

Revelation: The Time is Near

The First Resurrection

Revelation 20:1-10

Revelation Review:

- John on Patmos, **revealed** Jesus in glory, in heaven
- Letters to **Seven churches**
- **The end of the world (as we know it) - The Great Tribulation** most of earth, cities, climate, oceans, peoples destroyed - great earthquake at end levels everything
- **Judgment on the nations and those who follow satan (it's clear)**
- **A last ditch effort to get the world to repent**

- **The END revealed**
- **The CHURCH revealed**
- **HEAVEN revealed**
- **JESUS revealed**
- **The FUTURE revealed**
- **THE FUTURE FUTURE revealed**

“Bible says more about the End Times than any other time in history.” Missler

Previously:

- A world in allegiance with a world leader, with a mark, must worship (remember Shad/Mes/Abed)
- Many judgments, plagues, disasters, war, famine, death
- Martyrs - Tribulation Saints, beheaded for faith
- Babylon - A sexually and spiritually and financially corrupt and immoral world system
 - Babylon destroyed, songs in heaven
 - Praise to God, a call to the marriage of Jesus and his bride
- Rider on a White Horse - The REAL Jesus
- His army of saints behind him, no weapons

The saints on horseback were unarmed. Only Jesus. But in this life we take up the full armor of God.

- A sword coming out of his mouth, eyes flaming, blood-soaked robe, name only he knows, KING OF KINGS LORD OF LORDS written on him
- Destroys world armies in one blow (basically just shows up and they lose)
- Antichrist and False Prophet thrown into the lake of fire

A few things before we dig in:

Daniel 12 (read entire chapter)

“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

Daniel 9:20-27

**70 weeks (of years) of Daniel, the last week being fulfilled in the Tribulation
69th week ends at the Triumphal Entry**

These chunks of scripture are very short in comparison to the time of their existence.

Scripture as a whole can help illuminate but a few things

1. **we shouldn't skip over because they're briefly written**, it's important
2. **they say a lot succinctly**. A lot can be gleaned just by pausing and considering
3. **we need to be careful not to say dogmatically what the bible doesn't elaborate on**

"Where the Bible is silent, I will be too" Chuck Smith

We tend to think of the end times as the literal end of the world. It's not, completely.

We're in the end times of our way if doing things. Of sin and Satan being free. But for those not raptured there's always at least seven years and then 1000 years to go before the actual end.

We forget that the Letters to the Churches and the 7 Years of Tribulation is just the beginning.

I think there's a lot of focus on that time so that people might be convicted and come to faith - **more than wake up, but rise from the dead spiritually.**

But as believers, the last few chapters are, in a sense

The most important or at least the most exciting

[Pray]

20:1-3

John's perspective, from future earth again/still it seems

Key to the bottomless pit

Star fallen given key to bottomless pit - opened, smoke of a great furnace -

sun and air darkened

Locusts - harm only those without the seal of God - not to kill, but torment for 5 months

Satan given that authority last time, God's angel given authority this time

AND WITH CHAINS

Satan bound and thrown into that pit, it's not hell necessarily, as we'll see. He's by himself.

Reminds of that old Superman movie with Christopher Reeve...THE PHANTOM ZONE

Four angels bound, Rev 9 again, appointed for the time

Again, the Bible doesn't say much about these things so we can't go too far out on a limb, but there are spiritual and physical places, prisons, bound in time and physicality, set apart and used. Things we can't see or explain necessarily, yet totally real and a part of our reality - creation.

SET A SEAL UPON HIM

That he should deceive the nations no more...until the 1,000 years over

God seals his people, God seals up certain knowledge and events until the end, seals Satan until God is ready to allow him to be free to accomplish God's purpose again

We might struggle with this. God could just wipe Satan out, it was easy as we saw, but he doesn't...and then when he does, he puts him in the basement for a few years, and then lets him out. WHAT'S GOING ON GOD?

What's going on is God's salvation plan. He must give everyone a choice. I'm sure there's more to it than that, but God doesn't want us to be robots.

HE WILL NOT FORCE US TO WORSHIP HIM

He always gives us a CHOICE

Satan, the world, does not. OBEY OR DIE.

He MUST be set free for a LITTLE WHILE

Micros - small, little

Season

Not given the exact amount of time here. Is it a week? Is it a few years? Whatever it is, it's short. Very short. At least compared to the 1,000 years, at least compared to history. It's not the focus of the story. The focus is the 1,000 years.

But the 1,000 years is an exact time

DG commentary "We should take a number literally unless there is clear reason or evidence to do otherwise."

Much like Creation, there's no reason to believe in the Bible that it's anything but literal time.

Psalm 90:4

For a thousand years in Your sight

are but as yesterday when it is past,

or as a night watch in the night time.

[2 Peter 3:3-9 NKJV] knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as [they were] from the beginning of creation." For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world [that] then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth [which] are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day [is] as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning [His] promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

These scriptures don't tell us to take time periods given as literal time and interpret them as not literal.

What they tell us is - that God is not beholden to time. He doesn't experience it the way we do (although he has when he walked the earth) - he is above time. Outside of it. Creator of it.

[Isaiah 46:9-10 NKJV] Remember the former things of old, For I [am] God, and [there is] no other; [I am] God, and [there is] none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times [things] that are not [yet] done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

:4-6

More thrones - this time on Earth

**The souls of those martyred
Trib saints, Rev 7**

Remember, faith in Jesus during the Tribulation will almost certainly require their own death

Now it just requires you put to death your flesh, then the world will put it to death for you, literally.

And for the word of God - a reminder that their deaths weren't just the result of sinful actions of sinful people ruled by Satan. **That their deaths had real meaning to fulfill God's own word and purpose**

Comment on a video from a veteran about wasted service

[Romans 8:31, 35-39 NKJV] What then shall we say to these things? If God [is] for us, who [can be] against us? ... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [Shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**These saints - had no worshipped beast
Received his mark on foreheads or hands**

Tell me why Christians think tattoos are a good idea? ... you see how people are getting comfortable with body "modification" and how taking a mark for the leader of the dead is not going to be a stretch for a society used to doing other things with their bodies

These martyred SOULS seen in heaven, are resurrected

Ezekiel 37:1-14, valley of dry bones

This is their resurrection, prior to the judgment.

THIS IS THE FIRST RESURRECTION

If there's a FIRST resurrection, that must mean there's at least a SECOND resurrection

[1 Corinthians 15:20-28 NKJV] But now Christ is risen from the dead, [and] has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man [came] death, by Man also [came] the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those [who are] Christ's at His coming. Then [comes] the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy [that] will be destroyed [is] death. For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under [Him]," [it is] evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

[1 Corinthians 15:35 NKJV] But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?"

[1 Corinthians 15:42-49 NKJV] So also [is] the resurrection of the dead. [The body] is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written,

"The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam [became] a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man [was] of the earth, [made] of dust; the second Man [is] the Lord from heaven. As [was] the [man] of dust, so also [are] those [who are made] of dust; and as [is] the heavenly [Man], so also [are] those [who are] heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the [man] of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly [Man].

Widow's sons in OT, Elisha's grave

Healings of children in NT

Lazarus raised, died again

Those that rose when christ rose died again (Matthew 27:50-53) - love this verse,

Paul died again

These martyrs FIRST resurrected to 1000 years and eternal life. A reward, in a sense, for their horrible conditions in life lived for God

Resurrected bodies on this earth

Everyone else gets resurrected to the NEW heavens and new earth, they get their resurrected bodies now

Like having a 2022 car in 1902. Out of this world to everyone around them

What kind of power and ability, like the Lord after resurrection before ascension

"Systems upgrade" but in the degraded universe

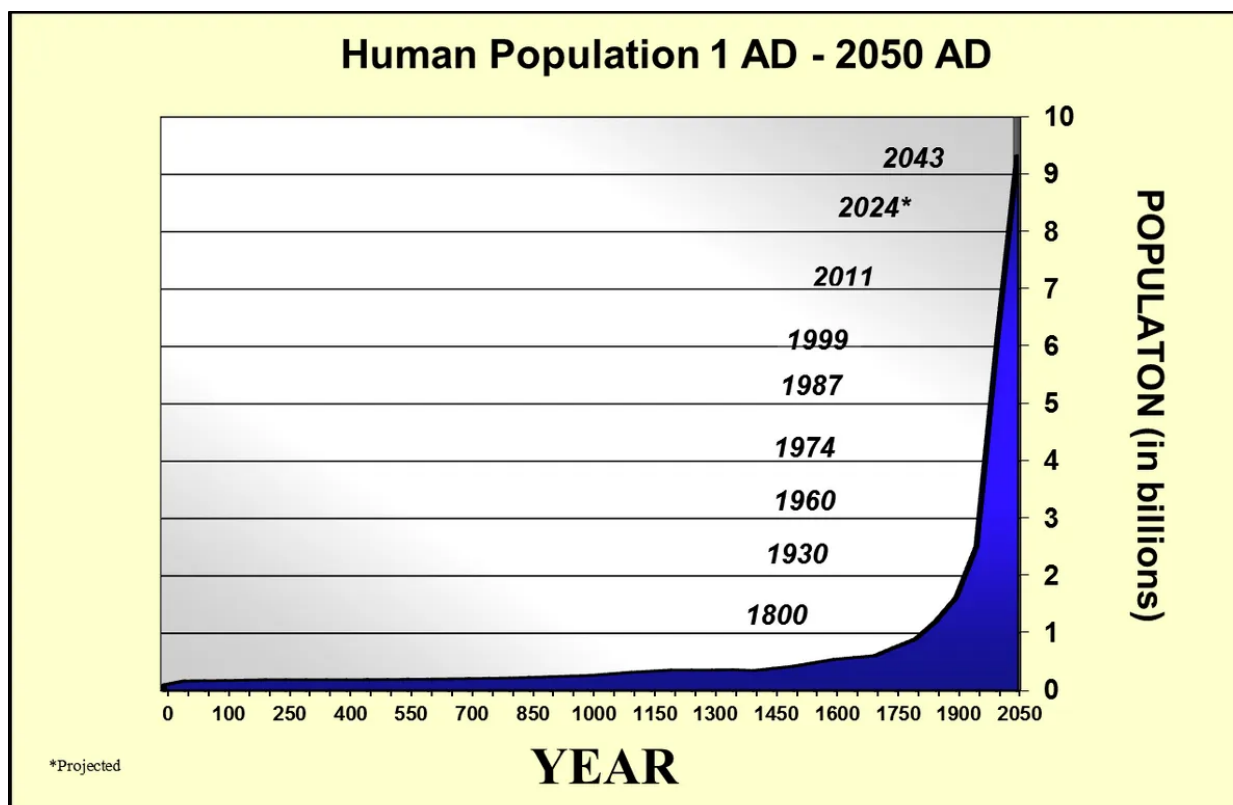
Second death has no power

Second death coming, these saints will live through it

Will folks during 1,000 year reign die? Will these people be seen with proper authority in both seat, service and existence?

Again thinking on the 1,000 year time period conditions

How many people left?



WW 2 Deaths

Though the numbers vary, a fairly reliable figure places the total number of dead at **72,468,900**.

4x WW1

The number exceeds the population of most nations of the earth. As gut-wrenching as it was to lose nearly 405,000 Americans in this devastating war, that was only slightly more than 1/2 of 1% of the total fatality count.

<https://eyeofprophecy.com/2015/06/06/shocking-statistics-of-the-great-tribulation/>

[Matthew 24:21-22 NKJV] "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

If 1:7 raptured (think children as well)

6.3 bn left

Horses leave 4.7 bn left, 25% off

3.1 bn after four angels released - less than half since rapture

Less than one out of 2 left. Not to mention the other plagues, events, saints killed, etc.

6000 years of history, 1000 years of Christ's reign - work, rest

~1,600 to flood, ~2,400 til cross, ~2000 til today

[Isaiah 11:4-8 NKJV] But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

Destroyed earth reigned over, rebuilt, different ecosystem than now. Eden, post Eden, flood, post flood, trib, post trib, then destroyed and new heavens and earth

Ruling and reigning... imitation now with spiritual powers in high places, Prince of Persia

Agrarian society? Like we talked about. What sort of advances

Death? Death not thrown out yet. Sea death hell give up dead. Trib saints in charge won't die

Less people, world trashed from tribulation, recovered somewhat or completely? It's warmer potentially, seas, mountains, lands, moved, cities destroyed

Just something to think about

:7-10

When thousand years are ended

Think of all that's happened in the world since 1,000 AD

Crusades, dark ages, Renaissance, new world "discovered", Chinese dynasties, African slave trade, world wars, globalism, gunpowder, industrial revolution, cars, airplanes, space travel, computers, communism, bubonic plague, spanish flu, measles, penicillin

Imagine all that will happen under Christ's reign!

A time of proving to the earth how good it will be to live under his rules. His ways. His authority.

People born?

People there who hadn't taken the mark and hadn't become believers

Nations under his rule

Remember, not a forced heart change, but a forced life change

So, to give them a choice, to show them what they'd maybe forgotten, Satan loosed

We do see the world was covered again - maybe not packed together inhumanely, but we've subdued the whole world as God intended for Adam & Eve again

How long does it take him to deceive the nations in the four corners? A week? A day? An hour? Is it reverse rapture? Mass hypnosis, psychosis?

Mass Formation Psychosis

Psychosis is when people lose some contact with reality. Mass formation psychosis is when a large part of a society focuses its attention to a leader(s) or a series of events and their attention focuses on one small point or issue. Followers can be hypnotized and be led anywhere, regardless of data proving otherwise. A key aspect of the phenomena is that the people they identify as the leaders – the one's that can solve the problem or issue alone – they will follow that leader(s) regardless of any new information or data. Furthermore, anybody who questions the leader's narrative are attacked and disregarded.

There are four key components needed for an environment to experience a mass formation psychosis: lack of social bonds or decoupling of societal connections, lack of sense-making (things don't make sense), free-floating anxiety, and free-floating psychological discontent. Free-floating anxiety is a general sense of uneasiness that is not tied to any particular object or specific situation.

When followers start to participate in a strategy to deal with the object of anxiety, new social bonds typically emerge and people change from a highly aversive negative mental state and isolation, to the exact opposite to the extremely high-level of connectedness that exists.

He gathers them for battle. With what at this time? What will they fight with?

How "hell bent" the enemy is on deceiving people to use them to overthrow God. How blind. Doesn't he remember last time?

Number like the sand of the sea

1. Earth's population EXPLODES in the 1,000 years
2. Not everyone will follow God, in fact, a lot won't - remember they didn't before during the tribulation, they just didn't want the antichrist
3. Apart from God's spirit, we'd immediately revert back to the flesh, and hard

They surround Jerusalem

Center of earth's attention for all of history...I wonder, was the garden of Eden Jerusalem on the map prior to the flood? I know things shifted around, but would be interesting

**Fire came out of heaven. No battle. No horses. No swords. No tanks.
Woosh. Right away.**

The devil cast into the lake of fire.

LAKE OF FIRE, POPULATION 3

Tormented day and night forever

Fire devoured the rest. So there is death in this time period. At least now.

Great White Throne Judgment, Second Resurrection.

Does death have any power over you, believer?

Are you doing what God has called you to do? Fulfilling it?

What prevents you from doing what God has for you?

Is it you?

Elisha and arrows

Is it the fear of death?

[1 Corinthians 15:50-57 NKJV] Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 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 incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where [is] your sting? O Hades, where [is] your victory?" The sting of death [is] sin, and the strength of sin [is] the law. But thanks [be] to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.