

Let's Talk about the End Times

Three truths we all agree on:

1. This era is ending with a wedding and a funeral.
2. We are nearing the end of this era because the fig tree (Israel is budding again); the time of the Gentiles is coming to an end and we are about to face the events before the Lord's coming. Luke 21:24
3. The overall purpose of Jesus' emphasis in teaching on the end times and the coming judgment was that we would not fall asleep but be ready. The only reason He hasn't come back is because He wants all to come to repentance so that none perish. 2Peter 3:9

How these events play out is not as clear in Scripture because Jesus didn't bother to make them as clear. Sincere people who love the Word of God have different opinions. It is important that whatever our opinion we have an attitude of humility that does not judge our brothers and sisters but gives room for them. *I loved the Left Behind books although I don't agree with their take; I love the Omega course although I don't agree with everything. They help people focus on eternity instead of time and help them become more concerned about God's opinion of them than mans.

I've changed things that I use to share with great energy. Pretrib; Western European Union – "I may be wrong but I'm never in doubt."

- I. The borders of the end time puzzle.
 - a. My kids with puzzles. Every piece has to fit start out with the borders. Scriptures in Daniel 7-12; Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 17 and 21; 1 and 2 Thes; 1Cor 15; 2Pet 3 and Revelation 6-22 have to all fit or something's not right.
 - b. Daniel 9:24-27 NIV will act as the borders of the end times puzzle. "Seventy sevens are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. Know and understand this: from the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven sevens, and sixty-two sevens. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two sevens, the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: war will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for on seven. In the middle of the seven he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a

wing of the temple, he will set up an abomination that causes desolation until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.” *Diagram 1

- i. The decree was made in the 20th year of Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 2:1) – 444 BC using the accessional dating method common to Jews.
 - ii. Because that is solar time we must convert to the lunar calendar (which was used until 44 BC) to see what time Gabriel is pointing to. $49 + 434 = 483$ years of 360 days. When you convert back to solar years using that number of days you come to the spring of 33 AD (476 years; there is no year for 0).
 - iii. After the 69th seven and before the 70th seven:
 1. The anointed One will be cut off.
 2. The city of Jerusalem and the temple will be destroyed again.
 3. War will continue to the end and desolations for Israel.
- c. The seventieth seven will be marked by the following:
- i. A ruler of Roman descent will make a treaty with Israel for seven years.
 - ii. In the middle of the seven he will set up an abomination of desolation in a wing of the temple and stop all other sacrifices of worship.
 - iii. He will be judged.
- d. Jesus said: “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...” Matt. 24:14-15 Some have felt that all of Matthew 24 was accomplished in the first century. The confusion comes because of the similarity of what the Jews were to do in the fall of Jerusalem and when they saw the abomination of desolation. Two Jewish disasters are described and in both they are to flee Jerusalem quickly. The confusion comes because Matthew and Mark don’t answer all three questions (When will this happen?; What will be the sign of your coming? What will be the sign of the end?); only Luke does. Here are the differences: *Diagram 2
- i. The sign to flee for the destruction of Jerusalem is “when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.” Luke 21:20 The sign to flee in the end times is when you see the abomination of desolation in the Holy place.

- ii. The city and the temple are destroyed by the armies surrounding Jerusalem while the city is taken over by the anti-Christ and the temple hosts an idol.
- iii. The Jews are led captive into all the nations after the fall of Jerusalem (21:24) while they are present for the return of Christ after fleeing Jerusalem in the days of the abomination of desolation.

II. What happens to the church?

- a. The church is Jew and Gentile – the blood of Jesus has broken down the dividing wall and made the two, one. It is the bride of Christ and is spiritual Israel. The church isn't natural Israel nor does it replace natural Israel.
- b. While natural Israel will go through the time of God's wrath on earth, the church will be saved from it in an event called the rapture. 1Thes. 4:13-5:3 NIV "Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words. Now brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape."
 - i. Caught up and receive new bodies in the air. 1Cor. 15:51-53
 - ii. We are gathered to Him. 2Thes. 2:1 NIV "Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to Him."
 - iii. John 14:3 NIV "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you may be where I am." Same word as Matthew 24:40-41 Some people feel that this is a taking in judgment but a different word is used. Airo is used about those taken in judgment by Noah's flood; Paralambano is used about those who are taken from the field and the mill.

- c. The thief in the night. Jesus is the gospels; 2Peter 3:10; John in Rev. 16:15 and Paul right here. “Peace and safety” campaign – give up your freedom and in return you will be given human comfort. Eating and drinking, marrying and given in marriage – then the rapture will come like a thief in the night. Why does everyone use this?
 - i. Unexpected by the unbelieving. *No postcard that says I will be robbing your house a week from Tuesday.
 - ii. He doesn’t come to stay. The rapture is different than the return. He takes us back to the Father’s house for the wedding feast. *You don’t wake up with the thief on the couch.
 - iii. He leaves more than he takes. He doesn’t take the refrigerator and the couch. He only takes that which is precious. This world will be robbed of her jewels.
- d. In the rapture Jesus comes with the angels. Trumpet; angels will “gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of the heaven.” Mark 13:27 The wrath of God is poured out by angels. The final judgment is at the return when Jesus comes with the saints.

III. When is the rapture?

- a. Why I don’t believe in a pre-tribulation rapture. (A rapture before the 70th seven)
 - i. The seals are not the day of the Lord; they are conditions that must be met before the day of the Lord comes. The Lamb opens the seven seals – when He opens the 6th which describes the rapture, those on the earth say, “the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand.” The seventh seal is a half hour of silence because of the wrath that will fall on the planet. *Diagram 3
 - 1. Seal one – white horse - anti-Christ
 - 2. Seal two – red horse - Wars – war machine to enforce his peace.
 - 3. Seal three – black horse – Famine
 - 4. Seal four – ashen horse - Death – a fourth of the earth
 - 5. Seal five - Martyrdom – anti-Christ’s wrath against the church
 - 6. Seal six - Rapture and sealing of Israel
 - 7. Seal – seven – Silence for a half an hour
 - ii. The sixth seal is identical to the coming described in Matthew 24. *Diagram 4

1. Revelation 6:12-17 NIV “I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand.”
 2. Matthew 24:29-31 “Immediately after the distress of those days (speaking of the distress of the saints) the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.” Earthquake; Sun and moon darkened; Stars falling; Hide us from His Presence; What about the gathering of the saints? Rev. 7:9 Who are these?
 - iii. The elect are still present in Matthew 24 after the abomination of desolation and they are the reason that time is shortened. The saints are still there in Rev 12 and 13 in the days of anti-Christ and when Satan is thwarted by God when he tries to destroy Israel he goes after all those with the testimony of Jesus. Rev. 12:17 The early Fathers had us facing anti-Christ.
 - iv. Paul says we cannot be in the day of the Lord until the anti-Christ appears and there is a great falling away. 2Thes. 2:3 “Let no one in any way deceive you, for it (the day of the Lord) will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed.”
- b. Why I don't believe in a post-tribulation rapture. (Jesus comes at the end of the 70th seven)

- i. Luke 17:26-30 “And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man; they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. It was the same as happened in the days of Lot; they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.” *The first three trumpets all release fire from heaven that destroys (destroys a third of the earth and all of the grass is burned; a mountain of fire in the ocean that turns a third of it to blood and kills a third of the animals in the ocean; a star falls into the rivers and causes their waters to become bitter 1/3 again) – the end of all the judgments will be a complete destruction and removal of the wicked from the earth. *Mike thinks we’ll be like Moses and the Israelites – protected from. Problem – that’s not what Jesus said.
 - ii. There’s no way you describe the earth after the trumpets and bowls as eating and drinking; marrying and given in marriage – no one will be saying peace and safety or even promising it.
 - iii. The imagery of the thief in the night doesn’t make any sense.
 - iv. The Thessalonians thought they would be saved from the wrath which is why they were confused. Paul had earlier promised them: “For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.” 1Thes. 5:9-10
 - v. *Diagram 5
- c. Our response:
- i. Look up, straighten your back, your redemption is near. Luke 21:28
 - ii. Cultivate a burning Christianity that is willing to die so you won’t be part of the falling away. (Rev. 12:11)
 - iii. Praise God it will be shortened for us. First three and a half years won’t be so bad; the time of distress will be shortened for our sake. Matt. 24:22
 - iv. Praise God we won’t be here for the worst. Break time.

IV. The Anti-Christ.

- a. Probably not just Italian, but part Jewish which is why the Jews could accept him. John 5:43 “I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him.” *Both human and possessed: “The beast which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come out of the abyss and go to his destruction.” Rev. 17:8 “Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will attack them and overpower and kill them.” *Only one group that would be said to be “not” at the time of John.
- b. The man of lawlessness. “The man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God displaying himself as being God...the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false.” 2Thes.3-4; 9-10
- c. He comes as the head of a political system of ten kings – he receives a fatal head wound half way through the tribulation and is healed. Rev. 13:3; Satan is kicked out of heaven and thrown down to the earth (Rev. 12:9) and possibly resurrects the anti-Christ. 12:12 His time is short: “time, times, and a half of time.” Vs 17
- d. His purpose is worship and total control. “And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.” (Rev. 13:16-17) He is allowed to make war on the saints. (Rev. 13:7) This is the time of martyrdom (5th seal) the method will be by beheading. (Rev. 20:4)
- e. What/who is restraining him? “And you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time (kairos). For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds him/it back will continue to do so until he is taken out of the way. And then (at that time) the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.” 2Thes. 2:6-7 NIV
 - i. What do they know? That only the Father controls the chronos and the kairos. 1Thes. 5:1
 - ii. Kairos is holding him back. He will be revealed at the kairos. The Lamb opens the first seal and then anti-Christ rides forth imitating

Christ. My time has not yet come. They couldn't kill him because His time hadn't yet come.

- iii. The one who holds him back (the Father) will continue to do so until he (the anti-Christ) is taken out of the way. And then (at the kairos) the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. (i.e. taken away) *Like a mouse – as soon as he is revealed he will be destroyed.

V. Israel.

- a. Make a covenant that may be the time the temple is rebuilt – they start making sacrifices again. *The two witnesses will be prophesying during this time. (Rev. 11) They are probably the first martyrs in the fifth seal.
- b. When the abomination of desolation is in the holy place they flee just like Jesus said they should. We will be helping them. “The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.” (Rev. 12:14) Is this an American airlift? *We need to pray for Israel – Wednesday of our fasting week.
- c. The rapture and Israel. Matthew 24 said all the nations will mourn – most in self pity but read what happens to Israel. “They will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. ..In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and impurity.” Zech. 12:10; 13:1 “And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel...” Rev. 7:4
- d. *Diagram 6

VI. The return.

- a. Rev. 19:11-15 “And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine

press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "King of kings, and Lord of lords."

- b. There are descriptions of what happens on earth from Ezekiel 38:18-23; Zech. 14:1-9; Rev. 16:17 The seventh bowl reveals a loud voice that says "It is done." Then the coming is described from earth's perspective. "And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail because its plague was extremely severe." Rev. 16:18-21 Zech 14:4 says He returns to the Mount of Olives during the earthquake. *Diagram 7
- c. The devil is thrown into the abyss for 1000 years so that he can no longer deceive. (Rev. 20:1-3)
- d. The judgment of the nations described in Matt. 25 and Joel 2 occurs and the earth is completely purged of the wicked although those who survived and were saved still have a sin nature and the ability to reproduce.
- e. We are given thrones along with the apostles. Matt. 19; Rev. 20:4 We will rule with Him during this period of time. We will have new bodies; we will eat and drink but also be able to go through walls and be able to disappear, travel quickly, and reappear somewhere else.
- f. This is the time the earth is restored and all of Israel's promises come true.
 - i. "At the renewal of all things, when the Son of man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel." Matt. 19:28
 - ii. "Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" Acts 1:6
 - iii. "He (Jesus) must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as He promised long ago through His holy prophets." Acts 3:21

VII. The millennium.

- a. Jesus will rule on earth. "The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only Name." (Zech. 14:9) "And the name of the city from that time on will be: the Lord is there."

- b. The curse will come off creation. Romans 8; Isaiah 35 Deserts will be turned into gardens and the lion will lay with the lamb.
- c. There will be work. “For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land. All the people of the land will bury them, and the day I am glorified will be a memorable day for them declares the Lord. Men will be regularly employed to cleanse the land...” Ezek. 39:12-14
- d. There will be worship. “Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty and to celebrate the feast of tabernacles.” Zech 14:16
- e. There will be peace. “In the last days the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all the nations will stream into it. Many peoples will come and say, ‘come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the god of Jacob. He will teach us His ways so that we may walk in His paths. The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their swords into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.” Is. 2:1-4
- f. There will be one last test for those born during this period. “When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plan of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.” Rev. 20:7-9

VIII. Beyond the millennium.

- a. Great white throne judgment – the resurrection of the wicked and the lake of fire. Rev. 20:11-15
- b. Differences between the eternal age and the millennium. *Diagram 8
 - i. New earth instead of a restored one.
 - ii. No temple while in the millennium there is a temple.
 - iii. Two thrones while the millennium only has one.
 - iv. No sun or moon while in the millennium they still exist.
 - v. The new Jerusalem coming down to a new earth while the millennium features a restored Jerusalem on a restored earth.
- c. The new Jerusalem streets are made of gold, its gates are made of pearls – 12 tribes are on them; the foundation stones are each jewels and the 12

apostles are written on them; the walls are made of jasper. There is no longer a need for sun or moon for the glory of God illumines it.

- d. The Son gives authority back to the Father. "When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all." 1Cor. 15:28