

Challenging Chapters of the Bible

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Preface

- I should warn you that while I was saved 'knowing' everything there was to know about Jesus' return, I am much less dogmatic now. 😊
- I am certain of His return, and some of what happens, but I shy away from certainty where the scriptures do not provide it.

- Matthew 24:1 As Jesus was leaving the Temple grounds, his disciples pointed out to him the various Temple buildings. 2 But he responded, “Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!” 3 Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, **“Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?”**

When is He coming?

- It's not a trick question, but your answer will depend somewhat on your view of eschatology.
- If you are a 'pre-tribber' then your view of the future involves two events.
- If you are a 'post-tribber' then you most likely view His coming as one event.

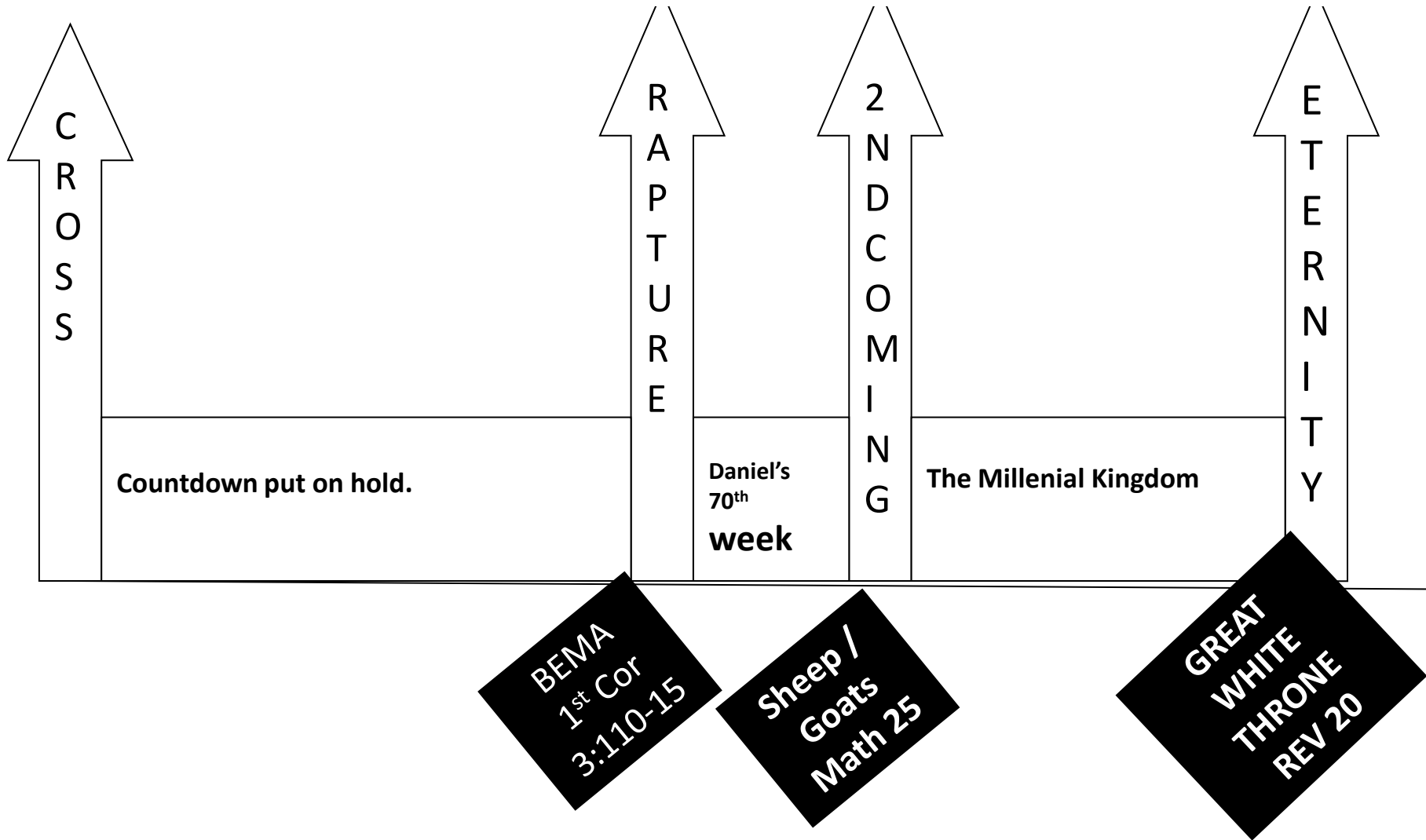
Daniel 9

- **24 “A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. 25 Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.**

Daniel 9

- **26 “After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. 27 The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. 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.”**

FROM THE CROSS TO ETERNITY



The Purpose of the Great Tribulation.

- **Gentile Judgment**
- **Worldwide Evangelism**
- **Conversion of Israel**

White Horse

Anti-Christ the Deceiver

- **Matt 24:4 Jesus told them, "Don't let anyone mislead you, 5 for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah.' They will deceive many.**
- **Rev 6:2 I looked up and saw a white horse standing there. Its rider carried a bow, and a crown was placed on his head. He rode out to win many battles and gain the victory.**

Red Horse

Conflicts and War

- **Matt 24:6 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. 7 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.**
- **Rev 6:3 When the Lamb broke the second seal, I heard the second living being say, "Come!" 4 Then another horse appeared, a red one. Its rider was given a mighty sword and the authority to take peace from the earth. And there was war and slaughter everywhere.**

Black Horse

Famine and Earthquakes

- **Matt 24:7b There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world.**
- **Rev 6:5 When the Lamb broke the third seal, I heard the third living being say, "Come!" I looked up and saw a black horse, and its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice from among the four living beings say, "A loaf of wheat bread or three loaves of barley will cost a day's pay. And don't waste the olive oil and wine."**

Pale Horse

Persecution and Death

- **Matt 24:9 "Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. 10 And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other.**
- **Rev 6:7 When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living being say, "Come!" 8 I looked up and saw a horse whose color was pale green. Its rider was named Death, and his companion was the Grave. These two were given authority over one-fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword and famine and disease and wild animals. 9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony.**

Deceivers, Wars, Famines, Earthquakes.

- *4 Jesus told them, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, 5 for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately. 7 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. 8 But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.*

Persecution, False Prophets, and Rampant Sin.

- ***9 “Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. 10 And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. 11 And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. 12 Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.***

And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

- His return will be sudden and visible.**
- He will gather His followers.**
- He will come when He is least expected – I wonder when that might be? (verse #44)**

36 “However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.”

- Anyone who sets a time for His return is wrong.**
- The mystery of His return and its date are healthy for us.**
- We want certainty, God wants trust.**

Like Noah's day?

- **37 “When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. 38 In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. 39 People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.”**

Noah's Day

- **Genesis 5:5** The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. **6** So the Lord was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. **7** And the Lord said, “I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them.” **8** But Noah found favor with the Lord.

Sin is sin throughout the ages.

- **When we look at God's commentary on the moral condition of man in Noah's day we have no problem identifying with the condition.**
- **Sin is a devastating condition for all people of all time and that has not, and will not change without God's intervention.**
- **What has changed though, since Noah's day?**

40 “Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.

- The word ‘Rapture’ is not used here or anywhere in scripture, but that is what we call the event described here.**
- The idea of people being snatched away suddenly and secretly is a haunting thought.**
- The ‘two men’ could be brothers, the ‘two women’ could be best friends – now separated.**

Warnings and Advice

- **45 “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. 46 If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. 47 I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. 48 But what if the servant is evil and thinks, ‘My master won’t be back for a while,’ 49 and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? 50 The master will return unannounced and unexpected, 51 and he will cut the servant to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

Gospel of the Kingdom

- **And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.**
- **Matt 4:23 Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom.**

Gospel of the Kingdom

- In Matthew's gospel the "gospel of the kingdom" is a summary phrase of what Jesus preached throughout His ministry.**
- In short, He meant - God is about to exert his rule or his kingly authority in a new way to save his people, and defeat their enemies, and reveal his glory in the world.**

2nd Timothy 3

- 1 You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

2nd Peter 3

- 3 Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. 4 They will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.” 5 They deliberately forget that God made the heavens by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. 6 Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. 7 And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.

Questions