

So far, we have looked at some almost unbelievable Bible prophecies that have been fulfilled in the last 60 years.

All were about Jerusalem, the Jewish people or events that took place in the Holy Land. All were timed prophecies and all were fulfilled right to the year. Let's review those prophecies for a moment.

(If you missed any of the below studies, please let me know at the end of this study and we will post it again at another time)

1. The 1290 days of Dan 12:11 fulfilled in 688AD by the construction of the Islamic Dome of the Rock.
2. The 42 months of Rev 11:2 fulfilled in 1967AD by the freeing of Jerusalem from Gentile control
3. The 1260 Days of Rev 11:3 fulfilled in 1948AD by the Jewish people returning to their homeland and ending the Time of the Gentiles.
4. The 1260 days of Rev 12:5 fulfilled in 1948AD by the establishment of the new nation of Israel.
5. The Time, Times and Half a Time of Dan 7:25 fulfilled in 1948AD by the new nation of Israel.
6. The Time, Times and Half a Time of Dan 12:7 fulfilled in 1967AD by the freeing of Jerusalem.
7. The Season and Time of Dan 7:12 fulfilled in 1948AD when Gentiles lost control of the Holy Land.

Since the verses that supposedly support a Seven Year Tribulation were actually fulfilled in new Israel, we need to get those pre-trib rapture and seven-year tribulation ideas out of our minds, brethren, because they aren't going to happen.

As perilous as these end-times are going to get, the Church doesn't need to be basing its future decisions on the end-time theories of some 18th century Jesuit priests ruminating in a Spanish castle.

Nor do we need to base our decisions on the questionable vision of a sickly fifteen year old charismatic girl who was into the occult and had only been a Christian for a year. (If you like, I can also post documentation for the this)

But, if there isn't going to be a seven-year tribulation at the end of this age, when is the "rapture" going to take place, and when is the Antichrist going to appear?

There are so many conflicting ideas tossed about concerning the end-times that we ought to take a truly revolutionary approach. Let's make a little agreement between you, me, and the Lord.

Let's take all our commentaries and set them aside for a bit. Then let's take the Bible, and only the Bible, and see what it has to tell us about this sequence of events.

If the Scripture verses quoted below really mean what they say, then ALL of our current end-time ideas will need rethinking.

1Th 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then WE which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall **we** ever be with the Lord.

All agree that those verses refer to the so-called "rapture" of the Church. In fact, 1 Th 4:16-17 is one of the central passages in Scripture that supports the physical return of the Lord Jesus to Earth.

Note the *WE*. Paul was speaking to the Church of which he was part and we have every scriptural reason to believe that *we* are included. You and I are and the rest of the church are the *we* of 1 Th 4:16-17. That's relatively simple, isn't it?

Also note that Jesus is returning with the "trumpet of God."

Now the Bible is full of trumpets, including seven in Revelation, so the next logical question is this: At which of all the biblical trumpet are we going to be taken up?

1Co 15:51-52 Behold, I shew you a mystery; *WE* shall not all sleep, but *WE* shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the LAST trump**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and *WE* shall be changed.

Ah, and there it is, we are taken to be with the Lord at the *last* trumpet. That trumpet is singular, so no other trumpets are blown with it.

Also, there are no modifiers such as, "except the trumpets of judgment," or "except the trumpets in Revelation." I'm going to say it again:

There are NO exceptions! Not one Bible trumpet is left out!

Recognizing that the church will be taken to be with the Lord at the one and only *last* trumpet of all time simplifies a doctrinal point the Church has been arguing about for over 100 years.

Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time.

Mat 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days . . . the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Mat 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet [*a great trumpet, NASB*], and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Note the sequence of events:

(1) Tribulation.

(2) After the tribulation.

(3) Great trumpet.

So isn't it obvious that the last trumpet comes after the tribulation? Sure, and since the church is taken up at the last trumpet, the only way to defend a pretrib rapture would be to rewrite Scripture and put verse 31 before verse 21.

No matter what our doctrines may have been in the past, the Bible states that our trumpet is the last, and the last trumpet does not blow until Rev 11:15, AFTER the six other trumpets in Revelation have blown.

So the Church is going to be here on Earth through six of the seven trumpets!

Now Brethren, that isn't just another irrational end-time theory. If we have ears to hear it, that is what the Word of God proclaims, straight out.

The last Bible trumpet blows in Rev 11:15, but the conditions surrounding that trumpet blast are described in chapter ten:

Rev 10:6-7 . . . that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

What a tremendous verse. If there is a central Scripture about the chronology of the Lord's return, Rev 10:6-7 is it.

As is true of every other creation of this present age, when the seventh trumpet sounds, it appears that time itself will come to an end.

That's important, because understanding that time will come to an end affects our end time doctrine.

elskon : If time comes to an end, then there isn't any time for a tribulation or a millennium after that last trumpet blows.

The "mystery of God" includes the Church in Christ Jesus, so the Church as a betrothed body of believers on Earth will be concluded at this trumpet.

"As He hath declared to His servants the prophets." Which prophets is the Lord speaking of? We don't see any excluded, so these prophets are all the prophets in the Bible, both Old Testament and New.

All prophecy will be fulfilled at this trumpet. (This does not include those few verses in Revelation that refer to the eternal Kingdom of God -- a timeless state that continues into infinity).

Now let's look at the verse where that trumpet blast sounds. The 7th trumpet is blown right in the middle of Revelation, after the Seven Churches, after the Seven Seals, after six other trumpets, and after the Two Witnesses:

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

The 7th angel sounds, and the Lord reigns forever. Right then, forever! After that trumpet blows, there won't be any time for a tribulation, or for a 1000-year millennium either.

We will be going straight into the eternal Kingdom of God when that last trumpet sounds. Despite differing doctrines, that is the chronological picture as declared in the Bible.

So when is the great tribulation? Matthew 24:21 tells us there was going to be one.

Well, the Greek word for tribulation is *thlipsis*, also translated affliction or trouble. *Thlipsis* (used 47 times in the New Testament) almost always refers to the suffering of the saints. Here are a couple of very familiar verses:

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have [*thlipsis*] tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Rom 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in [*thlipsis*] tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.

2Th 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and [*thlipsis*] tribulations that ye endure.

Generally speaking, the unsaved don't go through *thlipsis*; they are destined for *orgay* or *thumos*, God's wrath. *Orgay* and *thumos* are the two Greek words for wrath.

We saints are the ones who suffer tribulation during the Christian Era. However, we are not destined unto a final wrath, but unto eternal salvation.

The unsaved wicked are destined for wrath, the judgment of the Great White Throne, and the second death. So when is "the great tribulation"? John tells us:

Rev 1:9 I John, who also AM your brother, and companion in [*thlipsis*] tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

So according to John, the tribulation of the saints began during John's time.

May God forgive us for forgetting the terrible suffering the saints of the past have endured. Between two and twenty million Christians were killed by the Roman Empire in tortures unimaginable.

The Roman church killed up to twelve million more during the middle ages.

In our own generation, the Nazis murdered six million Jews, and up to five million Christians. And now, the Moslems have murdered additional millions of Christians and thousands of Jews, which fulfills:

Rev 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman [Israel], and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God [the Old Testament saints}, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ [the Gentile church].

We don't read *The Pilgrim Church*, *Fox's Book of Martyrs*, or *Martyrs Mirror* anymore, so we have lost our sense of history. We have lost all memory of sufferings of our forefathers.

We have lost sight of the Lord's big spiritual picture. The Great Tribulation of the Church began with the stoning of Stephen, and continued until the time of the Gentiles ended.

From the Scriptures we have studied so far, all defined biblical times have been fulfilled in new Israel. As a result, the Great Tribulation is probably an epochal time that has been running throughout the Christian Era.

In fact, since the true saints have suffered terribly ever since the cross, the "Great Tribulation" that Jesus spoke of may have been His name for this whole age.

But no sense crying over our past errors; let's just let the Bible show us what Revelation is really all about.

Rev 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be

hereafter.

Rev 1:19 is a key verse in Revelation. "Write the things which thou hast seen" -- *past tense* -- "the things which are" -- *present tense* -- "and the things which shall be hereafter" -- *future tense*.

If we look at the book of Revelation from the Apostle John's time, then Revelation is not just futuristic. Instead, it is about the past, present, and future *from John's own time*.

End of Study