, we will get insight into the End Time and End Time events.

Why did God tell Daniel about the End Times?

Why does God tell anyone anything?

Because they ask! Daniel asked and God answered him.

As a teenager Daniel was taken captive in Israel and taken to Babylon and the first thing we can learn from Daniel is that he did not let his situation or his captivity limit or deter him in any way.

Daniel was not deterred but determined, he sought God, walked close to God, spent much time with God ... and God blessed him. God honoured Daniel and He promoted him, until eventually Daniel became an advisor to kings, having found favour with God and man.

Was it being a Jew that made Daniel special? No! it was because he separated himself from the things of the world unto God.

God was special to Daniel and therefore Daniel was special to God.

Daniel wanted to know more about God and His plans, and sought God about the future of Israel, asking God to reveal to him how long Israel would still remain in captivity, and when they would return to their own country.

The answer that God gave Daniel, was more than just an answer to Daniel's question, because God not only told him when Israel would return to Canaan, but also when Israel would return to Him. It was a prophesy about the future, the entire future of the Jewish people ...

... which therefore also included or covered the End Time.

Inside of that prophesy is part of the answer that we are looking for, which is ...

What is God's plan for the end time?

How do the Ages fit together?

As will become evident, Daniel's prophesy contains the Church Age without directly referring to it, and ties in with Jesus' reference in Matthew 24, indicating that a secret was about to be revealed ... so read and understand!

2. What are we to understand? And why?

In seeking to understand Daniel's prophesy, we cannot read Daniel without at the same time considering the secrets we have already uncovered, particularly as they relate to the different Ages, and the fact that these Ages or times can be interrupted.

Read and understand ... that God has ordained time frames in which different priorities apply, and in which God deals differently with man. Not because God changes, but because man needs to change, and needs time in which to change.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren
(Rom 8:28–29)

Conforming to His Image, becoming more like God. How?

Read and understand ... that it's about being open to God, allowing Him to reveal His plan to us, not limiting Him to our time restricted understanding, but allowing Him to transform our way of thinking, so we can see His perfect will.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
(Rom 12:2)

Read and understand ... that in answering Daniel, God revealed His plan for mankind until the end, without giving Satan the insight to mess in His plans. We therefore have to read between the lines, and let God open the secret to us,

the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God
(Eph 3:9)

... which will open and explain the way the ages and times fit together.

3. Daniel's prophesy (Seventy weeks of years!)

Read and understand the words and times spoken of and hidden in the prophesy!

²⁰ *Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me*

about the time of the evening offering. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. "At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

²⁴ *"Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.*

²⁵ *"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times." And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

²⁷ *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."*
(Dan 9:20–27)

In this prophesy God showed Daniel a period of time, seventy weeks, that was determined for the nation of Israel, from the time of restoring Israel to their city, Jerusalem, until the very end, when sin will be removed and man is restored, in everlasting righteousness unto God. So to understand and interpret the prophesy we need to understand the weeks and the four time periods that are referred to.

What time or times are being spoken of?

Verse 24 begins with the 2 Hebrew words:

“shabuwa” meaning sevened (x7) (of weeks, or of years)

“shibiyim” meaning seventy

Which in essence means “Seventy Sevens of Years” or 490 years

So 490 years is the time span of the prophesy,

How are those 490 years divided?

(see also graphic layout on pages 54 & 55)

Beginning again at verse 24, God reveals that there would be a 490 year time span from the restoration and rebuilding of Jerusalem until the end of sin is made ... and to anoint the Most Holy to rule and reign. This 490 year time span is divided into 3 very distinct periods in which specific events occur.

By finding out what happens during those periods, and also between them, we will find answers to what has and what is still to happen, before the end comes.

Verse 25 refers to 2 time periods

7 weeks and
62 weeks which equals 69 weeks.

Verse 27 refers to a 1 week period which totals 70 weeks.

Verse 26 refers to a number of events that happen after the 62 week period, events that seem to be happening before the final week of verse 27.

Does verse 26 refer to a missing or 4th period of time?

What times or periods do those 3 time spaces cover?

What do they not cover or what do they leave out?

Weeks of years, or time periods that represent the following ...

1. 7 weeks 49 years from the command until Jerusalem is rebuilt and Israel returns
2. 62 weeks 434 years from the dedication of the second temple till Messiah is cut off
3. 1 week 7 years Israel's covenant with antichrist, sacrifices end, abominations, End

With the events of that last week still outstanding, obviously a period of time is missing, as many more years than 490 have passed, so let's find out what's missing.

4. 7 weeks = 49 years (seven weeks of years)

The prophesy starts in the year 445 BC. with the commandment by Artaxerxes the King to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times (Dan 9:25)
And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid, and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?" Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it." Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time. Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, "and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me. (Neh 2:1-8)

This 49 year period of time brings us from 445 BC. to the year 396 BC., by which time the city of Jerusalem had been rebuilt, the temple had been rebuilt, the exiles had returned, and the rebuilt temple was dedicated.

(The books of Ezra & Nehemia)

This part of the prophesy and the actual happenings during that time, line up perfectly, so we are assured that our interpretation of the prophesy, so far, is correct, so we can continue and see if the next period also substantiates our interpretation.

5. 62 weeks = 434 years

The second part of the prophesy covers the period of 434 years, from the year 396 BC. in which the second (rebuilt) Temple was dedicated up to the time of the crucifixion of Jesus in the year AD. 32

*Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem **until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks**; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.*

***And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself**; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

(Dan 9:25–26)

Again in this case, the prophecy and the actual happenings line up perfectly, again confirming our interpretation. Jesus, the Messiah came as was prophesied, and the Messiah was cut off, as prophesied. but not for Himself. Although all the Jews did not accept him, Messiah was cut off for and on behalf of all of mankind.

Already here in this prophesy, God was careful not to reveal too much, and made sure that Satan did not understand His plan and the redemptive death.

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

(1 Cor 2:7-8)

Praise God that He kept that sacrificial death a secret and that Jesus **was** crucified for us, for our salvation ...

666. 1 week = 7 years

Eventually only a week, a 7 year period remains, and obviously a very important period of time!

“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.” (Dan 9:26–27)

This 7 year period deals with what is written in the book of Revelation and refers to the Antichrist who is to come and who will make a covenant with Israel to gain their support, by allowing sacrificial offerings again. Half way through, after 3½ years he breaks that covenant, which we will deal with later, but what we need to know or answer at this point, is ...

Has this time already occurred?

As many more than 7 years have passed since Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection, and therefore would seem that this time period has not yet passed. Already during the 1st Century AD. this question came up, and the 1st Century Church asked the same question, and got this answer ...

*Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. **Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*** (2 Thess 2:1–4)

This week or 7 year period has not yet occurred, and is still to come, which lines up with our assumption in chapter 2 on the Ages, that the Jewish Age, the dispensation of the Law, to which this prophesy refers, was interrupted.

What interrupted it?

That which also followed Jesus’ death ... The Church Age.

That interruption in the Jewish age is nothing else than the Church Age, which is dealt with in the New Testament, and covers the time from Jesus' crucifixion until the Antichrist's rule, which is also the time in which the Church is active. Obviously the Church age will end sometime, at which point the Jewish age would again start and the last 7 years would be completed, but whilst the Church remains, there is a hold on the last week of Daniel's prophesy.

7. A time between?

Looking at those 2 verses in Daniel again

*And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off,
but not for Himself; **and the people** (world)
of the prince who is to come . (antichrist)
shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.
*The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end
of the war desolations are determined.* (Dan 9:26–27)*

With the exception of the Antichrist who is still to come, this period seems to deal with a time in-between, in-between the 62 weeks and the last 1 week.

We also know that Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed in the year 70AD., after the 62 week period. In hindsight therefore, that mystery Paul spoke about, and the time between Christ's death and His return, the Church Age, the time of the Gentile, is really not so difficult to understand.

Praise God that 70th week is still to come ...

A break in time, and then ... all hell breaks loose!

*Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;
(Israel's covenant with Antichrist)*
***But in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice
and offering.*** (sacrifice still to be restored)
(Antichrist breaks covenant)
*And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,
even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on
the desolate."* (Dan 9:26–27)
(people forced to worship image of beast, – Revelations)

An overview.

1. The End Time

The end time is the time period in which the final events of major importance, preceding the return of Jesus, take place both on earth and in heaven. The culmination of all these events and prophesies, as described in the Book of Revelation, take place over a 7 year period. A period, as we have learnt, was also spoken of by the prophet Daniel, (Daniel Ch. 9) and prophesied by Jesus in Matthew chapter 24.

This time is often referred to as the Tribulation period.

To help our understanding and to give us a clearer picture of the times, ages and events, let us sketch these time periods and related activities and happenings graphically, and in chronological order, so as to find a clear sequence of events and path through time.

2. The Times of the End Time

Starting with the book of Daniel, following the sequence of events that covers the entire period of time from the exile of Israel in Babylon, to the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple, the coming of the Messiah, the Church age, and up to and including the return of Jesus, concluding with the establishing of the new earth, the new heaven and the new Jerusalem, as referred to at the end of the Book of Revelation in chapters 21 & 22.

This entire period, already some 2500 years in duration, that spans 3 Ages and at least 7 very distinct time periods or activities, will become clearer in the graphic representation displayed below. A representation that should be referred to throughout this study, as it both completes and simplifies the full picture.

We start with highlighting the overall ages, then the times or time periods within those ages, focusing finally on the events within those time periods.

The three Ages:

- A. The Age of the Law – Dispensation of Mercy
(Jewish Age)
- B. The Age of the Church – Dispensation of Grace
(Church Age)
- C. The Kingdom of heaven – God's rule on earth.

To enable us to understand the ages and the times or time periods, we begin at the beginning of the prophecy, with Daniel, and go chronologically through the ages and times. Although the exact time that Daniel entreated God about this subject is not known, it was around 550 BC., therefore the actual events in Daniel's prophesy start about 100 years afterwards.

The times within the ages:

A. The Age of the Law (Mercy):

- 1. 445 BC. King Artaxerxes' commandment to restore Jerusalem.
- 2. 396 BC. – 32 AD. Dedication of the Temple up to the Crucifixion of Jesus

B. The Church Age (Grace):

- 3. 32 AD. – ??? From Jesus' resurrection up to His appearing.

A. The Age of the Law (Mercy): (continued)

- 4. ??? + 7years The tribulation (The book of Revelation – Daniel's 70th week).
Jesus' triumphant return!

C. The Kingdom of Heaven:

- 5. Millennium Church reigns with Jesus for 1000 years on earth – Satan is bound for this time.
- 6. Satan released For a short while (Rev. 20:3)
- 7. The Kingdom of God The new earth, the new heaven, and the new Jerusalem.

3. Jesus' and Daniel's prophecies.

Daniel lived around the 6th century BC.

... was deported to Babylon as a teenager in 605 BC.

... lived in Babylon for over 60 years up to approx. 540 BC.

During this time he asked God what would happen to His people Israel, and when Israel would be released out of their bondage in Babylon and return to their own land. God answered Daniel by giving him a total overview of all of Israel's future, from that time of captivity in Babylon until God's Kingdom is finally established. A kingdom as we learnt in chapter 3, that is called the Kingdom of Heaven.

Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.

(Dan. 9:24)

This is the time that God determined for the rest of the Jewish Age from the beginning of the prophesy until God's Kingdom or the Kingdom of Heaven is finally established, when Jesus returns to rule and reign on earth.

Seventy weeks of years, or 70 x 7 year periods.

$$7 \times 70 = 490 \text{ years.}$$

This time or this age spans a period of 490 years. A time period, as described above, that began in 445 BC. and is still to be completed. This time period or the Age of the Law (the Jewish Age) is interrupted by the cutting off of the Messiah, and inside of this Jewish Age, (before the Kingdom of Heaven is established) there is a gap or a break in time which is filled by the Church Age.

Let's put this all together in one picture – (a chronological illustration)

In our chronological illustration on the next pages, we will highlight the overall events and ages, with scriptural references, dates and times that refer to those ages or events, so as to give a clearer picture of it all.

Daniel's prophesy to the Kingdom of Heaven

DANIEL *Dan 9:25*

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, **there shall be seven weeks**

and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

Dan 9:26

And after the sixty-two weeks

Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;

Matt 24:34

Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

Dan 9:26

and **the people of the prince who is to come** shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. **32 AD.**

Eph 3:1-11

if indeed you have heard of the **dispensation of the grace** of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me **the mystery** (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

445 BC.

King Artaxerxes' commandment to restore Jerusalem.

7 weeks = 49 yrs.

396 BC.

Dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem

Until Messiah the Prince

62 weeks = 434 yrs.

Messiah is cut off
32 AD.

The crucifixion of Jesus

From Jesus' resurrection until His appearing

49 years

434 years

Church Age / Grace

Jewish Age / Law / Mercy

which **in other ages was not made known** to the sons of men,

Matt 24:36

But of that day and hour no one Knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

Dan 9:27

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many **for one week**;

but **in the middle of the week** he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”

Rev 19:11–

Rev 20:1–6

they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev 21:1–27

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.

Rev 22:1–5

And they shall reign forever and ever.

Time span unknown

only the Father knows

??? AD.

1 week = 7 yrs

??? AD. + 7 years

The Tribulation

The 7 years are divided into 2 x 3 1/2 year periods

Jesus returns in Victory

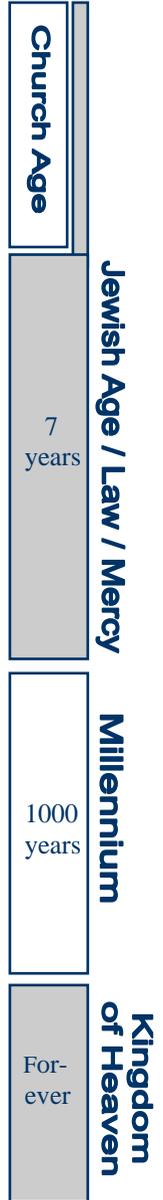
Satan is bound

The Millennium

Jesus reigns with His saints

Great White Throne Judgement

God's Kingdom totally restored



Are all these times and calculations correct? – (for the sharp ones)!

Well if you were clever and calculated the years and times yourself, you would have come up with what would seem to be a 6 year discrepancy in the calculation of the 62 weeks or 434 years (62×7).

62 weeks of years =

434 years are the years from 396 BC. to 32 AD.

yet if you calculate the difference between 396 BC–32 AD

you come up to $(396 + 32 =) 428$

and not 434 as Daniel prophesied.

What happened to the 6 years. Is the entire calculation and prophecy incorrect?

How can there be such a discrepancy?

If you came to that discrepancy, then you made the same mistake I made, which was to use our normal year at 365 days, instead of using a year of 360 days, as used in both the Book of Daniel and also in the Book of Revelation.

This 360-day year comes from the old Israeli year, which had 12 months, and each month began with the new moon, which meant that a month had 30 days.

$30 \times 12 = 360$ days per year. (so easy)

The 7 year period in the Book of Revelation (which we deal with in chapter 8) is calculated the same way, and is a total of 2520 days or 7 x 360 day years, made up of 2 x 42 month periods or 2 x 1260 days

(Rev 11:2–3, 12:6, 12:14, 13:5)

434 years at 360 days each, must equal, 428 years at 365 days each.

$434 \times 360 = 156240$ days

$428 \times 365 = 156220$ days

Without knowing the exact day of the month this begins or ends,
... that's exact.

The question now is ... When will this time between end?
Is something hindering the end time?
Is something restraining the Antichrist?

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then **the end will come**. (Matt 24:14)

Why is the end not here yet? Is something holding it back?
When will the tribulation start?
Have those 7 years not passed already?
Maybe Jesus has already come?

Strange questions? Not at all, for those are the same questions the Church in Thessalonica, asked of Paul, and in his answer and the rest of his writings, we find insight as to why it has not already happened and when approximately when it will happen!

1. Has Christ already come a second time?

The Christians in Thessalonica had been told, probably by some who had heard and believed the lies spread by people like Hymenaeus and Philetus, about Christ’s return. They had no understanding of God’s full plan, but limited God to their own understanding, as Paul warned Timothy....

But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. (2 Tim 2:16–18)

Stories that Jesus had already come and that all who would be saved were already gone, troubled the Thessalonican Christians, prompting them to ask Paul ...

Has Christ already come and the resurrection already occurred?

In answering them, Paul wrote the following ...

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in

mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.
(2 Thess 2:1-4)

Paul told them that the day of Christ (when Christ returns victoriously to rule) will not come until there is a major turning away from God. This occurs at the same time as the rise of the Antichrist, who will take control on earth, exalting himself above God, forcing everyone on earth to worship the beast.

In chapter 8 we will cover this in detail, but know this says Paul, the End Time, the Tribulation is not yet, neither has Christ returned nor the resurrection taken place.

2. Is something holding this (the Antichrist) back?

The 7 years of tribulation, the last week of Daniel's prophesy, is the remaining period of the Jewish Age, or the dispensation of God's Mercy, which ends with Jesus' triumphant return to rule and reign on earth.

This 7 year period is also the time of the Antichrist's rule on earth, which has not started as the Antichrist has not yet come. The question therefore arises...

... is anything holding the arrival or rule of the Antichrist back?

Paul continues by telling the Thessalonians that someone is restraining the Antichrist ...

who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

(2 Thess. 2:4-8)

Someone is restraining the Antichrist from coming, and only when He who restrains is taken out of the way, will the Antichrist be able to take control. Furthermore Paul also says that the “mystery of lawlessness is already at work” and therefore whatever is holding this lawlessness in check or restraining it from taking control, is what or who is restraining the Antichrist’s appearance.

This we find in another “mystery” which we looked at before ...

by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 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: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, (Eph 3:4–6)

And that mystery is the Church, or the Body of Christ, that is holding lawlessness in check or in balance, stopping it from doing what it wants, and thereby restraining the Antichrist.

How is the Church doing this?

What enables the Church to do this?

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith— (Rom 16:25–26)

Who is He who is able to establish us?

Who is the He of 2 Thess. 2:7?

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – (John 14:16)

Who is He who is in us, the Body of Christ that restrains the Antichrist?
The Holy Spirit!

How is the Holy Spirit accomplishing this?

3. The Holy Spirit – in us!

How is the Holy Spirit restraining the Antichrist, and why was this such a mystery?

Who is the Antichrist?

Quite simply an individual, who is possessed by Satan, so much so that one can say it is Satan himself that we are talking about.

What about the mysteries?

The mysteries were simply there to keep Satan in the dark so that he could not mess with God's plan of redemption!

As we said before, Satan would not have crucified Jesus if he had known this to be God's plan,

and that this innocent death would be the seal of Satan's defeat, whilst at the same time being the salvation and restoration of man.

*But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; **for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.***

But as it is written:

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has **revealed them to us through His Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*
(1 Cor 2:7–10)

And that is also the mystery or secret to the restraining of the Antichrist! Jesus was crucified so that God could release His power on earth, and that same power that raised Jesus from the dead, is in us, is the Holy Spirit Himself, is the secret, the mystery kept secret ...
... now revealed.

*that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the **exceeding greatness of His power***

toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
(Eph 1:17–20)

Remember though that there are still 7 years of the Age of the Law to come, when the Church, the Body of Christ, which the Holy Spirit indwells, leaves this earth temporarily, only then is the way open, and is it possible for so much darkness to manifest on earth, because ...

*You are the light of the world.
A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.* (Matt 5:14)

Where light is, darkness has to flee, so when light is not there, darkness has free reign, and can do as it pleases, whilst it is unhindered. When the Church leaves, the light that it is to the world also leaves. The Church does not lose its light, it just takes it along!

What or who is restraining the Antichrist ...
... stopping the tribulation period, the end time period from starting?

The Holy Spirit in us, in the Church of Jesus Christ.

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached
in all the world as a witness to all the nations,
and then **the end will come.** (Matt 24:14)*

The end has come!

How will this affect the world?

How will this affect the Church of Jesus Christ?

Who will go through the tribulation?

Which time or age does the rapture fit into?

The time has come to face the tribulation and to see how the Prophecy of Daniel, what Jesus said in Matthew chapter 24 and the Revelation of Jesus Christ (the book of Revelation), all fit together to make one complete picture. And of course to see what the tribulation really is all about.

If there is one misconception that needs to be cleared up and removed, then it is the idea that the tribulation time is or was God's idea. God never has such ideas, so why then is God so directly involved in the happenings of this period?

The outpouring of God's wrath is only in response to Satan and man's rejection of and opposition to God, and is not primarily directed at mankind.

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
(2 Pet 3:9)

Our God is a good God and He is patient with us, yet when the time has come to unite His children with Himself again, judgement comes!

One other very interesting fact which should be noted, is that with the end of the Church Age, the day and hour of the return of Jesus is known ...

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.
(Matt 24:36)

And from the start of the 7 year Tribulation period, the time and times afterwards are known, ie. 7 years, 1000 years, forever...

1. Tribulation (Daniel's 70th week)

The End Time, the Tribulation or Daniel's 70th week, are all names or terms for a 7 year period on earth when all hell breaks loose.

It is the time ...

- ... in which the Antichrist rules on earth.
- ... in which the world or Babylonian system, controls the world.
- ... of God's judgement in which He pours out His wrath on earth.

It is the 7 year period of tribulation on earth that Jesus spoke about in Matthew.

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.
(Matt 24:21)

When does the tribulation period start?

The tribulation period goes hand in hand with the Antichrist's appearance and take-over on earth, which happens during the last week of Daniel's prophesy. This means that with the ending of the Church Age, the Age of the Law or the Jewish Age can continue and so fulfil that prophesy, as we discovered before. Two ages cannot run simultaneously, so the one must end to make place for the other to complete its course.

How do we know that it is 7 years?

One week of Daniel's prophesy of 70 weeks of years = 7 years.

The Book of Revelations is more than a book on its own, so we will not go into the events of the end time in detail, but rather look at the happenings and this period with reference to our three main sources of reference ...

Daniel Matthew 24 The Book of Revelations.
... concentrating more on the overall implications thereof and the effect this time and the events have on mankind in general.

2. Daniel

Daniel's prophesy as we saw before, covers the entire Age of the Law, the dispensation of God's Mercy or the Jewish Age, from Daniel's time until the very end of that Age, when God pours out His wrath on earth and Jesus' triumphant return to rule and reign on earth. In that prophesy, Daniel refers to that last week or 7 years, and gives us an overview of the major events that highlight and largely influence this period.

And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;

(Jesus crucified, ascends to heaven)

and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

(the time from the resurrection to the Antichrist)

The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;

(Israel and Antichrist)

(Sacrifice is restored)

but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

(Antichrist breaks covenant)

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."

(Dan 9:26-27)

(God's wrath poured out – the beast – Revelations)

In his prophesy, Daniel gives the clearest overview, except that he does not cover the Church Age, but all the events around it. Firstly, Daniel tell us when Jesus comes the first time, and also exactly when Jesus or the Messiah would be cut-off (crucified) which to us today is basically history.

Although Daniel does not refer to the Church Age, he does actually tell us of some of the happenings such as the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and also the Temple (Dan 9:26).

Daniel then continues to tell us of some of the major events of the Tribulation period, (the last week) whilst also showing that this 7 year period will be divided into 2 halves, with very different conditions applying.

We will find the events of those 2 periods fully detailed in the Book of Revelation, but Daniel gives us an overview in verse 27 of what we can expect to find in the Book of Revelation. The treachery of the Antichrist, first drawing the people (Israel) into his camp, into an unholy alliance, then in total deceit turning right around, breaking his word and forcing them into subjection. Daniel goes on to mention the abominations that will occur that will make the earth desolate, until the culmination of it all in the wrath that will be poured out on the desolate.

Although there is not much detail in Daniel's prophesy, there is enough to give us a clear outline of these important pieces of information and confirmation ...

The tribulation period covers 7 years.

The tribulation period is made up of 2 x 3 1/2 years periods.

3. Jesus' prophesies (in the Gospels).

In the Gospels we find a number of references to the End Time period, mainly because the Jews wanted to know when their Age would end, when the Messiah would finally come, and thus when the Messiah's kingdom would be established. Jesus' response to them, specifically dealt with those questions, and unless one bears that in mind, the picture becomes unclear.

The context to bear in mind is simply this ...

... the Jewish Age was about to be interrupted,
yet the things prophesied were for that Age.

Although Jesus' prophesy in Matthew 24 is very comprehensive, it is always profitable and scriptural to have more than one witness. So in pursuit of that let's look a bit further in Matthew and Luke.

*The queen of the South will **rise up in the judgement with this generation and condemn it**, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.*

*“Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. **So shall it also be with this wicked generation.**”* (Matt 12:38–45)

***So it will be at the end of the age.** The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just,* (Matt 13:47–49)

*Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, Assuredly, I say to you, **all these things will come upon this generation.*** (Matt 23:33–36)

“And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. “But not a hair of your head shall be lost. “By your patience possess your souls. “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. “Then let those in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.

“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

“Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. “For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

*“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.”* (Luke 21:17–36)

Most of what Jesus said in Matthew 24 is reiterate, confirming what is to happen, and the repeated references to “this generation” also only serves to confirm whom Jesus is talking to, who will be directly affected by these happenings and therefore which Age it pertains to, the Jewish Age (the Law).

Through all of this, God is warning us that it will be bad for those on earth during that time, yet there seems to be a ray of hope ... pray... **pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things** that will come to pass!

What is ahead in the tribulation period, is TROUBLE, in every sense of the word. But let us allow Jesus to speak for Himself:

Matthew 24:3–36 Jesus' prophesy

³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, **when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**" And Jesus answered and said to them: "**Take heed that no one deceives you.** "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

1) The time just before the tribulation period.

⁶ **And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.** See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, **but the end is not yet.**

For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be **famines, pestilences, and earthquakes** in various places.

All these are the beginning of sorrows.

2) Beginning of the tribulation period, first 3¹/₂ yrs.

⁹ Then they will deliver **you up to tribulation and kill you,** and **you will be hated by all nations** for My name's sake. And then **many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.** Then **many false prophets will rise up** and deceive many.

And because **lawlessness will abound,** the **love of many will grow cold.** But **he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and **then the end will come.**

3) Midst of the tribulation period, second 3¹/₂ yrs.

¹⁵ *“Therefore when you see the ‘**abomination of desolation,**’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), (Daniel’s prophesy) “then let **those who are in Judea.** (The Jews) **flee to the mountains** (Rev. 12)*

“Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. “And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. “But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! “And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

*“**For then there will be great tribulation,** such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. “**For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.** “See, I have told you beforehand. “Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it.*

4) Jesus returns in victory

²⁷ *For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. “For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. “Immediately after the tribulation of those days **the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.***

*Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then **all the tribes of the earth** will mourn, and they **will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.** “And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

³⁴ *“Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.***

*“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. **“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”***

Jesus gave his disciples, that generation who was asking Him about the end time, an overview of what was going to happen at the end of that Age, during the last week of Daniel’s prophesy, the 7 year tribulation period. Starting with the period just before the tribulation period, is a time which in more ways than one resembles the times in which we live today. How topical that is I leave up to you, except to point out the following words of Jesus ...

Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near – at the doors! *Matt 24:32–33*

Matthew 24 relates a private teaching by Jesus in answer to His disciples’ questions about the destruction of the Temple, His return and the End. In Jesus’ answer, because it is prophetic in nature, the near and far future are interwoven and His answer is in essence a summary of the Book of Revelation, starting from chapter 6 through to chapter 19.

In the following overview of the book of Revelation, which is more than a book of its own, the intention is not to attempt to explain the contents of the book, but to touch on and highlight that which will enlarge the end time picture for us. As it says in Revelation 1:3, blessed is he who reads and hears or understands the words of the prophesy, of the book of Revelation, which is the only intention in highlighting some of its contents.

It is not an easy book, for it refers to terrible times to come, times that will be so terrible that if they were not shortened, no one would survive. That is why Jesus warned mankind about it, both during His time on earth and in His revelation to John.

4. The Book of Revelation

Revelation chapters 1, 2 & 3 describe 7 churches, which reflect man's or the Church's state in the world, then and today. God shows them their strengths and their weaknesses, warning them of the danger in their situation, and true to His character, God shows them the way out of their folly into restoration. Although this would apply to the Church in general, it specifically is End Time related. God's warning to the Church comes just before He reveals the full impact of the end times on mankind, and in the same vein as Jesus' words in Luke 21:36, God is offering a way of being reconciled with Him and of escaping the tribulation.

Revelation chapters 4 & 5 continue with a description of heaven at or during the time of the beginning of the tribulation. Revelation is written chronologically and therefore facilitates the correct placing of events before, during and after the tribulation period. One event or picture described in chapter 5 and in verse 11, is the group of people present in heaven at that time, at the beginning of the tribulation period. (but more about that later).

What we will point out though is the "scroll", God's full redemptive plan, which is sealed with seven seals. They must first be broken before the scroll can be finally read, and that is where we pick up our overview of Revelation.

Revelation 6, 7 & 8 reveal the 7 seals:

First $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Tribulation.

Beginning of first $3\frac{1}{2}$ years or 42 months of the tribulation period

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|--|
| 6.1 | The first seal: | Conqueror on the white horse,
International power politics,
counterfeit Christ. |
| 6.3 | The second seal: | Red horse, bringing conflict,
civil war, strife on earth,
taking peace from the earth. |
| 6.5 | The third seal: | Black horse, scales represent planned
economic disruption,
inflation and scarcity. |

- 6.7 The fourth seal: Pale horse and on it sat Death, and Hades followed. Widespread death on earth.
- 6.9 The fifth seal: Under the altar, the souls and testimony of those who were slain.
- 6.12 The sixth seal: Natural & cosmic disturbances.
(Matt 24:29, Luke 21:25) Sun, Moon, Stars.
- 8.1 The seventh seal: The **seven trumpets** announcing severe judgement on earth.

Revelation 8, 9 & 10 deal with the 7 trumpets:

- 8.7 First trumpet $\frac{1}{3}$ of vegetation burnt.
- 8.8 The second trumpet $\frac{1}{3}$ of sea turns to blood,
 $\frac{1}{3}$ of creatures / ships.
- 8.10 The third trumpet $\frac{1}{3}$ of rivers and springs become bitter.
- 8.12 The fourth trumpet $\frac{1}{3}$ of heavens, Sun, Moon & stars
darkened
- 9.1 The fifth trumpet Bottomless pit opened,
locusts to torment man.
- 9.12 **Sorrows (woes)** *End of the first woe (grief or sorrows)*
- 9.13 The sixth trumpet 4 Angels released to kill $\frac{1}{3}$ of mankind

Revelation 11 – 19 the Antichrist, false prophet and the beast:

Second $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Tribulation

Beginning of second 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years or 42 months of the tribulation period

- 11.7 The 2 witnesses, killed and resurrected
- 11.14 *End of the second woe.
Third woe for those who destroy the earth.*
- 11.15 The seventh trumpet The Kingdom of God proclaimed
- 12.6 The Woman (Israel) the Child (Christ) the Dragon (Satan)
The converted Jews during the tribulation period
refer Matthew 24:16 and Luke 21:21

Revelation 21 & 22 All things are made new:

21.1 New heavens and a new earth.
21.9 New Jerusalem
22.1 River of life.

This is a short overview of the major events, some of which we will still elaborate on.

In closing this overview, it is interesting to note that Revelation ends very much the same way as it began:

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book:

If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

He who testifies to these things says,

“Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Rev 22:18–21

We have seen or heard much about the end time, and I am sure that most readers would like to get out of here before that happens, and it would seem as if there could be some hope of that.

But before anything is going to happen, we best be getting on with what Jesus is expecting us to be busy with ...

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then **the end will come.***
(Matt 24:14)

Well the end is about to be, and as we saw in the previous chapter, a terrible end to what had started so perfect in the Garden of Eden.

What was God's intention when He created man and placed him on the earth?

Genesis 1:28 tells us that God blessed man, empowering him to prosper and at the same time He gave him dominion on earth.

However, man messed up God's plan!

Yet the Bible also tells us that God does not change, so what is God's plan for His man at the end, in this end time, in this tribulation period?

How will the end affect the Church of Jesus Christ?

Will the Church go through the tribulation?

Or will the Church be raptured?

If yes, when will it happen?

What is rapture in any case?

Not to lose our perspective, we need to recap the main points that surround the whole question of the end time.

**1. When is the Tribulation?
The Generation Game – How does the Church Age end?**

A. *The Age of the Law, Dispensation of mercy, or the Jewish Age!*

We spoke about 2 time zones, or Ages

The Church Age (Grace) ... & ... **The Age of the Law** (Mercy)
The Church or Gentiles *Israel or the Jews*

Although there are veiled references to the Church, both Jesus and Daniel avoided any direct reference to the existence of the Church in their dealings and prophecies over the end time and the tribulation period, as we saw in the gospel according to Matthew and the book of Daniel. But from their prophecies we can gather the following information:

Jesus was specifically speaking to the Jews ...
... to a generation, a complete Age.

Daniel's prophesy, which Jesus was careful to refer to, put the time before Jesus' crucifixion and the time after His second appearance, together, linking the last week directly to the Jewish Age, thus those 7 years are the last 7 years of the Age of the Law, or Jewish Age.

Both Jesus and Daniel concentrated on the Jewish Age,
Last 7 years ... v.15
 Daniel's prophesy (70 weeks of years)
Those in Judea ... v.16
 those in Judea flee to the mountains.
The Jews ... v.34
 that generation (within 30 years)

So we know the happenings of the Jewish Age, but?

What happened to the Church?

**Where is the Church during the last 7 years
that Jesus and Daniel spoke about?**

B. *The Church Age, or the dispensation of Grace*

When did the Church Age start?

When Jesus was taken up into the clouds ...

... after His first appearing!

Or one can say, when Jesus was raptured!

And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven
(Luke 24:50)

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."
(Acts 1:1-11)

Jesus was taken up into heaven, or raptured, from the presence of an intimate group, His followers, and what the 2 men in white apparel said specifically to that group, is very important.

This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Who were the men in white apparel speaking to?
Jesus’ followers or disciples, whom we know as ...

The Church!

Where are we now in time, in time as it relates to the prophecies of both Jesus and Daniel. Looking specifically at Daniel, we are right at the end of the 69th week of Daniel’s prophesy. This means that the Jewish Age was put on hold, the secret revealed and the Church Age had begun.

What we want or need to know now is simply this:

When will the Church Age end?

Verse 11 of chapter 1 in the book of Acts seems to indicate that the Church Age will end in the same way that it started.

With the promises of Jesus’ second appearing,
where only His disciples, the Church, will see Him!

One last Secret!

We have been reading about Jesus returning, coming back or appearing again around the end time. The question arises, is this all one event or is there more than one appearance or coming of Jesus during this End Time period?

YES! There most certainly will be two events that are very distinct from one another ...

... Jesus returns and only some see Him!

... Jesus returns and everyone will see Him!

Acts indicates that Jesus will return the way He left, which was not openly but witnessed only by His followers, the Church.

Is this when Jesus returns for the Church?

*“Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven?
This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will
so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”*

(Acts 1:11)

The book of Revelation refers to a public event ...
... when every eye will see Him return.

Is this when He returns to rule?

*... from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from
the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him
who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,
and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to
Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold,
**He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even
they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will
mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. “I am the Alpha and
the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who
is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”***

(Rev 1:5–8)

What happens when Jesus appears “In like manner ...?”
When and how does Jesus return to rule ...?

There is a time in between, which time seems to be the Tribulation period!

From studying the prophesies of Jesus and Daniel, it becomes evident that
the Church is not present during the tribulation period.

First the Church or Church Age was not mentioned ...
... because it was a secret!

Then during the tribulation the Church is again not referred to!
Why not?

Because it was no longer there!
Simple! sure, but let’s substantiate it

2. Jesus' appearance or coming, for His Church! THE RAPTURE!

To fully understand the events and happenings during and around the end times, we need to understand the activities of the Church during this time, as well as the importance or influence of the Church in and on those events, particularly in the last days.

We found that something is restraining the arrival or inauguration of the Antichrist, and established that it is the Holy Spirit who indwells the Christians who is doing the restraining. In other words, it is the Church that stops the Antichrist from taking control.

How is the Church doing that?

The Church is restraining the arrival of the Antichrist in two ways ...

We, the Church ...

... are the light of the world, pushing darkness back.

We, the Church ...

... have the Holy Spirit in us, who is the power behind that light.

For the end to come, and for the tribulation period to start, the Antichrist must be revealed, he must be inaugurated and allowed to take control here on earth, as we saw in Daniel 9, in Matthew and in the book of Revelation. So it is obvious that something is going to have to happen to that restraint, it is going to have to be removed, it is going to have to be taken out of the way.

How will the restraint be removed?

The restraint will be removed by taking what is causing the restraining out of the way. And seeing that it is the Holy Spirit's influence indwelling the Christians, they will have to be removed, which means that the Church will have to be removed!

Is there another option?

No!

*Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and **our gathering together to Him**, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the **day of Christ** had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless **the falling away comes first**, and the **man of sin is revealed**, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

⁵ *Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now **you know what is restraining**, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only **He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way**.*

(2 Thess 2:1-7)

Starting with verse 7, it is clear that the tribulation period cannot begin until the restraint is removed so that the man of sin is revealed and the separation has happened. To fully understand, let's analyze these 7 verses:

- v.1 Jesus is going to gather us together to Him!
- v.2 The day of Christ is when Jesus returns in victory, which v.3 tells us is right at the end.
- v.3 The falling away comes first!
That word "Apostasia" simply means "separation"
So the first thing that is going to happen is a separation, a separation of or from what? The Church separated from the world, which confirms what v.7 states, the restraint is removed!
- v.3 Now and only now can the man of sin be revealed.
- v.4 And only then can he get on with his dirty work,
- v.6,7 Now unrestrained by the Church, the mystery of lawlessness, that has always been at work, is given full reign.

How is all this going to happen?

How is the Church, the Christians, us, how are we going to leave?

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will 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.

(1 Thess 4:15–17)

Before the Antichrist has a chance to finally implement Satan’s last ditch stand against God, when God will also no longer hold back, but pour out His wrath on those who reject and oppose Him, Jesus is coming for His people, the Church, for us.

Get ready to be caught up to where Jesus is!

3. God’s Character, our hope of “Salvation” our hope of escape!

*Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. “For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. “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.**”*

(Luke 21:32–36)

It seems that God is saying to anyone and everyone who wants to listen, anyone who would take heed, anyone who would get serious with Him, accepting His ways, accepting Jesus’ salvation, that there is a way out, that there is a way to avoid what is coming. It is possible that you may be counted worthy to escape the tribulation. Jesus said “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.**”

You may well say that what Jesus meant was ...
... that we should pray that we die before the time comes ... or
... that we would somehow make it through that terrible time, alive!
That is a thought ...
... but I dare say it is unfounded in scripture! Think again!
There is a scripture that leaves no doubt as to what God's plan and
character are!

*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to
destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they
may have it more abundantly.* (John 10:10)

Jesus made it clear enough, and neither He nor God are about to change!
Who escapes the tribulation? The ones that accept God's
abundance! Those are the serious ones! The ones willing to
"watch and pray"
The Church?

Is there proof that this is God's way, that this is His character?
Sure God previously poured out some of His wrath?
And God previously made a way out for His people
And for the very committed ones ...
... God even made special arrangements!!!

*By faith **Enoch** was taken away so that he did not see death,
"and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before
he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But
without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes
to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of
those who diligently seek Him. By faith **Noah, being divinely
warned** of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear,
prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he
condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness
which is according to faith.* (Heb 11:5-7)

*and did not spare the ancient world, **but saved Noah**, one of
eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the
flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of
Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to
destruction, making them an example to those who afterward
would live ungodly; and **delivered righteous Lot**, who was*

*oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) – then **the Lord knows how to deliver the godly** out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,* (2 Pet 2:5-9)

That is God's character, and that is God's way ...
... **GOD IS A GOOD GOD.**

God has never intended or allowed that man be oppressed, except where man refuses to listen to Him or where man insists on going his own way.

As Peter wrote in 2 Peter 2:9, "the Lord knows how to deliver the godly", but there is one condition, it is only for those who desire it!

God knows how to deliver His people.	And He did!
Jesus knows how to deliver His Church!	And He will!

4. Is there proof of the Church in heaven – before Jesus returns to rule?

There certainly is proof and is recorded in the book of Revelation. In chapter 1:3, God instructs us to read and understand, so let's do that ...

*After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and **I will show you things which must take place after this.**"* (Rev 4:1)

Things which are still to happen, afterwards! To be able to place and understand what comes afterwards, we must first see what happens before! As noted earlier, the events or happenings in the book of Revelation are strictly in chronological order, so placing events is not difficult.

Let us look at some of those events, bearing in mind that chapters 1, 2 & 3 reflect the state of the church before the tribulation period, and chapters 4 & 5 describe heaven at the beginning of the tribulation period.

And it is there that we start with what happens in heaven right at the beginning of the tribulation period.

*And **they sang a new song**, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have **made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.**” Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and **the elders**; and the number of them was **ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands**,* (Rev 5:9–11)

Who sang this new song?	Those made kings and priests!
Who were made kings and priests?	The Church!
Where were they singing?	Before God’s throne!
What were they singing?	We shall reign in the future!

At this point in time we find the Christians, that is the Church, in heaven, in front of God’s throne. For that information though to be of any value to us, that is to prove that the Church is in heaven during the tribulation period, we need to find out what happens after this event. In other words, what is still to happen here on earth when the Church is already in heaven, singing praises to God. To answer that let us simply continue in the book of Revelation and see what is still to come!

The Antichrist ruling on earth! (Chapter 6 – onward)

*Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.” And I looked, and behold, a white horse. **He who sat on it had a bow**; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.* (Rev 6:1)

From our overview or study of the book of Revelation, chapter 6 of the book of Revelation starts with the revealing of the Antichrist, which ushers in the 7 years of tribulation. Remember the Church left to make way so that the Antichrist would no longer be restrained. The Church therefore is in heaven, as is here clearly and chronologically proven.

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.
(Rev 1:3)

Whether we are part of that host before God's throne, is up to us.
We have to make a choice!
We have to choose God, and Jesus!!!

No desire to be blessed?

Then don't accept God's Word and go through the tribulation,

Do you want to be blessed?

Read and understand, and act on that knowledge!
And pray that you will endure!

Joshua put it this way!

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
(Rev 1:3)

5. What opens the way for the rapture to happen?

*"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then **the end will come.**"*
(Matt 24:14)

This is a very familiar scripture that I believe has been much misunderstood.

There is work out there to do, and when that has been done, properly, when not simply news, BUT the "good news", the gospel of the kingdom has been preached in all the world, THEN when we have done that, Jesus will come to fetch us. That is when the Church will leave and make place for God to finish off the opposition.

Our Part

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.
(Matt 28:19–20)

Let’s do that and get out of here so God can finish off the work!

What does this group look like that Jesus is coming back for?

The State of the Church

that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
(Eph 5:26-27)

If the gospel does not both change the world and the church, it has not succeeded, for there is a result of the washing by the Word, the Word that goes forth through Jesus’ disciples, the Church.

A Glorious Church,

*“By this My **Father is glorified**, that you bear much fruit; so you will be **My disciples**. “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. “If you keep My commandments, you will **abide in My love**, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. “This is My commandment, that you **love one another** as I have loved you. “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. “You are My friends if you **do whatever I command you**.*
(John 15:8–14)

6. To stay or not to stay, that is the question?

We have learnt in our studies so far that Satan cannot simply go around doing as he pleases, well certainly not whilst we, the Church, and the Holy Spirit Who is in us, are here and are calling the shots. It may not always look like it, but we must realise, that victory is in our hands, not because of us but it is entrusted to us, in Jesus.

Right in the beginning, in Genesis, God blessed Adam and said to him to be fruitful and multiply, subdue on earth what needs to be subdued, and to reign for Him on earth. Jesus came and told the Church much the same, and instructed the Church to subdue and reign here on earth in the Spiritual realm! We should live victoriously here on earth, and it is our presence, the presence of the Church, which restrains the Antichrist. What does this mean here on earth?

The Antichrist cannot take control whilst there is a restraint!
The restraint will not be removed whilst the Church is around!
The Church will stay until Jesus can come for it!

Whether you stay or you go is simply dependent on this!
Are you part of the Church, part of the Glorious Church?
If not, then become part of the Glorious Church, busy doing what you should be doing, with Jesus, in that place where Jesus can work with you,
So we can grow into that glorious Church He yearns to return for!
So the end can come!
So He can return to rule!
So we can rule with Him!

So heaven can manifest in our midst, and we in it, in Him!!!

7. Will some miss it? Is that a question?

Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,

“but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. “But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’

⁷ *“Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. “And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ “But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ “And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ “But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”*
(Matt 25:1–13)

Are you too busy, too busy with life to be available for Jesus?

Or ...

Is John 15:8–14 becoming a reality in your life?

Judge for yourself?

No one can answer that for you!

The ten virgins all looked the same on the outside,

... God looks on the inside!

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then **the end will come.***
(Matt 24:14)

But praise God that for mankind's sake, Jesus also said:

*And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake **those days will be shortened.***
(Matt 24:22)

What is going to happen once the end has come ...
... once the tribulation period ends?

We have seen what will happen before the End comes, when the Church Age ends with the rapture of the Church.

We have seen that with the removal of the Church, the restraint on the Antichrist will be removed and the 7 years of tribulation begin.

At least one thing that we do know ...
... is that it will all be over within 7 years.

Then what?

What comes with the end of the End?

As we know, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are eternal beings, and the life they have given us is also eternal.

The question therefore remains, where will we be spending eternity?

For us who are alive today, the decision has to be made before the end, for with the end comes a new beginning.

THE BEGINNING OF JESUS' RULE AND REIGN ON EARTH

We previously mentioned Jesus' return to receive His Church to Himself and to remove His Body from the earth, that the Church will not go through the tribulation and the pouring out of God's wrath, which, as we saw is not intended for God's children, but for those who reject and oppose God!

We have looked at different events which make up the End Times.

Jesus coming for His Church!	The Rapture
The Tribulation period taking its course.	
Jesus' return with His Church	In victory, to rule and reign.

Question ?

With all of what is happening, particularly during these 7 years of hell on earth, the question arises,

Where will the Church be during this time?

What exactly is happening in heaven whilst the earth is under the direct and severe rule of the Antichrist, the False Prophet and the Beast, and whilst God pours out His wrath on those who have rejected Him?

Life in heaven does not come to a stand still, simply watching the happenings on earth!

So, what will the Church be doing during those 7 years in heaven?

Then there is also the thought or question about Jesus' second return to earth, and how this coming or return of Jesus' to conquer, rule and reign on earth will differ from His return for His Church?

Is there a difference?

Should there be a difference?

And finally, what happens in heaven and on earth, and with the Church or His Saints, when Jesus returns to rule and reign?

Again let's do what God instructs ...

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.
(Rev 1:3)

1. Where will the Church be during the Tribulation ?

As we found out in the book of Revelation in chapter 5, during the tribulation period, the Church will be in heaven around the throne of God, praising and worshipping Him, singing a new song unto Jesus, “You are worthy...”

*And **they sang a new song**, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have **made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.**” Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and **the elders**; and the number of them was **ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands**,*
(Rev 5:9–11)

2. What will the Church be doing in heaven!

In Ephesians chapter 5, God gives us instructions regarding the relationship in and principles of marriage, and says to us that this is a picture of Christ and the Church, and that this relationship with Jesus prepares the Church to be received by Jesus unto Himself ...

that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
(Eph 5:26-27)

Then as we continue to read in Matthew, and continue with chapter 25, immediately after Jesus taught on the End Time, Jesus continues and makes this comparison ...

Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
(Matt 25:1)

An interesting story, and when one considers that Jesus did not teach in chapter and verse, but that the divisions were made by the translators, it is

clear that this parable fits in exactly where Jesus spoke it, right there at the beginning of the tribulation period when Jesus returns for His Bride.

*Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and **our gathering together to Him**, we ask you,
(2 Thess. 2:1-7)*

Jesus is coming for His bride!
Jesus is coming to gather us together to Him!

God is good and He does not want His children to go through the tribulation, and takes the bride from earth during this time. However, this does not mean that we are simply going to be spectators in heaven, waiting for 7 years to pass? Something is about to take place ...

3. The Wedding feast!

2 Thessalonians chapter 2 tells that the Church is gathered together to Jesus, and as we continue to read in the Book of Revelation, in chapter 19, the events that occur in heaven during this time are described for us ...

*And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, **for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.**" And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."
(Rev 19:6-9)*

We are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.
The Church has made herself ready, the time for the marriage supper of the Lamb has come, and Jesus has fetched His bride ...
... for the Marriage supper of the Lamb!
... in preparation for the Marriage of the Lamb!

A seven year feast is about to begin.

When Jesus came the first time, He said this to us, “*I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*” He came to bring abundant life to all that would receive it. Then He comes again for His bride, before the trouble starts, confirming that abundant life, to those who choose Him. Of course those who do not, will on their own decision be left behind.

God is a good God and does not want that anyone should perish, but those who only decide once the party has begun, will miss the good part. Jesus warned us in the parable of the ten virgins, to not only make sure that we are on the guest list by accepting Him as Lord, but also to ready when the Groom comes for His bride!

Now, if this heavenly banquet occurs during the tribulation period, then there must also be proof that Jesus will return to conquer afterwards ...

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

(Rev 19:11–14)

4. Jesus’ return ... to rule! (the day of Christ)

As with any feast, and that includes THE FEAST of feasts, the marriage supper of the Lamb, even this feast has an end. However, the guests will not be going back to where they came from, back to what they was before. No!

The end of this feast is the beginning of something new, the start of great things to come.

The end of this feast is accompanied by a harsh finality on the one side and a glorious beginning on the other side.

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

¹⁹ *And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*
(Rev 19:11–20)

The Battle of Armageddon.

A new day has come, a day promised a long time before, prophesied and referred to by Paul who also wrote to the Thessalonians ...

*Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though **the day of Christ had come.***

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,
(2 Thess 2:1–3)

The rapture has taken place, the marriage supper of the Lamb has taken place, the tribulation and the Antichrist's rule have been established, and now the day that all of creation has been waiting for, for centuries, has come!

The Day of Christ.

The day when **Jesus returns in victory, with His Church!**

The day when **Jesus returns to put an end to Satan's rule!**

The day when **Jesus comes to defeat the Beast and his armies!**

5. Jesus' return, with great power and glory!

Does Jesus' return to conquer, rule and reign, on earth together with His Saints, differ to the time when He comes for His Church, His bride?

We saw that when Jesus ascended to heaven, only His disciples were present, and only they observed His departure, or for that matter, even knew about it ...

who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."
(Acts 1:11)

Keeping in mind that Jesus will return "in the same way", we understand that not everyone will see Him when He returns for His Church.

But when Jesus the "**KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**" returns, not only will everyone see Him but they will know He has come, with great power and glory, and every knee will bow at His presence.

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; "the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in heaven will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. "And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

(Mark 13:24–27)

Not only will everyone see Jesus, but all who opposed Him will be defeated

Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.
(Rev 19:20)

6. Jesus' return, with His Church !

In the book of Revelation chapter 19:19–20 we saw that Jesus returns with His army, that heavenly host of which we read so often and in many places in the Bible, and which is so graphically illustrated for us when Elisha prayed that God would open the eyes of his servant to the spiritual reality surrounding them ...

Therefore he sent horses & chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around. (2 Ki 6:14–17)

This time though there will be no need to ask God to open the people's eyes to see into the spiritual realm, because the spiritual realm will be visible to all ...

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Matt 24:30)

For those who will have rejected Jesus and stood against Him together with the Antichrist, the false prophet and the beast, the sign of the Son of Man appearing, will be a dreadful sight, because of the finality and defeat it means for them.

But for those who will have turned to Jesus during the tribulation period, it will be the sweetest sight imaginable.

THE SAVIOUR COMING WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY!

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. (1Thess 4:17)

Yet that is not all, for scripture tells us that when the Savior comes, the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory, He does not come on His own, but brings His own with Him!

*When Christ who is our life appears, **then you also will appear with Him** in glory. (Col 3:4)
For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even **you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?** (1Thes 2:19)*

The Church, the bride of Christ, His Saints, return with Him, never to be separated again but with this promise.

*This is a faithful saying: for if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him.
If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, he also will deny us (2 Tim 2:11-12)*

Our God is a good God, and He only has good things for us, from the day He created us and blessed us in the Garden of Eden, and His heart has always been this ...

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Pet 3:9)

The 7 years in heaven will be wonderful.

The marriage supper of the Lamb one can only describe by echoing what is written in the Book of Revelation ...

Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"

And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

(Rev 19:9)

During this wonderful time for the Church in heaven, things have not stood still on earth. The beast, the Antichrist and the false prophet had done their best, or rather their worst to oppress and deceive those left on the earth.

Stealing, killing and destroying everything that was left, be it man or matter. Praise God though that God promised man that this time would be shortened, for man's sake ...

And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (Matt 24:22)

The party is over and there are things to be done, it's time for action, and as we learnt in the previous chapter, Jesus had returned triumphantly,

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

The beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, had gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army ...

The beast was captured, and with him the false prophet ...

And they were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

(Rev 19:16–20)

Praise God for that, but one can't but wonder what it will be like on earth.

What was the condition on earth at that time?

We have learnt in our studies that ...

Jesus defeated Satan and his hordes, but are they destroyed?

Some people remained on earth!

Who are those people and how many are there?
Were some redeemed?
Was redemption still possible?

There is no doubt about it, God is a good God and He is not about to change. We also know from the scripture in 2 Peter 3:9, that God wants everyone to receive salvation. God has always been in the people business, always will be, and even after the “End Time” God will still be in the people business!

And I heard another from the altar saying, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”
(Rev 16:7)

God will judge no one until they have had a fair chance!
So let’s see what is still to happen, and how does it happen ?

1. The Millennium – Satan bound for 1000 years

Jesus’ return with power and great glory and the defeat of the satanic hordes, ends in this way ...

*And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.
Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.
And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse.
And all the birds were filled with their flesh.*
(Rev 19:19–21)

In order to know what the earth will be like right after the tribulation period, after Jesus’ triumphant return ...
... we need to have a look at what happens right after the tribulation,
... and we need to see who is around at this time.

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

⁴ *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*

(Rev 20:1–6)

Therefore to understand and to put all these events into perspective, we need to make a quick step of 2000 years back to an event that bears directly on the time that we are busy studying. A step back to when Jesus walked the earth, back to when He spoke about the end time, and in particular to the events around His crucifixion. What we need to realise is that Jesus' victory over Satan does not just take place when He returns after the Tribulation period, but that He already conquered sin and death on the cross of Calvary 2000 years ago, and therefore only needs to enforce that defeat when He returns.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. *(Rom 8:2)*

Jesus, after His resurrection, left the earth victoriously, but because this all happened in the spiritual realm, it has only been known to the spiritual world and of course also the spirit filled church. Jesus, by taking back the authority that Adam lost, took back the spiritual authority on earth, and this He did when He triumphed over Satan on the Cross. Through His death and resurrection, having made a show of principalities and powers by degrading the Satanic forces, Jesus took the keys to their Kingdom.

Jesus not only took back the authority on earth, but He also limited satan's authority and freedom by disarming the principalities and powers of darkness...

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

(Col 2:15)

I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

(Rev 1:18)

Now Jesus returns with those same keys He has had for 2000 years, and uses them to bind Satan up in his own domain.

2. The people on earth during the Millennium !

When one thinks of the onslaught on Jesus and His army, the defeat of the Antichrist, the false prophet and the beast ...

And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

(Rev 19:21)

... one would assume that only the Church and those who were part of the first resurrection were left on the earth ...

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

(Rev 20:4-5)

... in other words, the Church, those who received Jesus as their Lord before the tribulation and those who received salvation during the tribulation period.

The answer to that is ... No! not at all!

Satan is bound for a thousand years, which means that something remains unfinished, something is still going to happen, and everything is not final yet,

After these things he must be released for a little while.

(Rev 20:3)

and there is a reason for that!

Earth after the Tribulation:

We have learnt that we will rule and reign with Jesus for 1000 years, and as we know from Genesis, God never created us to rule over our equals, so therefore, ruling and reigning with Jesus is not the Church ruling over the Church, us ruling over each other.

Who then will be ruled over?

As this rule will be here on earth, it must obviously involve people, and it can thus only be speaking about a group or groups of people who are not voluntarily bowing their knees to Jesus or do not voluntarily confess Him as Lord.

For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

(Rom 14:11)

God gave everyone on earth, everyone of us a free will, which also means that everyone has the obligation to make a choice, at least one life changing choice, whether we want to or not. God is not about to take away or usurp this choice or freewill He gave to man. There must therefore be people left on earth who have not made a final decision, and thus things are not yet settled here on earth, and Satan's influence is not yet removed.

Which peoples live or have lived on earth, since Adam?

To get a clear picture of who will be left or returned to earth after the tribulation, for the 1000 year reign on earth, let us have a look at all the people who ever lived as that would help us get the right picture.

The Old Testament People.

Those who lived before Jesus.

The people from Adam up to Jesus.

The New Testament People

Those who lived since Jesus.

The people saved before the tribulation. The Church, saints

The people who rejected Jesus before the tribulation

The post rapture and post tribulation people.

Those who live during and after the tribulation.

The people who accept Jesus during the tribulation,.

The people who do not accept Jesus, and die.

The people who live through the tribulation

Those who do not accept Jesus during this time,

... but remain alive.

Those who interest us are the last group, those people who are alive and living on earth after the tribulation who are not part of the Church, in other words, the people who survive the tribulation. Is it possible that there are people like that?

*And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies,
gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the
horse and against His army. (Rev 19:19)*

As in any war, not everyone goes to fight, many were left behind and even of those who did go, many I am sure were not killed. And those, the ones who have not accepted Jesus as their Lord, are the people we are talking about.

So during the Millennium the people on earth are made up of

The Church	who reign with Christ
The first resurrection	those who lived during the tribulation, who did not worship the beast
The survivors	those who are still alive after the tribulation period

Is there anything special or different about this period or the people who are alive during the Millennium?

As we read before, Satan will be bound for 1000 years and therefore his influence over mankind is denied. The people on earth will be free of his pressure and influence. That will certainly be special or different, even better than Adam had it in the Garden of Eden. However, something else will remain the same, and that is that man will still have a free will. This means that the survivors from the tribulation period, although they are living outside of Satan's influence or pressure, still have a choice to make. They will still have to exercise their free will, and they will still have to choose, either for Jesus or against Him, for eternal life or for eternal damnation.

For the Church however, this will be a time of freedom, and we can truly say ...

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.
(John 8:36)

And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."
(Rev 5:10)

Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.
(Rev 20:6)

For the other survivors though, it is not over yet and there is still a very important decision to be made, a life or death decision.

Considering the time and situation here on earth at that time, a really interesting question arises which is this ...

Will it be easier for them, than it was for us?

3. Why does Jesus release Satan after the Millennium?

This is most certainly a question that deserves an answer, because after having defeated Satan and his hordes, having rid the earth of his influence, what reason could there be to let him loose again, even if it is for a very limited time.

As we know, during this time a special condition applies on earth, and for some people there still remains a life changing decision to be made, particularly by those people who did not do so during the Millennium. We also know God is a good and a just God, as the Bible teaches.

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

(2 Pet 3:9)

At the same time, another special condition applies on earth during the Millennium which we find in the books of Romans and Philippians, in which Paul wrote this concerning that time ...

For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

(Rom 14:11)

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Phil 2:9-11)

Is this a voluntary action? No!, well not for everyone, particularly not those who have not made the decision to make Jesus their Lord. Jesus will rule and reign on earth, and we will be reigning with Him. Everyone will have no choice but to bow down and confess Jesus as Lord, everyone, including those who are ruled and reigned over, who still have not made a choice, and Jesus may not be their Lord at all.

They have a free will and they still have to make a choice.

God in His righteousness will also give to those remaining on earth the opportunity to make a "free" choice, and will one final time say ...

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

(Deut 30:19)

4. Life during the Millennium !

The Bible does not tell us much about this time except for the special conditions that will influence life on earth during the Millennium. There are 3 very specific conditions that prevail on earth during this time, the first of which is the most wonderful, and that is that the Church rules and reigns with Jesus for those 1000 years.

The other 2 conditions mainly influence or govern those who, as we described before, have not made Jesus their Lord, and therefore are outside of the Kingdom of Heaven, but are being ruled over directly by it. The first condition is that Satan is bound and cannot influence the people on earth during this time, and the second is that during this time every knee shall bow and every tongue confess Jesus as Lord, whether those on earth choose to or not.

A question however arises,
... will this group of people increase in number or not?

The Bible, as far as I can find out, does not say anything about that, but it also does not say that any physical changes occur on earth, well not until after the end of the Millennium. The 3 conditions above are purely spiritual conditions and only have a minimal influence on the soul-ish realm of mankind, and there is no indication that it affects the physical in any way at all.

As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7 verse 12, "I, not the Lord, say:" it would seem as if man will continue to increase until the final day, the day of judgement, the day of the great white throne judgement.

5. How does the Millennium end?

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city.

And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

(Rev 20:7–10)

The Millennium ends much as it began, with a war. The difference between these two wars are that the one before the Millennium was directly against Jesus and His army at the battle of Armageddon, whilst the war after the Millennium is against the saints and the beloved city. Both though end in the same way, in defeat for the devil and his hordes. But what is of interest to us is what happens before this last war when Satan is released.

As we said above, not everyone on earth has made a decision and although being free from Satan's influence is great, this is still no guarantee.

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

(1 Sam 16:7)

If your decision to surrender your life to Jesus is not a heart decision, but a mind decision, be that now or at the end of the Millennium, then you are in the wrong camp and Satan who plays mind games, will get you. Those who side with Satan will, together with him, come against Jesus and His saints, but the result, as with all of Satan's endeavours, ends in disaster, for him!

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

(Rev 20:10)

Those who are on God's side will remain, but those who are not, who are foolish enough to side with Satan, will get what they deserve, God's judgement.

The Millennium ends in the way God planned it, right from the very first day.

Jesus wins.

The only thing that God would have wanted to be different ...
... is that His heart's desire would be fulfilled, which is ...

“that no one should perish but that all should come to repentance”

Some are going to perish, not because God chose it,
but because man used his free will to choose against God!

The wars are all done and the final decisions made.
One last action remains outstanding ...
... the final judgement.

We have spoken about the different groups of people ...
... and now it is vital that we know ...

Who is Who?

Who is going to stand before the Judgement seat of God to be judged?
Who is exempt from this final judgement?
Who is already judged?

So let's find out exactly who will be on the earth, what their position will be and whether they will be judged or not.

1. The people on earth!

Until now we found out that there are three distinct groups of people, and together with the people who will be alive during the Millennium, there will be four groups of people.

The Old Testament People.

Those who lived before Jesus.

The Prophets of old who made right with God –
who judged themselves.

The rest of the people who lived from Adam to Jesus.

The New Testament People.

Those who lived since Jesus.

The Saints those who made Jesus Lord –
saved before the tribulation.

The rest of the people who lived from Jesus to the tribulation.

The Tribulation people.

Who live during the tribulation.

The first resurrection those who accept Jesus –
during the tribulation period.

The rest of the people who lived during the Tribulation.

The Millennium people.

Who live during the Millennium

The people who are ruled over during the Millennium
Those who made it through the tribulation and maybe,
... those who come after, during the Millennium.

Within these four groups there are two sub groups in every category, which can be divided into two major groups ...

1. Those people who made right with God during their lifetime, who made Jesus their Lord, and they consist of ...
The Prophets, the Saints and the First resurrection.
2. Those who did not turn to God and did not make Jesus their Lord during their lifetime, and they consist of ...
Everyone who is not part of group No. 1

2. Who exactly are the people who make up group No.1?

The Prophets

The Old Testament people who lived right before God

The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.” (Rev 11:18)

And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

The Saints

The New Testament people who made Jesus their Lord

Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. (Rev 14:12)

The first resurrection

Those who accept Jesus during the Tribulation period.

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.

This is the first resurrection. (Rev 20:4-5)

There is one thing wonderful about being part of group 1. Prophets, saints and the first resurrection:

Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev 20:6)

3. The people who are Judged

Is there really a large group of people who will stand before the judgement seat of God? If we are to go according to the book of Revelation, it would seem as if the number from the Millennium period alone, is a multitude!

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. (Rev 20:7-8)

Who are the people who are there that have not made Jesus Lord in their lives?

All the people who ever lived, who are not ...
A prophet, a saint or part of the first resurrection ...

... and one could also say, that there are those who died without responding to God, without making Jesus their Lord, whether they directly rejected Him or not!

*And I saw the dead, small and great, **standing before God, and books were opened.***
(Rev 20:12)

At that time, at the last day, in the presence of God at the great white throne, the reason for not accepting Jesus as Lord, is not the deciding factor, but not having responded, is what makes them be part of those who will be judged. Remember what we read before ...

*Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection.
Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be
priests of God and of Christ,*
(Rev 20:6)

The group we are talking about are those from the Millennium and the second resurrection, those who, because of and by their actions, will be judged.

So then, who are the people of the second resurrection? These are simply those who died before the coming of Jesus, before the Millennium, all those who had not turned to God or made Jesus Lord in their life time. Everyone who had lived and died from Adam up to the end of the tribulation period.

4. The great White Throne Judgement !

*Then I saw a **great white throne and Him who sat on it**, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found **no place for them**. And I saw the dead, small and great, **standing before God, and books were opened**. And another book was opened, which is **the Book of Life**. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things*

*which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And **they were judged, each one according to his works.** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is **the second death.** And anyone not found written in the **Book of Life** was cast into the lake of fire.*

(Rev 20:11–15)

When the time of giving account for your life comes, it does not matter who the world thought you were, it does not matter how important you were, how small or great, none of that matters anymore at all. The only criteria that there will be, is who is your Lord?

Did you make right with God during your life on earth?

This simply means that ...

... everyone who had not given their life into God's hands, will now have to do just that, put their life in God's hands, ... but only this time it is without grace, this time it is without the advantage of choosing Jesus as Saviour!

During our lives on earth, everyone has the possibility to judge himself, and to surrender his life into God's hands, but if we do not, then God becomes our judge, and then what we have not judged ourselves, God does!

What is God going to judge those who appear before Him at the white throne judgement for? What is going to be God's standard when He judges?

*And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the **Book of Life.** And the dead were **judged according to their works,** by the things which were written in the books.*

(Rev 20:12)

People will be judged according to their works, not according to what they said, but according to what they've done, what their lives displayed! Now one may say this is unfair, because if someone knew Jesus, their actions would have been different. No! not at all, in fact Jesus, in relating the story about the rich man and Lazarus, said this to us ...

“But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”
(Luke 16:31)

What does that mean for those who will be judged?

Firstly, those who did not have the opportunity to hear Jesus, or encounter God and so be able to make a decision, be they Old or New Testament people, they will be given the opportunity to show through their works, what their heart is!

Secondly, those who had the opportunity, who had heard Jesus, encountered God, but who did not take or act on that opportunity, their heart will also be seen by their works. Yet this group will have another judge:

He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.
(John 12:48)

Everyone will be judged according to their works, by what they did ...

... their actions, how they responded
... their words, their thoughts
... their hearts, what is in their hearts, the hidden man of the heart

This should not be a surprise to man, as it has always been God’s way.

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”
(1 Sam 16:7)

God is just, and has always treated all men equal, not preferring one above the other, not judging one lower than another ...

*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.
But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.*
(Col 3:23–25)

And also ...

that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (Matt 5:45)

There is no partiality with God, for if there was, no one would be saved, but God is a just God, who wants the same for everyone ... His blessings!

God judges all the same.

It does not matter who we are, God looks upon our hearts!
Even if you should say that you have accepted or received Jesus, when it is not in your heart, it is meaningless and is no different from those who did not have that opportunity but whose hearts were hard towards God, towards Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Why did God not warn us of this?
Why did God not tell us that we are on the wrong path ...
... that we are going to be judged for hearts?

God did ...

*But in accordance with your **hardness and your impenitent heart** you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the **day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,***
(Rom 2:5)

God, since the time of Adam, has been saying to mankind ...

“What you sow, you will also reap”

God wants that everyone be saved, as He said in 2 Peter 3:9 ...

*“not willing that any should perish
but that all should come to repentance”*

even so ...

God will not put pressure on anyone to accept salvation ...
... because it is a heart condition!.

So if your heart is hard, whether you have had the opportunity to hear and accept Jesus or not, it will make no difference to God's judgement.

God is for you if you are for Him ...
and ...
God is against you if you are against Him!

Praise God ...

Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever,
and His judgement is righteous.

5. The Judgement !

And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.

And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them.

And they were judged, each one according to his works.

Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire.

This is the second death.

And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Rev 20:12-15)

There are only two possibilities ...

Eternal life and blessings with God.
Eternal damnation in hell with the devil.

Heaven is real, hell is real ...
... and God's heart has always been the same.

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; (Deut 30:19)

**Have a soft heart ...
... choose life, choose blessing ...
... choose Jesus!**

The number 13 is not an unlucky number, because with God there is no luck, the outcome is sure, firm, has been and is fixed for the eternal past ... for eternity to come.

An old promise, a new place!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
(2 Cor 5:17)

That may well seem to be an “old” scripture when one considers the End Time, the Book of Revelation, the great white throne judgement and eternal life, but it is as relevant and as accurate as the day it was spoken by Jesus. And in talking about the end time and all that is to come, Jesus made this remark:

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.
(Matt 24:35)

Neither God nor His Word are about to change, no matter what happens, and in any case God knows the future.

We certainly are in Christ, in His Kingdom, in His presence, in Him in every way possible, and all old things have more than passed away. Finally man is not just restored in his position with God but also restored to a full relationship with God. Back to where Adam was, and more.

Why?

Because man has learnt to use his free will God's way, and because man has learnt what Adam failed to do ...
... to live by faith.!

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
(Heb 11:6)

Man has learnt how to live God's way and how to walk with God, and finally the promise of Hebrews 11 can be fulfilled in its fullness.

Promises and Blessings ... What God has in store for us!

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

⁶ *And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.*

¹⁴ *Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.*

The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

¹⁹ *The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.*

²² ***But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.***
(Rev 21:1–27)

Praise God ...

... all the worldly and fleshly restrictions have passed away, and so also the results thereof. The separation between God and man is forever removed, and man is not just restored and reconciled to God, but is living in the life and glory of God, in His presence ...

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light.

And they shall reign forever and ever. (Rev 22:1–5)

A river of life, proceeding directly from the throne of God and of the Lamb. Just imagine, a river that no one can drown in ...
... but giving life to all who drink of it.

And remember the tree of life ...
... that was so at the center of the Garden of Eden?
Is it not wonderful to see it again!

Can you still remember why God removed man from the garden at that time?

And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Gen 2:9)

Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" – therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. (Gen 3:22–23)

Think of it, God saved us from eating of the tree of life ...
... and living forever!

Now that may sound strange to think ...
... that God kept man from living forever ...
... that God kept man from eating of the tree of life?

Yes it may sound strange, but consider this ...

Man had sinned and therefore man was spiritually separated from God.

If God had allowed man to eat of the tree of life and thus live forever, in that fallen state, in that state of separation from God, man would have been eternally damned, doomed and separated from God forever.

Now finally, with man reconciled and restored to Him ...
God could allow man to eat eternal blessing, fellowship, relationship ...
... and life with Him!

... to eat the Bread of Life forever!

To Jesus ...
for having inspired me to do this teaching in the first place.

To my wife, Susan ...
without whose encouragement I would not have done it.

To Thomas ...
for having dared to read it.

To Hanna ...
for the graphics, layout, overall design ...
... and her invaluable assistance in getting this book published.

* * * * *

This book is not an attempt at answering End Times questions ...
... that is the ministry of the Holy Spirit ...

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. (1 Jn 2:27)

Yes, we do not need that anyone teach us ...
... but often we need someone who challenges us to dig a little deeper ...
I trust that this study has done just that ...
... challenged you to ask some questions of your own ...
... and to allow the Holy Spirit (the same anointing), to teach you.

*He will guide you into all truth ...
... and He will tell you things to come.* (John 16:13)



The teaching ministry of Jan D. vander Merwe is founded on the uncompromised Word of God. With an ardent desire to lead believers into a closer personal relationship with God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Covenant Ministries and the **Alpha & Omega Online Bible Courses** were established in 1997.

Jan D. vander Merwe also travels regularly to countries all over Africa to teach, train up and encourage local pastors and leaders in underprivileged areas ... and to equip them with Bible Courses and teaching material to teach others.

THE TIMES OF THE END TIMES

... from Daniel's prophesy to its fulfilment in the Book of Revelation ...

Does Daniel's prophesy and Jesus' prophesy complement each other?

*Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city,
to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins,
to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness,
to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.*

Dan. 9:24

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached
in all the world as a witness to all the nations,
and then the end will come.*

Matt 24:14

... and would you like to know ...

What, where, when and to whom?

What is the New Age?

What is the New World Order?

What is the Tribulation and who is the Antichrist?

How will it affect the Church of Jesus Christ?

Will the Church of Jesus Christ go through the tribulation?

Will the Church of Jesus Christ be raptured?

Whilst this book does not presume to give all the answers, it will challenge your perception of Bible prophesy and your relationship with the soon and coming King!