

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

JROC - BIBLICAL TIMELINE OF END TIMES EVENTS (CHART) AND STUDY HELPS

9/17/17

Where are we within the “end times/last days”? Some within the Church believe we’re in the Millennial Kingdom; some think we’re in the Eternal State; some believe that “end times” is in the distant future - thousands of years from today! What say you?

Why does the chart begin with an image (of sorts) and a notation regarding “The Times of the Gentiles”? Luke 21:24 - *And they (Israel) will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.* “The Times of the Gentiles” refers to the extensive period of history when the Gentiles will dominate Israel.

“The Times of the Gentiles” extends from the Babylonian captivity of Judah...under Nebuchadnezzar (586 BC)...continuing through the Tribulation. Rev. 11:2 - *But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.*

Daniel 2 – While Daniel, a faithful Jewish man, was in exile in Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. Daniel alone was given the ability to interpret that dream. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar what would transpire in latter days. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was of an image/a statue and a stone. The statue had a head of gold, arms and breast of silver, belly and two thighs of bronze, two legs of iron, and feet and toes that were a mixture of iron and clay. The stone is cut out of the mountain without hands (Dan. 2:45).

Interpretation: the statue depicts four Gentile powers/Gentile empires in succession that would rule over Israel: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome followed by the revived Roman Empire in the latter days (Dan. 7:24).

Babylon – the head of gold (Dan. 2:32, 38) succeeded by...

Medo-Persian – two distinct peoples, the Medes and the Persians, were united together in 550 BC. The image/statue Dan. 2:32, 39) depicts this with the two peoples (the arms) coming together into one empire (the breast) This empire was succeeded by/conquered by...

Greece – represented by the image’s belly and thighs of bronze (Dan. 2:32, 39). This is the kingdom of Greece under Alexander the Great. The belly gives way to two thighs which was an accurate portrayal of the Grecian empire. After Alexander died, his kingdom was divided among his four leading generals; however, only two of those generals played important roles: the Ptolomies in Egypt and the Seleucids in Syria. Greece was succeeded by...

Rome – represented by the legs of iron (military strength) – depicting the western and eastern divisions of Rome: Western Rome with Rome as its capital and the Eastern Roman Empire with Constantinople as its capital (Constantine [Turkey]). The Western side of the empire collapsed in 476 AD.

Antichrist's kingdom – revived Roman Empire (Dan. 7:19-27) – represented by the feet and toes which will be a mixture of iron and clay. The final stage of the Roman Empire will be strong militarily (iron) while having divisions. Clay is brittle and depicts divisions (breaking up). It appears that there will be a ten-division federation that has never before existed within the Roman Empire. (Note the declining quality of the metal!)

A stone, picturing Jesus (Luke 20:18) at His Second Coming, will destroy the fourth empire in its final phase - antichrist's kingdom (Dan. 2:34, 35, 44, 45). Jesus totally shattering the Gentile powers will result in the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom, the ultimate empire, and then continuing on eternally (Dan. 2:44; 7:27).

“The Times of the Gentiles” which began six centuries before Jesus, will continue until the Second Coming of Jesus to the earth.

During the last three and a half years of the Tribulation, the Jews will again be persecuted and driven out of Jerusalem. This period begins with the abomination of desolation (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15) and will be the climax of “The Times of the Gentiles” under the control and persecution of the antichrist. At that time its duration will be 42 months (Rev. 11:2), 1260 days (Rev. 12:6), or “time, times, and half a time” (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 12:14).

“The Times of the Gentiles” will end with the Second Coming of Jesus and the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom. From that time forward, Jerusalem will never again be subjected to Gentile domination. The nation of Israel will be the spiritual and political center of the world (Isa. 2:2-4; Isa. 61 & 62; Micah 4:1-3; Zech. 8:22-23; Zech. 14:16-19) with Jesus ruling from the throne of David in Jerusalem.

NOTE: after God makes proclamations against Egypt, we read – Isa. 19:24-25 - *In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land,*²⁵ *whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, “Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.”* While Israel uniquely belongs to God because of God's sovereign choice, (Dt. 32:9-10), Egypt and Assyria will be a blessing because of God having made Israel an instrument of blessing for the WORLD (Gen. 18:18)! In the Millennial Kingdom Israel is going to be God's instrument for drawing other nations into His fold! The Millennial Kingdom is a time of ingathering of the nations! The Feast of Tabernacles points to the Millennial Kingdom. The Feast of Tabernacles has been also called the Feast of Ingathering:

- Ex. 23:16 - *and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.*

- Ex. 34:22 - *And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end.*

STUDY HELPS FOR REVELATION

Revelation reveals four different ages:

<u>CHAPTERS</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Revelation 2-3	Church Age	? years
Revelation 4-19	Tribulation	7 years
Revelation 20	Millennial Kingdom	1,000 years
Revelation 21-22	Eternal State	Forever

We need to know that to bring the Kingdom of God to the earth, the kingdom of Satan must first be completely overthrown. Much of what follows in this book of Revelation must be understood in the context of the overthrow of Satan's kingdom prior to the setting up of God's kingdom on earth. Jesus will receive the Kingdom of God that has been promised to Israel throughout the OT. This is the Kingdom that the Church, Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus, will be living in along with redeemed Israel.

We are privy to understanding God's perspective for the events that will transpire on earth. We cannot comprehend this book with all of its horrific judgments pouring forth on the earth without viewing it from God's perspective! Following the outpouring of God's wrath, His judgments, at His Second Coming, Jesus will rightfully inherit the earth and implement the title deed of redemption to planet earth (Rom. 8:21). It will be in the throne room of God where GOD initiates the judgments because of His holiness and justice. And, the curse on man and on the earth will be reversed, and man and the earth will be restored. Eventually, the curse will be removed in the Eternal State – in the new heavens and the new earth (Rev. 21:1-5). All of history is moving toward this grand climax – the Kingdom of God on earth!

Chuck Swindoll: "Only one Person in heaven and earth was found worthy to take the scroll, to open its seals, and to begin the step-by-step process of snatching control of the world from evil and forever vanquishing sin and death: Jesus Christ. The steps necessary for preparing the world for His kingdom on earth, however, involve a period of unparalleled judgement." AND, during the Tribulation there will be unparalleled evangelism!

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN REVELATION 6-20

Main Action: Revelation 6 (six seals)

Intermission: Between the sixth and seventh seals – Revelation 7 – 144,000 sealed...multitudes saved from every tongue, tribe, nation

Main Action Returns: Revelation 8-9 (seventh seal, which contains the seven trumpets)

Intermission: Between the sixth and seventh trumpets – Revelation 10-15

Main Action Resumes: Revelation 16 (seven bowls)

Intermission: Describing the destruction of Babylon the Great – Revelation 17-18

Main Action: Revelation 19-20 – Second Coming and Millennial Kingdom

Why do the scenes alternate between heaven and earth in Revelation 4-20? While we are reading of chaos on earth, we are continually assured that all is controlled by God Who is on His throne in heaven.

IN HEAVEN

The heavenly throne (Rev. 4)
The Lamb on the throne (Rev. 5)

The fifth seal judgment (6:9-11)

The great multitude (7:9-17)

Preparations for the trumpet
judgments (8:1-5)

The announcement of the seventh
Trumpet (11:15-19)
The expulsion of Satan (12:1-12)

The announcement of the seven
Last judgments (Rev. 15)

Praise for judging (19:1-10)

ON EARTH

The first 4 seal judgments
(6:1-8)

The sixth seal judgment
(6:12-17)
The sealing of the 144,000
(7:1-8)

The first six trumpet
judgments (8:6-9:21)
The little book (Rev. 10)
The ministry of the two
witnesses (11:1-4)

The activity of Satan
(12:13-17)
The activity of the two
beasts (Rev. 13)

Judgment at the end of the
Tribulation (Rev. 14)

The seven bowl judgments
(Rev. 16)
Babylon's destruction
(Rev. 17-18)

The Second Coming of
Christ (19:11-21)
The Millennial reign of
Jesus (Rev. 20)

EVENTS IN HEAVEN

- The Rapture of the Church (John 14:1-3; I Cor. 15:51-58; I Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 3:10).
- The Judgment Seat of Christ (Rom. 14:10; I Cor. 3:9-15; I Cor. 4:1-5; I Cor. 9:24-27; II Cor. 5:10).
- The Marriage of the Lamb (II Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:6-8).

EVENTS ON EARTH

Following the Rapture

- Psa. 83 – Arab-Israeli
- Eze. 38-39 – Gog and Magog War

SEVEN-YEAR TRIBULATION

The Beginning of the Tribulation

- The seven-year Tribulation begins when the antichrist signs a covenant with Israel, bringing peace to Israel and Jerusalem (Dan. 9:27; Eze. 38:8, 11).
- The Jewish Temple in Jerusalem might be rebuilt at this time esp. since the covenant has been made with Israel, and sacrifices will be offered (Dan. 9:27; II Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 11:1).
- The reunited Roman Empire emerges in a ten-nation confederation – the “group of ten” (Dan. 2:40-44; Dan. 7:7; Rev. 17:12). As the antichrist appears on the scene with the first rider on the white horse (Rev. 6:2), we note his origin in Dan. 7:23-25 (note: another horn/other horn/little horn – vv. 8 & 20).

First Half (3.5 Years) of the Tribulation

- The seven seal judgments are opened (Rev. 6 – 8:1).
- The 144,000 – 12,000 from twelve tribes of Israel - Jewish male virgins (Rev. 14:1-4) – are sealed as servants of God (note Isa. 43:10 – ...*you are My witnesses...and My servant...*). These are Jewish believers who did not go into the Tribulation as believers!
- The two witnesses begin their 3.5 year ministry (much speculation regarding the timing. Some scholars put the two witnesses in the first half of the Tribulation; others put the two witnesses in the second half of the Tribulation).

Midpoint of the Tribulation

- The antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and invades Israel (Dan. 9:27; Dan. 11:40-41, 44).
- Satan is cast down from heaven and begins to make war with the woman, Israel (Rev. 12:7-13).
- The antichrist appears to die and to rise from the dead (Rev. 13:3); the earth is amazed.
- The antichrist takes his seat in the Temple of God, displaying himself as God. This is the abomination of desolation (Dan. 9:27; Dan. 11:45a; Matt. 24:15; II Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:5, 15-18).
- The two witnesses are killed by the antichrist and are resurrected by God 3.5 days later (Rev. 11:7-12).
- Satan empowers the beast from the sea – the antichrist (Rev. 13).
- The beast from the earth – the false prophet (Rev. 13) demands worship of the antichrist (Rev. 13:14-15) and causes mankind to receive the mark of the beast (the name of the beast or the number of his name) (Rev. 13:16-17).
- The mark of the Beast (666) is introduced and enforced by the false prophet (Rev. 13:16-18).
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Last Half (3.5 Years) of the Tribulation

- The false prophet performs great signs and lying wonders and promotes false worship of the antichrist (Rev. 13:5, 11-15).
- Totally energized by Satan, the antichrist dominates the world politically, religiously, and economically (Rev. 13:4-5, 15-18)
- The trumpet judgments are unleashed (Rev. 8-9; Rev. 11:15-19).
- Knowing he has only a short time left, Satan intensifies his relentless, merciless persecution of the Jewish people and Gentile believers on earth (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 12:12; 13:15; 20:4).

The End of the Tribulation

- The bowl judgments are poured out in rapid succession (Rev. 16). The bowl judgments will destroy the antichrist's kingdom and prepare the way for the Second Coming of Jesus.
- Destruction of the false church and the destruction of commercial Babylon (Rev. 18).
- The campaign of Armageddon begins (Rev. 16:16). The campaign of Armageddon is carried out in stages (Rev. 14:14; Isa. 63:1-6; Rev. 19:11ff; Zech. 14:4).

THE PHYSICAL SECOND COMING OF CHRIST (Rev. 19:11ff; Isa. 63:1-6; Dan. 2:44; Zech. 12:10; Zech. 14:4; Matt. 24:27-31)

- Christ returns to the Mount of Olives and slays the armies gathered against Him throughout the land, from Megiddo to Petra (Rev. 19:11-16; Isa. 34:1-6; 63:1-5).
- The birds gather to feed on the carnage (Rev. 19:17-18).
- The restoration of Israel (Zech. 12:10).
- Antichrist and false prophet cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20)
- The Judgment of the nations (Matt. 25:31-46)

THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (Psa. 2; Isa. 2:4; Isa. 9:6-7; Isa. 11; Isa. 32:1; Isa. 45:13; Eze. 40 through 48; Mic. 3:3; Mic. 4:3 Luke 1:31-33; Rev. 20:4-6....)

Satan released and his rebellion crushed (Rev. 20:7-10)

Satan cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10)

Great White Throne of Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15) – non-believers will be judged according to their works and will be cast into the lake of fire

THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH/NEW JERUSALEM – (Rev. 21 through Rev. 22:1-5)