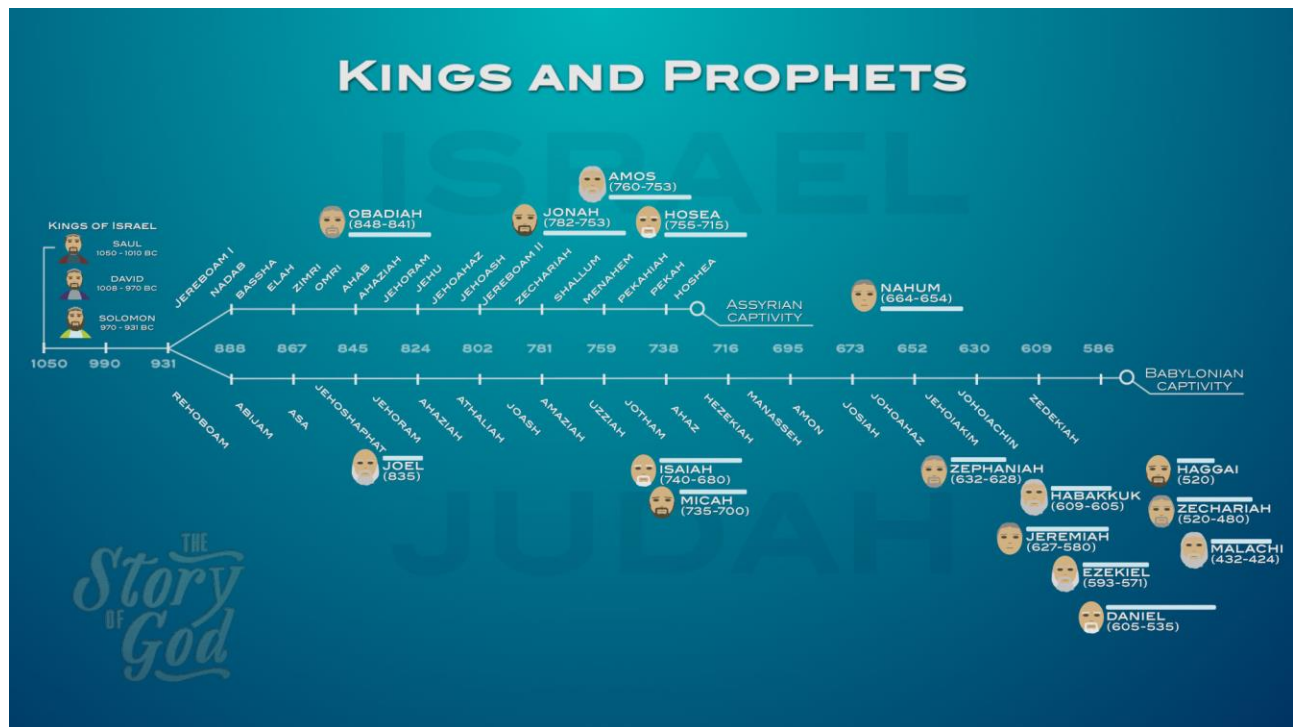


The Day of the Lord (DOTL) – A Timeline

Introduction

During the time before Jesus, God spoke to various men to make Himself known. These men were called “prophets”, and were widely acknowledged and accepted by the people of their time. These prophets wrote, inspired by the Spirit of God, everything the Lord wanted us to know about Himself, creation, history, future events, and eternity. Most authors of the different books in the Bible didn’t know each other. With that being said, the repeating of specific descriptions pertaining to the day of the Lord are not based on the knowledge of previously written books by each author, but solely based on the divine inspiration from God. The Lord used people to communicate prophecies to mankind. Claims, that the authors of the Bible worked together, are baseless and also impossible due to times and locations, in which these people lived.



The problem with today’s world is, that most people only rely on their own understanding, and with all the technological and scientific advances, people refuse to believe that there is something greater out there than themselves. They can’t imagine that there are things beyond what we can see. They also don’t want to trust writings from over 2000 years ago. But this is where I think these generations need to humble themselves today. Who are we to claim that people from over 2000 years ago didn’t know what they were talking about? Or that they made it all up? We weren’t there. Just because it sounds miraculous, and just because it is, doesn’t nullify their experiences.

In the following study, you will learn that the message about the day of the Lord, throughout 18 different books, is consistent in wording and description. I was inspired to conduct this study after learning about the teachings of a pre-tribulation rapture. At first I just accepted this point of view from leading scholars because they've studied the Bible for years, and who am I to doubt their conclusions. After all, I am still a new believer. But after reading through the Bible, and studying the pre-tribulation rapture for myself, I became troubled in my spirit. I couldn't find support for what they were talking about. I've tried. I've tried very hard to see it. Ultimately, I came to the conclusion that there is a lot of interpretation going on with this theory, and not much of looking at the whole picture. I found that, when you look at the whole picture, it becomes very clear that the "rapture" (*which comes from the Greek word harpazo, and in Latin rapturo, which means to snatch, take away, or to be caught up and refers to a removal of people up into heaven, like in 1 Thessalonians 4:17*) takes place at the 2nd coming of Christ. The "rapture" is not an isolated event before the tribulation period. Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, and at that time He will take His people up into heaven (all believers, the dead and the ones that are alive).

I went through the entire Bible to study the day of the Lord. As a result, I was able to piece together a rough timeline of events that have to take place before, during, and after the 2nd coming of Christ. During this process, I discovered that the "rapture" is actually the 1st resurrection spoken of in several books of the Bible. The consistency of word usage, description and the order of events doesn't leave much room for interpretation – the Bible is very clear on that. All the interpretations from modern day pastors, scholars and universities, subscribing to a pre-tribulation rapture, are in my eyes, after having done this study, misleading.

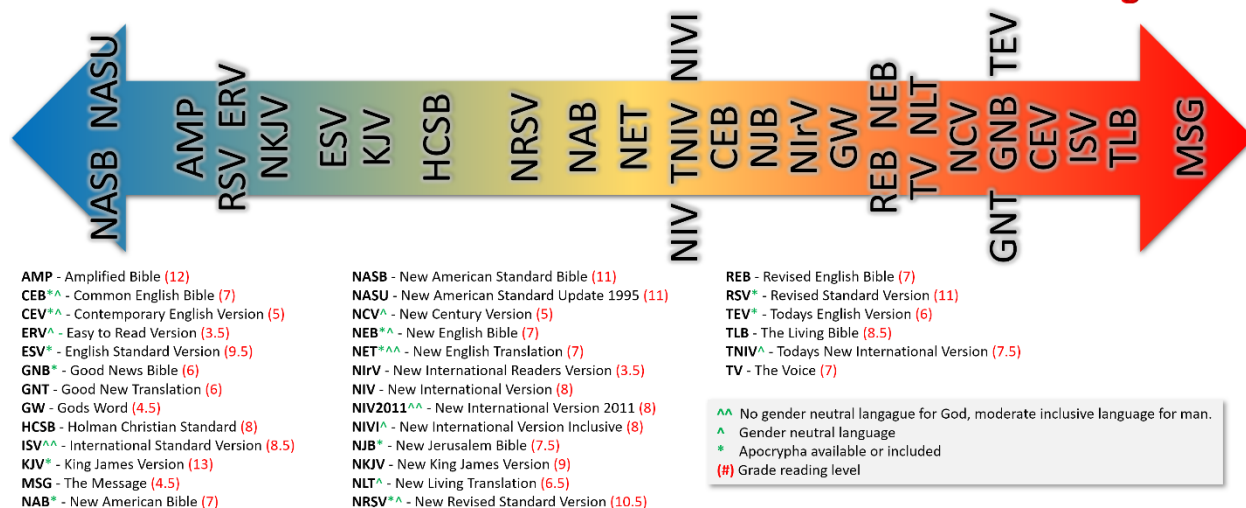
I'm not saying this in a way of portraying myself as smarter, more educated or knowledgeable. I am not. I've always had a close connection to the Holy Spirit throughout my life, even when I wasn't a believer (see testimony). I know when He's trying to tell me something, and for the most part, I've listened. And this is what I did in this case. I felt strongly convicted that there's something wrong with the pre-tribulation interpretation, and I followed His lead and investigated the matter. The reason why I am publishing this is because of my concern for all believers that follow the teachings of the pre-tribulation rapture – the hope of being rescued out of all the horrible scenarios described in Revelation. And I get that. I liked that idea, too. Unfortunately, this won't be our reality, and my biggest concern is, that a lot of people will fall away from faith. When they discover that they will be here for all of it, many will blame the church and the pastors for their teachings on the rapture, and they will believe that Christianity as a whole is a lie. And I can't have that. I feel very strongly about warning people about the truth, which can be found in the Bible. You can come to your own conclusions after reading through it yourself. This entire study is solely scripture based.

I used Strong's Concordance and the ESV during my study. I found that the NIV (thought for thought translation) changed certain sentences to support the pre-tribulation view, but these translations are not in line with the translations that are closer to the original texts. Therefore, if you have a Bible that works with paraphrasing, or thought for thought, you won't come to the same conclusion, because the translators have strayed away from the word for word approach, which is crucial if you want to find the truth.

Word for Word
Formal Equivalent
Literal
Form Based

Thought for Thought
Dynamic Equivalent

Paraphrase
Functional Equivalent
Paraphrase
Meaning Based



I want to emphasize that the only reason I'm doing this is to prevent an apostasy due to a rapture that doesn't happen at the expected time. Satan is a deceiver and a liar, we know that. And the lies he tells are, very often, extremely close to the truth so that it is hard for us to identify the lie. And that's exactly what I believe he did in this case. It is so very close to the truth, but far enough to destroy many, many souls.

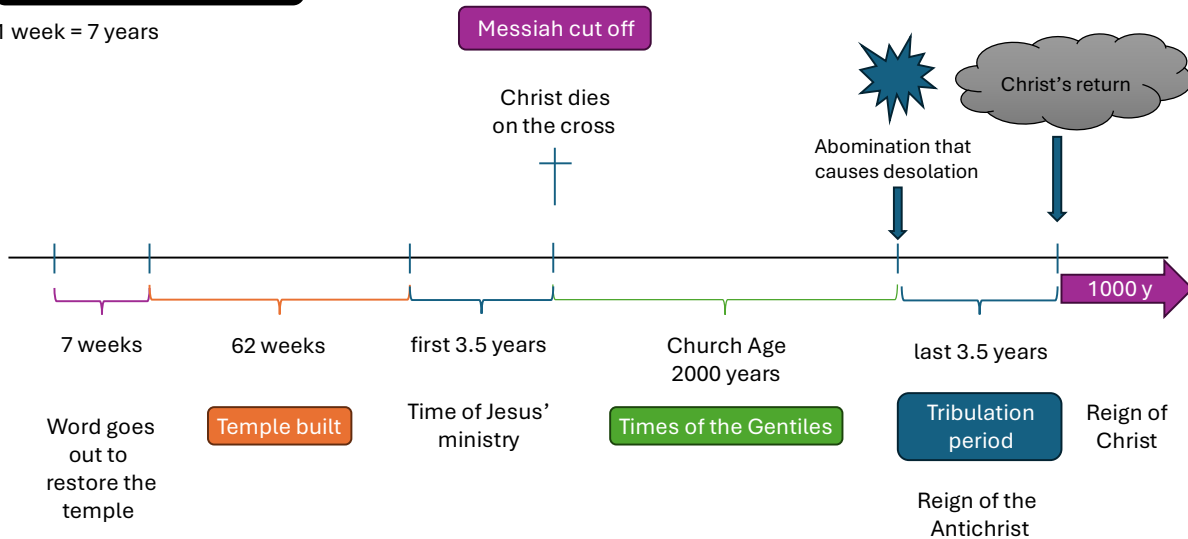
As always, I am open for comments, questions and feedback.

Prelude

Before we can dive into all of the scriptures about the DOTL, we have to understand Daniel's 70 weeks, because this will determine the length of the tribulation period. The popular teaching says that the tribulation is a period of 7 years right before Christ returns, and that the church will be taken into heaven at the beginning of this period. This is based on the wrong understanding of Daniel 9:24-27.

Daniel's 70 weeks

1 week = 7 years



Daniel 9:24-27 *“Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks and for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and in the midst of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”*

The first thing I have to point out is, that many Bible translations get the last sentence wrong. Going back to STRONGS and the Hebrew manuscript, they made this sentence whatever fits best into their theology, disregarding the actual translation. I'm just going to quote the most popular translations.

NIV: *“And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”*

KJV: *“...and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”*

NLT: *“And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.”*

CSB: *“And the abomination of desolation will be on a wing of the temple until the decreed destruction is poured out on the desolator.”*

The Message: *“At the place of worship, a desecrating obscenity will be set up and remain until finally the desecrator himself is decisively destroyed.”*

Bible Hub translation from Hebrew: *“And on the wing [of the temple] [will come] the abomination that causes desolation, until the decreed destruction is poured out upon [him].”*

The change in their wording makes it sound as if the HE in Daniel 9:27 (“And HE shall make a strong covenant with many for one week...”) is the Antichrist. But we have to ask this question: Who makes covenants in the Bible? Is it Satan? No. It’s ALWAYS God. God is the only one who makes any covenants. Therefore, this “HE” can not be the Antichrist. But then who is HE? Even though the book of Daniel is quite mysterious, I believe we can trust that he knows how to articulate himself properly. Therefore the “HE” must have been mentioned before already.

“And the people of the prince who is to come...” & “And HE shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week HE shall put an end to sacrifice and offering.”

Which event put an end to sacrifice and offering? Jesus’ death on the cross. He died as the ultimate sacrifice for mankind and made atonement for human sin for all who believe in his name. Therefore sacrifices and offerings were put to an end.

Jesus is referred to as “the prince” in Isaiah 9:6, where he calls him “Prince of peace”. Since Jesus is God in the flesh, he has the authority to make [Hebrew: *gâbar*] a covenant. The actual translation of “*gâbar*” is “to confirm” or “to strengthen” which builds directly upon God’s promised covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34) and automatically excludes the possibility that the “HE” is the Antichrist. So, we can conclude that HE is Jesus. And in this context, we learn that the 70th week has been cut short through the death of Jesus on the cross. The Messiah (the anointed one) has been cut off, as Daniel prophesied in Daniel 9:26 “*And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off*”. Daniel writes that an anointed one shall be cut off AFTER the 62 weeks (after the 69th week, since the first 7 weeks happened before the 62 weeks – see picture), which puts us automatically into the 70th week. And since the Antichrist has not arrived yet, we know that the 70th week will continue as soon as the Antichrist puts up this abomination. This event will start the countdown for the last 3.5 years.

Daniel combines the ceasing of the sacrifices and the setup of the abomination another time, in this passage:

Daniel 12:11-12 *“And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days.”*

This way we know that Daniel 9:27 was intentionally written that way, to show that the 70th week started in Jesus’ time and will continue when the abomination is set up. And since this hasn’t happened yet, we know that we are not in the tribulation period yet. Matthew 24 fills in the gap between these 2 events. He wrote down what Jesus told his disciples about the time in between. He also tells us what is to come when the Antichrist is revealed, about His 2nd coming and the believers resurrection.

The people that believe in the pre-trib rapture expect a third temple to be built before or during the tribulation, which they believe will be 7 years all together, based on several different pieces of scripture. They put Daniel 12:11 into this 7-year period because they believe that the “HE” in Daniel is the Antichrist. They think that the Antichrist will make a peace deal with Israel for 3.5 years, and during this time there will be sacrifices. After 3.5 years the Antichrist will put an end to the sacrifices and will put up an abomination in the temple, which then justifies the reign of the Antichrist for the last 3.5 years. But the question you have to ask is: where does the Bible say that the Antichrist will reign for 7 years? If he has so much influence 3.5 years before the abomination, then why is that not mentioned in the Bible? The Bible clearly says that he’ll be given power for 42 months (3.5 years). Then, again, since when does Satan make covenants? And when we look at **Revelation 6:1-2** *“Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.”*, everyone agrees, that this is the Antichrist right there. But what does it say? It doesn’t say anything about peace. On the contrary, John is speaking of him being a leader who will come out conquering, and to conquer.

So, I believe, there is a major misunderstanding of Daniel 9:27, which has led many to believe, and interpret, things that are not backed up by scripture.

DOTL – An Overview

We can find Jesus in every single book of the Bible. He has been revealed throughout scripture. Sometimes His mentioning is very clear, other times it is hidden in numerical form that reveals the Messianic timeline. But in which ever form it has been done, Jesus is the essence and heart of the Bible, and it is He, whom the prophets have revealed throughout the centuries. I will give a few examples of this in the first chapter “Before the tribulation”. Furthermore, I will quote scripture that displays other events that have already happened, or are about to happen, before the Antichrist sets himself up. After that, I will give you Bible scripture that deals with the tribulation period specifically. This will go to show, that the saints/believers/God’s people will still be on earth during that time. This will be followed by scripture pertaining to the DOTL directly, and all the events that will take place. Considering that one day equals 1000 years, it is a little hard to make out, if all these events are going to happen in a literal day, or if they are going to be spread over a longer period of time. With Daniel 12:11-12 in mind, I assume there is a chance that all of this won’t happen in just one day. The next chapter deals with the situation “After the DOTL”, which means during the 1000 years that follow that “day”. The separating of the chapters into “before, during and after”, helped me to have some sort of overview and organization, so that I didn’t have to throw it all together without a system. There might be passages that belong to a different chapter, but depending on the focus I personally put on the quotations, I organized it in a way that worked for me. The ultimate goal was to use all scripture from the Bible that speaks about the day of the Lord, so that I, and now you, can have the whole picture without going back and forth in the Bible. Towards the end there is a chapter about things that stood out to me, and one chapter with encouragements and warnings from God.

I will not include scripture from the book of Revelation, because this needs a separate study, even though it talks a lot about the day of the Lord. But you’ll be able to combine this study with the Revelation study, which I will upload as soon as it is done.

I hope the DOTL study will help you understand the day of the Lord better, and even though we won’t be “raptured” before the tribulation, I hope you know that it will be well with your soul as long as you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, and continue to build your relationship with Him. He’s our hope and our salvation, our peace inside the storm, and our light in the darkness. Peace be with you. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

BEFORE THE TRIBULATION

Joel 2:28-30 *“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.”*

- When you read this in context, it sounds like the Lord will pour out His Spirit after He restored Israel, which makes no sense. In the foot notes it says, that Joel 2:28 is the beginning of a new chapter in Hebrew, which makes definitely more sense, since they combine 2:28-32 in one chapter in Hebrew.

Micah 5:2-5 *“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace...”*

- Very clear prophecy about Jesus in the Old Testament and His role in the future
- “she who is in labor” reminds of Revelation 12

Zechariah 9:9 + 9:10 *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” “...and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from river (Euphrates) to the ends of the earth.”*

- Prophecy of Jesus’ 1st coming and his role after his 2nd coming

Zechariah 12:10 *“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him...”*

- A prophecy about Jesus and a confirmation that Jesus is God. Here, God is speaking, and he says “when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced...” – who was pierced? Jesus. This shows his divine nature. God in the flesh. Prophesied 500 years before it happened.

Malachi 4:5 *“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.”*

- This was John the Baptist in Jesus’ time (Luke 1:13-17) *“...and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah...”*

Matthew 24:3-14 *“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 them, ‘See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of*

wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

- “The one who endures to the end will be saved” – the end is when Jesus returns, therefore no saint goes to heaven before the end.
- Jesus describes the time before he returns – the last 2000 years – and all of it came true, we just haven’t seen the end yet

Luke 21:20-24 *“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”*

RIGHT BEFORE THE DAY – last half of the tribulation period

Job 5:19 *“He will deliver you from six troubles; in seven no evil shall touch you.”*

– look at seal/trumpet/bowl judgement set up in Revelation

– each has 7 judgments, with troubles up and including the 6th, but the 7th is always different.

Job 5:20-22 *“In famine he will redeem you from death, and in war from the power of the sword. You shall be hidden from the **lash of the tongue**, and shall not fear destruction when it comes. At destruction and famine you shall laugh, and shall not fear the beasts of the earth.”*

– hidden from the lash of the tongue = when Jesus destroys evil/unbelievers/beast etc. with the two-edged sword (tongue ~ word) >>> this happens at His coming, on the Day of the Lord, hence the believer will leave this earth at His coming

- redeem = get back, release from, free from

(read Job 5:17-27 for context)

Daniel 7:23-27 *“Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. He shall speak words against the Most High and shall **wear out the saints** of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; **and they shall be given into his hand** for a time, times, and half a time. But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”*

- Here we can clearly see, that the saints will be on earth during the reign of the Antichrist, because he will wear them out and they will be given into his hand. That wouldn't be possible if we were to leave earth before he rises. It even says that we will be given into his hands for 3.5 years, which also confirms, that the tribulation is not a set of 7 years, as it is believed by pre-tribulation believers, and that Daniel was 100% correct in his statement in Daniel 9:26-27.

Daniel 8:23-26 *“And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and **destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints**. By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand. The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now.”*

- Again, the Antichrist will destroy the saints. It doesn't say that these are saints that came to believe during the tribulation. That has been added by pre-trib believers. It doesn't say that the saints during the tribulation are new believers anywhere in scripture.

Daniel 11:36-37 *"And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all."*

Daniel 12:7 *"...that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end, all these things would be finished."*

- During the reign of the Antichrist the saints are going to be given over and their power will be scattered or broken (shattered is not the right translation of the word used here: nâphats)

Daniel 12:11-12 *"And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days."*

- Based on Daniel, we know that the 70th week has started when Jesus started his ministry and was abruptly cut off when Jesus was cut off by his people by being crucified. On that day the sacrifices and offerings were put to an end, as explained before. The 70th week will continue when the abomination that causes desolation will be set up, which rings in the last 3,5 years of the 70th week, and with it the reign of the Antichrist (see also Daniel 7:25)
- In the last sentence we are being told that we will be blessed if we wait and arrive at the 1335 days. I don't know why there are an extra 75 days after the 3,5 years, but this sentence indicates, that the saints will still be around during this entire time period and we are asked to wait (stay faithful, endure tribulation, resist the mark of the beast), because they will be blessed at the end of it all through the return of Christ, who will be glorified in us when he takes His church/bride home.

Joel 1:19-20 *"To you, O Lord, I call. For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and flame has burned all the trees of the field. Even the beasts of the field pant for you because the water brooks are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness."*

- The 4th bowl judgement matches this scenario (Rev. 16:8), but it could also be the time "after" the DOTL, when the army of God, the locusts, have devoured everything in their way (Joel 2:3)

Joel 2:31-32 *"The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls."*

- Strong's translation for the Mt. Zion part: "...for in mount Zion shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call."

- Overall this makes it clear again, that there will be deliverance for God's people, but not before the sun turns dark. This is the last sign before Jesus returns. And at His return, we shall be saved. The word "survivors" tells the reader already, that this refers to saints, that made it through the last tribulation period. Nowhere does it say, that these are "new believers", that called on God after a "rapture". I'm sure there will be new believers, but not exclusively.

Zechariah 14:2-7 *"For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken, and the houses plundered, and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light."*

- This is the battle of the Antichrist against Jerusalem right before Jesus returns. It is similar to the one described in Ezekiel 38, but Ezekiel 38 is the battle of Armageddon. There will be no peace during the Antichrist reign, especially not towards the end. That peace is the basis for the attack against Jerusalem in Ezekiel's description of the time before the war. The Lord is going to defeat the Antichrist and his armies with fire, smoke and sulfur.
- The Antichrist gets his power from the dragon (Satan) and goes to war against Israel. Satan will lose this fight and be bound for 1000 years. When he's set free at the end of the 1000 years, he deceives the nations again and it seems like he's trying to finish what he's started with the Antichrist, and pulls all the nations together and starts a similar war at the very end, the battle of Armageddon. The description of both wars are very similar and it's often hard to pinpoint which one the authors are talking about. I tried to consider the described circumstances that surround the war scenes. It is still difficult though, and I could be wrong.

Matthew 24:15 *"So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) ..."*

- This is when the Antichrist is revealed.

Matthew 24:21-24 *"For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect."*

- If the church would have been raptured before the tribulation, there wouldn't be a need to cut those days short. And the elect are called not to believe when someone says that Christ

is somewhere – why? Because we will still be here. Nowhere in Matthew does it say, that *these* elect are a new group of believers that came to Christ after the church was gone, or that they are the 144000. This idea is pure interpretation and has no background in scripture. The fact that this is us can be backed up by scripture, as I have already done. The picture will be whole, when you get to the end of this study, but it should already be clear at this point.

Luke 21:25-28 *“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”*

- Luke is as clear as Matthew. He’s talking to us, the believers. By the signs we will know that the time has come. We are to straighten up and raise our heads. When exactly? When these things begin to take place. And when is that? Right before the coming of the Son of Man, at the end of the tribulation. The signs in the sun, moon and stars appear when the 6th seal is opened. Hence, we are going to be around during the 6th seal judgement.

ON THE DAY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 2:11 *“Enter into the rock and hide in the dust from before the terror of the Lord, and from the splendor of his majesty. The haughty looks of man shall be brought low, and the lofty pride of men shall be humbled, and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. For the Lord of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low...”*

Isaiah 2:18-19 *“And the idols shall utterly pass away. And people shall enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground...”*

Isaiah 3:24-26 *“Instead of perfume there will be rottenness; ... Your men shall fall by the sword and your mighty men in battle. And her gates shall lament and mourn; empty, she shall sit on the ground.”*

Isaiah 8:22 *“And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.”*

- Distress, darkness, gloom, anguish and thick darkness are repeatedly used throughout scripture to describe the DOTL

Isaiah 11:4 *“...and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.”*

Isaiah 24:1 *“Behold, the Lord will empty the earth and make it desolate, and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants.”*

- Isaiah foretells the earthquake that will move mountains and islands, as described in Revelation

Isaiah 24:6 *“Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.”*

- Revelation 16:8 the 4th bowl judgement

Isaiah 24:18-22 *“For the windows of heaven are opened, and the foundations of the earth tremble. The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth is violently shaken. The earth staggers like a drunken man; it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again. On that day the Lord will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished.”*

- The pink part is interesting, refers to Revelation 12:7-12, I believe

Isaiah 26:19-21 *“Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead. Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by. For behold, the Lord is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain.”*

- Based on other scripture, the dead rise on the DOTL. But you can also read it here: “...hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by. For behold, the Lord is coming out from his place to punish...” The fury is the punishment of the Antichrist and unbeliever. The Lord will raise the dead and us, who are still alive, give them white linen and they will be His army, when He comes against the beast and the unbeliever. There’s a sentiment among the pre-tribulation believer, that “rising up to come right back down” is supposedly pointless, which is a very human point of view and is, I believe, falsely applied here. It’s an argument I’ve heard several times from pre-trib believers. We don’t know how much time will pass by between the raising of the dead and the believers that survived, and Jesus actually defeating the Antichrist.
- Another very important point here is this: Isaiah says to “hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by.” Followed immediately by him saying that the Lord will come out from his place to punish. So, we are to hide from the punishment that will come upon the earth, when the Lord returns. It doesn’t say that we are to hide from the judgments that will come upon the earth and mankind during the tribulation. We are to hide from “the rod of his mouth”, “the breath of his lips” (see Isaiah 11:4)

Isaiah 27:1 *“In that day the Lord with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.”*

Isaiah 27:13 *“And in that day a great trumpet will be blown...”*

Isaiah 34:2-4 *“For the Lord is enraged against all the nations, and furious against all their host [STRONGS: armies]; he has devoted them to destruction, has given them over for slaughter. Their slain shall be cast out, and the stench of their corpses shall rise; the mountains shall flow with their blood. All the host of heaven shall rot away [STRONGS: vanish, dissolve], and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall fall, as leaves fall from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree.”*

- Hosts = angels or stars, as of various pastors; in this case it would be stars, but STRONGS doesn’t translate it as stars at all, even though we know that all the stars will fall from the sky
- “Skies roll up like a scroll” is also mentioned in Revelation 6:14 (6th seal)

Jeremiah 30:7 *“Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob, yet he shall be saved out of it.”*

- He, Jacob (Israel), shall be saved out of the DOTL. It doesn’t say he shall be saved from the tribulation. He’s speaking specifically about the Israelites here, but we learn in the New Testament that the Gentiles will be grafted into the nation of Israel, because everyone who calls on the name of the Lord and believes in Jesus, is called “holy” or “saint”, and they will be saved, and inherit the kingdom of God at the end (Romans 11:11-36)
- Gentiles will be called “saints” as well in the NT (Acts 26:10, Romans 1:7, 1 Corinthians 1:2)

Jeremiah 30:11 *“I will make a full end of all nations among whom I scattered you, but of you I will not make a full end.”*

Ezekiel 7:14-17 *“They have blown the trumpet and made everything ready, but none goes to battle, for my wrath is upon all their multitude. The sword is without; pestilence and famine are*

within. He who is in the field *dies by the sword*, and him who is in the city famine and pestilence devour. And if any survivors escape, they will be on the mountains, like doves of the valleys, all of them moaning, each one over his iniquity. All hands are feeble, and all knees turn to water.”

Ezekiel 7:19 “They cast their silver into the streets, and their gold is like an unclean thing. Their silver and gold are not able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord. They cannot satisfy their hunger or fill their stomachs with it. For it was the stumbling block of their iniquity.”

Ezekiel 14:21-22 “For thus says the Lord God: How much more when I send *upon Jerusalem* my four disastrous acts of judgment, sword, famine, wild beasts, and pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast! But behold, some *survivors* will be left in it, sons and daughters *who will be brought out...*”

- The 4 disastrous judgements will come when the 4th seal is opened, specifically mentioned in Rev. 6:8
- “brought out” does not refer to a “saving in advance” nor being “raptured”, but to believers surviving the judgements, that’s why they are called “survivors”
- He’s speaking here specifically about the Jews, since he’s mentioning Jerusalem particularly. That doesn’t mean only the Jews will survive. Here, in this particular verse, yes, he’s speaking about what is going to happen to the people in Jerusalem, but we know from Revelation 6 that the 4th seal comes upon the whole earth, not just Jerusalem. And since many other verses prove that the saints will still be on earth during that time, and that there will be saints that make it alive through the entire tribulation, some can expect to be brought out of it as well.

Ezekiel 30:3 “For the day is near, the day of the Lord is near; it will be *a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations.*”

Ezekiel 37:12-14 “...Behold, I will open your graves and *raise you from your graves*, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and *raise you from your graves*, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land.”

Daniel 7:13-14 “...behold, *with the clouds of heaven* there came one *like a son of man*, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”

- The other time I’ve seen “like a son of man” in Revelation 14:14, it wasn’t Jesus, but an angel according to Matthew 13:39. But considering what is given to him in Daniel, it should be Jesus.

Daniel 12:1-2 “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be *a time of trouble*, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. *But at that time your people shall be delivered*, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

- The last sentence belongs to “after the day”, since this describes the second resurrection

Joel 1:15-16 *“Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes. Is not the food cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God?”*

Joel 2:1-6 *“Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations. Fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them. Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses they run. As with the rumbling of chariots, they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army, drawn up for battle. Before them peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale.”*

- The blackness spread upon the mountains sounds like the battle of Armageddon, as described in Ezekiel 38:9.
- “The land is like the garden of Eden” sounds like the earth during the reign of Christ, the destruction that follows this army sounds like the end of heaven and earth – “Behold, I am making all things new.” Rev. 21:5
- But at the same time he talks about the day of the Lord – this indicates that the DOTL is 1000 years long and starts with the return of Christ and ends in the battle of Armageddon and the renewal of heaven and earth.
- Also interesting: the description of a trumpet, clouds and thick darkness matches Moses encounter with God on Mount Sinai in Exodus 19:7-20 (which also reflects the Messianic timeline and the first resurrection) and Exodus 20:18-21. There it says: “Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.”

Joel 2:10-11 *“The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. The Lord utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the Lord is great and very awesome; who can endure it?”*

- “Camp” – STRONGS: literally - soldiers; figuratively - encampment of angels, locusts, stars
- Locusts would make sense, since the Lord's army is described as such in Joel 1:4
- The question is: is it God's army in a sense of angels and saints, or is it God's army, that he pulled out of the far north to fulfill his prophecy? Verses 10 and 11 are in context with verses 4-9, which describe the army. It's comparable to the army mentioned in the 6th bowl judgement in Rev. 16. The locusts could also be the same as in Rev. 9:1-11, since they have the same optics (war horses), which cover the land like a cloud.
- See also Joel 2:25 *“I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you.”* This indicates that it is the army that will go into the battle of Armageddon, based on my assumption that the seals, trumpets and bowl judgments are aligned – as in they are happening during the same time frame but likely not simultaneously. More on that in my Revelation study.

Joel 3:2 *"I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land..."*

Joel 3:9-16 *"Proclaim this among the nations: Consecrate for war; stir up the mighty men. Let all the men of war draw near; let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, 'I am a warrior.' Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves there. Bring down your warriors, O Lord. Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great. Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. The Lord roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake. But the Lord is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel."*

- the Valley of Jehoshaphat is between the Dome of the Rock and the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem
- The plowshares and hooks are also mentioned in Isaiah 2:4, just the other way around (spears into pruning hooks, which describes the time during the reign of the Messiah where there will be perfect peace and no need for weapons anymore).
- "The Lord is a refuge for his people" indicates a saving at the time of his coming, since this is mentioned right after the great signs in sun, moon and stars which directly precedes the 2nd coming of Christ
- In this part Joel talks about the war against the Antichrist but then mentions in the same sentence the judgment that will happen at the end of the 1000 years, which leads me to believe that the DOTL is often times used to cover the entire 7th day – the Lord's day, the day of rest (see messianic timeline).

Joel 5:18 + 20 *"Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light." "Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?"*

Amos 8:9-10 *"And on that day," declares the Lord God, I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation..."*

Amos 9:11 *"In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches..."*

Obadiah 15-17 *"For the day of the Lord is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head. For as you have drunk on my holy mountain, so all the nations shall drink continually; they shall drink and swallow, and shall be as though they had never been. But in Mount Zion there shall be those who escape, and it shall be holy, and the house of Jacob shall possess their own possessions."*

Zephaniah 1:2-3 “*I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth, declares the Lord. I will sweep away man and beast; I will sweep away the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, and the rubble with the wicked. I will cut off mankind from the face of the earth, declares the Lord.*”

Zephaniah 1:7 “*Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.*”

- The sacrifice is going to be all the people that come against Israel on that day and the consecrated guests are the believers, who will be saved on that day. Everything is prepared.

Zephaniah 1:14-18 “*The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the Lord; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the Lord. In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.*”

- The day of the wrath of the Lord.
- Revelation 6 says that the wrath of the Lord has come, this is after the 6th seal, which would indicate that everything before the 7th seal was not considered wrath.

Zephaniah 3:19-20 “*Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into [Jer. 13:11; 33:9] praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.*”

- At that time = the day of the Lord, Jesus’ 2nd coming

Zechariah 9:14 “*Then the Lord will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord God will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south. The Lord of hosts will protect them, and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones, and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine, and be full like a bowl, drenched like the corners of the altar. On that day the Lord their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land.*”

- Very clear again; God’s people will be saved on the day of the Lord (on that day, God’s people are ALL believers, since the Gentiles have been grafted into the nation of Israel, as mentioned earlier)

Zechariah 14:12-16 “*And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the peoples that wage war against Jerusalem: their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. And on that day a great panic from the Lord shall fall on them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of the one will*

be raised against the hand of the other. Even Judah will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be collected, gold, silver, and garments in great abundance. And a plague like this plague shall fall on the horses, the mules, the camels, the donkeys, and whatever beasts may be in those camps. Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths.”

- Due to the description, it matches Ezekiel 38 again, but the fact that life goes on afterwards, and that the nations will go up to worship the king, indicates that this battle is fought at the end of the reign of the Antichrist. Ezekiel actually indicates as well, that life will go on after that battle, when he says that people will bury the dead for 7 months.
- The 6th trumpet and the 6th bowl both describe a war, the 6th trumpet matches the Ezekiel 38 war description, the 6th bowl involves the Antichrist and calls the war “the battle of Armageddon”, which would then mean that the battle of Armageddon is fought by the Antichrist and all war descriptions pertain to this specific battle, and not a battle after the 1000 years.
- But still, Revelation 20 mentions God and Magog again. We need the missing scripture about Gog and Magog. They are somehow involved in another battle at the end of the 1000 years. I’m saying, “missing scripture”, because God talks to Ezekiel about prophets, who prophesied for years about Gog (Ezekiel 38:17), and the only one who’s telling us about him is Ezekiel. There is a chance that the other prophets never ended up writing down their prophecies, but how likely is that? I believe there’s scripture missing.
- So, if Ezekiel describes the battle right when Jesus returns, then how does Israel get to live in peace? There’s not going to be peace during the Antichrist reign. So, I might be right with assuming that Ezekiel’s prophecy covers somehow both wars.

Malachi 4:1-3 *“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.”*

Matthew 24:27 *“For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”*

Matthew 24:29-31 *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, 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 out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”*

- Matthew couldn’t be any clearer here – they will gather his elect (STRONGS: chosen, elect) at the coming of the son of man, Jesus Christ. This scene is described in most of the books I used here for my study.

Matthew 24:38-41 *"For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, **so will be the coming of the Son of Man**. Then two men will be in the field; **one will be taken and one left**. Two women will be grinding at the mill; **one will be taken and one left**."*

- This is where pre-tribulation believers say that the rapture happens "before the tribulation". But it clearly states in the sentence before *that this is how it will be at the coming of the son of man* – he doesn't come twice at the end. Nowhere in scripture is stated that he comes twice. He comes in the clouds, with a loud trumpet call and all his angels and he will gather his elect – one will be taken, one left. There is literally no room for any other interpretation.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 *"For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and **with the sound of the trumpet of God**. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them **in the clouds** to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord."*

- We who are alive (after everything went down) ...who **ARE LEFT** (because we didn't get killed during the tribulation) **UNTIL the coming of the Lord!** I do not understand how anyone could have ever believed that a pre-tribulation rapture would be a thing.
- On top of that, we are not to precede those who have died before the day of the Lord. When are the dead supposed to rise? At His 2nd coming. So, when we don't precede the dead, then how would there be another, EARLIER rapture? It is clearly said here, that the Lord will descend from heaven with the sound of the trumpet. When will the trumpet sound? AT HIS COMING. At the end of the tribulation.
- When Jesus comes back, he will come in the clouds, as confirmed by 7 books – Paul says we will be caught up (that's the rapture right there – rapture = 1st resurrection) with the dead **IN THE CLOUDS**
- The only way to still insist on a pre-tribulation rapture is to say that Paul is wrong. I'd like to be contacted by the person who does that.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 *"...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, **when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints**, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed."*

- Christ is going to be glorified in his saints on that day – the glorification of the saints (the final removal of sin) will become the glorification of Christ and is going to happen at His coming. That implies that the believer will still be on earth, not previously raptured. The glorification includes the changing of our bodies.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-7 *“Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. **For that day will not come, unless the falling away comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining him so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed...**”*

- Pre-tribulation theorists make this something that it isn't. It very clearly states here, that Christ won't return unless the Antichrist is revealed first. But because of the following statement from Paul, they believe that the church has to be gone beforehand.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:6-7** *“And now you know what is restraining him so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. **Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed...**”* They say that what is restraining him, is the Holy Spirit (even though this is nowhere mentioned by Paul) and when He is out of the way the church leaves as well (will be raptured) and then the Antichrist will be revealed.
- I looked at the Greek translation and noticed that this sentence was translated wrong. I'd assume this happened, because it needed to fit their rapture idea. When you translate it the right way, it says *“**And he who now holds him (down), will do so, until he falls from among them.**”* Or another option can be *“**...until he comes out of their midst.**”* When I found that out, I immediately knew Paul is talking about Satan. To make sure I'm not on the wrong path I looked at other scripture and found the confirmation in Revelation 12. There, a war breaks out in heaven and Michael and his angels fight against the dragon (Satan). Satan loses and is cast down to earth, where he only has a little time (3,5 years). This is when “he falls” from among them. Now Paul's writing makes a whole lot more sense.
- Now we have to look at the context of this passage. Knowing Paul's writings, I'm certain he wouldn't have his reader second guess, he's very clear and plain in his communication. Therefore, we need to read the sentences from 1-5 again, to find out who “he”, who holds him down, is. All of this is about the revealing of the Antichrist. So, what does Paul say first? *“For that day will not come, unless the falling away comes first...”* What is restraining the Antichrist? Not the presence of the church/believers – it's God. God's word. Jesus. But with the falling away and hence the continuous disappearance of the word of God, the world opens up the space for the Antichrist.

“AFTER” THE DAY – during the 1000-year reign of Christ

We don't know what “the day of the Lord” specifically means. Is it a literal day? Or is it 1000 years? Right now it's unclear. Considering the amount of events that are supposed to take place on the day of the Lord, I believe it's possible that the “day” is actually a period of time, or maybe even a thousand years. But then...it's God – he can make it work either way. We'll have to wait and see.

Isaiah 2:2 *“It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it,...”*

- this is reality today, but this concerns the time after the tribulation, when Jesus reigns, when you consider the context it is written in

Isaiah 11:6 *“The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.”*

Isaiah 11:10 *“In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.”*

- “In that day” means after the wrath, when things calm down, but potentially could still be called “the DOTL” based on the “1 day = 1000 year”-rule

Isaiah 25:8-9 *“He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”*

Jeremiah 30:9 *“But they shall serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.”*

Ezekiel 37:22+24 *“And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms.”, “My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes.”*

Ezekiel 38:7-9 *“Be ready and keep ready, you and all your hosts that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them. After many days you will be mustered. In the latter years you will go against the land that is restored from war, the land whose people were gathered from many peoples upon the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste. Its people were brought out from the peoples and now dwell securely, all of them. You will advance, coming on like a storm. You will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your hordes, and many peoples with you.”*

- First I thought Ezekiel 37-39 is clearly the war at the end of the tribulation, but because of certain passages I'm really unsure, as I have expressed before already. In this part, Ezekiel speaks about both wars very clearly. The last sentence is definitely the war at the end of the

1000 years, when Satan is released and deceives many nations again. And John specifically names Gog and Magog in Revelation 20, which agrees with Ezekiel. It's confusing. But I also think it might be possible to have a "present" and "future" fulfillment, like Daniel 11, when he talks about the Antichrist. It is believed that Antiochus Epiphanes, who ruled the Seleucid Empire from 175-164 BC, was a type of Antichrist, who shared characteristics and certain actions with the coming Antichrist. I guess we won't know until it happens. I think both wars are going to share some of the descriptions, but mainly I think Ezekiel talks about the war of Armageddon at the end of the tribulation, simply because it sounds like life will go on afterwards.

- This army, that will cover the land like a cloud, is described in the same way in Joel 2:1-3
- The description of Israel living securely matches Zechariah 14:11, which refers to the time of Christ's reign
- Ezekiel 37:19-21 says that God will make Israel one nation, not divided into 2 kingdoms anymore. This won't happen until Christ brings all things together under his reign.

Ezekiel 38:11 *"...I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will fall upon the quiet people who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls and having no bars or gates."*

- The only one who can bring that type of peace, perfect peace, is Jesus.

Ezekiel 38:19-22 *"On that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. The fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the field and all creeping things that creep on the ground, and all the people who are on the face of the earth, shall quake at my presence. And the mountains shall be thrown down, and the cliffs shall fall, and every wall shall tumble to the ground. I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Lord God. Every man's sword will be against his brother. With pestilence and bloodshed I will enter into judgment with him, and I will rain upon him and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him torrential rains and hailstones, fire and sulfur."*

- This part is blurry again. The description of rain, hailstones, fire and sulfur matches Revelation 20.
- **Revelation 20:7-9** *"And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them..."*

Ezekiel 39:4 *"You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes and the peoples who are with you. I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured."*

Ezekiel 39:17-18 *"Speak to the birds of every sort and to all beasts of the field: 'Assemble and come, gather from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, a great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat flesh and drink blood. You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth..."*

- I believe that this now concerns the war involving the Antichrist, since judgement will come upon all the nations of the earth after the final battle, not birds and beasts of the field.

Daniel 7:18 *“But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.”*

Zephaniah 3:9 *“For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord.”*

Zechariah 14:8-9 *“On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter. And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day the Lord will be one and his name one.”*

- No more Trinity.

Zechariah 14:11 *“And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security.”*

- This is the peace I was talking about. The perfect peace before Satan is released for a short time.

Matthew 25:31-33 *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.”*

- This is the judgement at the end of the ages. After that, the new heavens and the new earth will be created. And then the 8th day starts – or better - eternity.

THINGS THAT STAND OUT

Isaiah 34:8 “For the Lord has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.”

Ezekiel 14:12-14 “And the word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, when a land sins against me by acting faithlessly, and I stretch out my hand against it and break its supply of bread and send famine upon it, and cut off from it man and beast, even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness, declares the Lord God.”

- Righteousness is the only thing that will deliver people individually from the wrath of God. I thought it was interesting that God used these 3 people as references. They have been faithful through highs and lows, craziness and devastation – they had unshakable faith in any situation.

Ezekiel 38:17 “Thus says the Lord God: Are you he of whom I spoke in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel, who in those days prophesied for years that I would bring you against them?”

- God is talking about prophecies related to Gog. As I mentioned earlier, I think there might be scripture missing.

Hosea 3:4-5 “For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days.”

- They dwell without a king or prince (prince most likely being Jesus considering the context) or sacrifice (because Messiah was cut off and died as the ultimate sacrifice) or pillar (I assume the temple).

1 Corinthians 15:22-26 “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”

- This, in my opinion, is the absolute ultimate passage when it comes to the resurrection of the believers. If the other ones were not clear enough, this one is just plain and raw, and doesn't leave any questions. Christ was raised first, therefore we, the believers (saints, holy ones, elect) shall be raised **AT HIS COMING**. Then he'll deal with the people that will come against Jerusalem (Ezekiel 38). Paul is very detailed and thorough in his writings; I trust he would let us know if there was a separate “rapture”.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 “Behold! I tell 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 trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.”

- We shall all be changed – **at the last trumpet!!** The last trumpet will sound at the coming of Christ, as confirmed by 6 books.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 “*Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that **the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night**. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.*”

- This here is one of the main arguments of preachers for the pre-tribulation rapture... they take “no one knows the day or the hour” (Matthew 24:36) and “we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye” (1 Corinthians 15:52) and combine it with “the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” and then add Revelation 4 as an argument for the pre-tribulation rapture (they say, from the point Revelation 4 starts, we don’t read anything about the church anymore, that means we are all in heaven, because John is taken at once into heaven in the spirit at the beginning of Rev. 4, so that has to mean that the church does the same...). Yet, the believers are actually mentioned quite often after Revelation 4...
- The other part I want to talk about is that the day “will come like a thief in the night”. Yes, only God knows the exact timing, BUT as Paul says, that day should not surprise us like the rest of the world. The believer will absolutely be able to narrow it down, simply by looking at the signs and warnings spoken of in the Bible. As long as we stay alert and awake, this day will not come over us like a thief. But pre-tribulation preachers tend to skip that part to support their rapture argument. If they’d read and apply the entire passage, it would be clear that there is no spontaneous, surprising rapture that snatches us out of our day-to-day life. We will know when the time is near. How? When the sun, moon and stars stop giving their light. When does that happen? At the end of the tribulation.
- We will also know when to expect Jesus, when we see the abomination that causes desolation since this is the beginning of the last 3.5 years of Daniel’s 70th week. Jesus on the cross ended the first 3.5 years abruptly.

ENCOURAGEMENT AND WARNINGS FROM GOD FOR THAT DAY

Isaiah 3:10-11 *"Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds. Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him."*

Zephaniah 2:3 *"Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord."*

1 Thessalonians 5:13-22 *"Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."*

Ezekiel 7:5-7 *"Thus says the Lord God: Disaster after disaster! Behold, it comes. An end has come; the end has come; it has awakened against you. Behold, it comes. Your doom has come to you, O inhabitant of the land. The time has come; the day is near, a day of tumult, and not of joyful shouting on the mountains."*

Luke 21:34-36 *"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

- Having the "strength to escape" does not indicate that we are taken away before everything goes down. STRONGS translates it literally as escape or flee. I understand it as in "having the strength to stay focused on the promise, on Jesus, no matter what comes our way, so that we may stand before the Son of Man when the time comes". Luke is talking about watching ourselves so that we don't get distracted, or like the parables of the 10 virgins. When all these things happen, many will be so overwhelmed by them, they won't have the strength to get through them, and they will fall away.

Final Words

I believe we are in the end stages of the “falling away” Daniel spoke about. *The* falling away that will ultimately lead to the rise of the Antichrist. Please do not accept the mark of the beast, brothers and sisters, do not conform to the world, but always keep the Lord’s promise in your heart and in your soul. Many have endured tribulations and persecutions before us, and are now with our God in heaven. It surely is nothing to look forward to, but we can do all things in Christ. No trial, no hardship, no violence, not even death can separate us from the love of God.

I pray for all of us to have the strength to face what is about to come, to stand strong on the Rock of our salvation, to not lose hope or faith in God, to support and uplift each other in the good and the bad times, to love God and love our neighbors and to not be afraid. I’ll see you on the other side, safe and secure in the presence of our Father in heaven. To Him be all glory, and honor, and praise, forever and ever. In Jesus mighty name. Amen.