

The End Times

PART 1

The **End Times** topic is probably the most anticipated yet misunderstood subject in the Bible because it deals with prophecy and the unknown; that is, what you do not know about the End Times that is recorded in the Scriptures.

**When studying the End Times,
where is the best place to begin?**

**For clarity and continuity,
always begin in the period in which you live!**

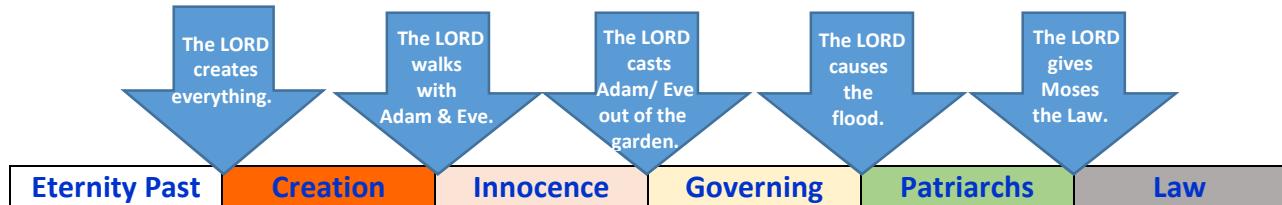
You live in the period of the Church!



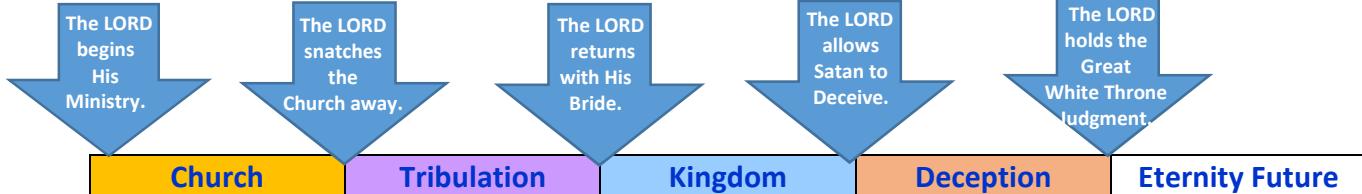
Let's Get the *Big Picture*

Throughout the Bible Story we can see how God has placed all of the history of humanity into periods in which certain things take place. **EACH PERIOD BEGINS WITH A SPECIFIC ACTION FROM THE LORD** that changes the governing control of mankind on earth.

Six Periods Completed



Five Periods Uncompleted



The Remainder of the Period of the Church

The Church period will end when the LORD removes it from the earth.

The Apostle Paul answers this question when he addresses the Church in Thessalonica. That Church was evidently teaching a false theology concerning the Christians who had died, were in the grave and when they would be resurrected. In the first letter to the Thessalonian Church Paul says,

“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The **English** uses the words “caught up”.

The **Greek** uses the words “snatch away”. *harpagesometha*

The **Latin** uses the word “rapture”. *rapio*

Technically, one thing must take place before the LORD removes the Church from the earth.

In Daniel Chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar has a dream of a statue and the young Daniel gives the king the LORD’s interpretation. The dream foretells the coming of great empires of the world. Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar that

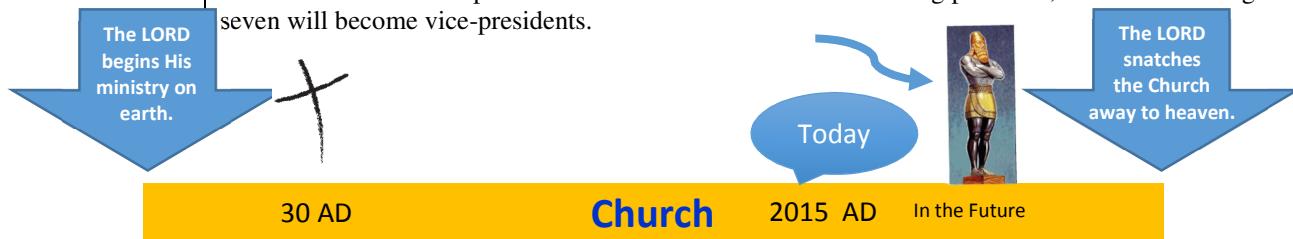


Unfulfilled !

Fulfilled	1. Babylon is the head of gold.	606 BC – 536 BC
	2. Medo-Persia is the chest of silver.	536 BC – 321 BC
Unfulfilled	3. Greece is the waist of bronze.	321 BC – 60 BC
	4. Rome is the belly and two legs of iron.	60 BC – 1453 AD
Unfulfilled	5. Ten countries are the ten toes of clay and iron. [West Toes = Britain, France, Spain, Italy, North Africa] [East Toes = Greece, Macedonia, Syria, Turkey, Egypt]	60 BC – 476 AD
	6. Ten countries join together to form a Revived Roman Empire.	60 BC – 1453 AD In the Future

Read Daniel Chapter 2

At some time in the future, the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream will join to form one renewed empire. When they begin to choose a king/president, a major false leader of the dominant religion of the ten countries will support the candidate and lead the people to elect him to the high position. Three of the presidents of the ten countries will rebel against the candidate. Those three will be killed and not replaced. The candidate will become the king/president, and the remaining seven will become vice-presidents.



Why is the fulfillment of Nebuchadnezzar's dream so important and why must it be in place before the LORD snatches the Church away to heaven?

The period of the Tribulation will begin with a formal treaty between the king/president of the renewed Roman Empire and the nation of Israel just after the snatching away of the Church. The Tribulation period will hold to a strict seven-year timeline. The formation of the renewed Roman Empire will take some time to fulfill. The following changes must happen before the ten nations can join together to form the renewed empire.

Needed Country Changes and Alignments

1. Scotland and Ireland were not part of Britain in 476 AD; therefore, Great Britain must shed control of both countries.
2. Morocco, Algeria and Libya were all part of the county of North Africa in 476 AD; therefore, those three countries must join together and be under the control of one leader.
3. Portugal was part of Spain in 476 AD; therefore, it must join Spain under one leader.
4. Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia and Romania were all part of Macedonia in 1453 AD; therefore, those countries must unite under one leader.
5. Jordan was part of Syria in 1453 AD; therefore, Jordan must join Syria under one leader.



Ten Countries that will unit as the Revived Roman Empire

(Map to the left)

1. A false minister will have religious control over all ten countries.
Read Revelation 13
2. The false minister will lead the people to elect a man to be the supreme president.
Read Revelation 13
3. The presidents of three of the countries will reject the new supreme president and he will have them killed.
Read Daniel 7-8
4. The new country will consist of ten country/states with one supreme president and seven vice-presidents.
Read Daniel 7-8

The Importance of the Fulfillment of Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

The Times of the Gentile Control of Israel

In Deuteronomy 28, the LORD warned the Israelites that they would control the Promised Land as long as they worshiped Him alone. He also prophesied that the day would come when the Gentiles would control their land because Israel would stop worshiping Him. In 606 BC, after Israel stopped worshiping the LORD, Nebuchadnezzar conquered the Promised Land and placed it under Babylonian (Gentile) control. The Promised Land passed from Babylonian control to Persian, then Greek and ultimately, Roman control. In 1453 AD, it passed to the control of Syria and ultimately to Britain in 1919 AD, both parts of the former Roman Empire. Finally, in 1948 AD, Britain gave the land back to the Jews. According to the prophecies of the Book of Daniel, the Revived Roman Empire will later make a Peace Treaty with Israel only to ultimately break the treaty and return the land to the control of the Gentile

nations. Without the fulfillment of Nebuchadnezzar's Dream, the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning Israel cannot occur and the period of the Tribulation cannot commence in its restricted seven-year time allotment. The Peace Treaty occurs at the beginning of the Tribulation; therefore, the Revived Roman Empire must be in place. The final destruction of the Gentile control over Israel will occur at the end of the Tribulation when the LORD returns at the battle known as Armageddon. Luke recorded the following words of Jesus about that time.

Until the End of the Times of the Gentiles
Jerusalem was surrounded and the Temple destroyed in 70 AD. The city has been virtually under attack by Gentiles since that time.

The End of the Times of the Gentiles
Jerusalem will be attacked until the LORD rescues her at His return ending Gentile oppression.

Luke 21:20-24 But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are in the midst of the city depart, and let not those who are in the country enter the city; because these are days of vengeance, in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled. Woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people, and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; **and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.**

Luke 21:25-27 And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon 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.**

Five parts of Nebuchadnezzar's dream have been fulfilled; why wouldn't the last part be fulfilled?

Special Note

The Apostasy

After the Apostle Paul delivered his first letter to the Thessalonian Church, the leaders corrected their teaching concerning the resurrection but they moved on to teach that the Second Coming the LORD Jesus had already occurred. Paul writes a second letter to correct the teaching.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 Now we request you, brethren, **with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him**, that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, **to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God.** displaying himself as being God.

What is an APOSTASY?

Apostasy is the act of rebelling against, forsaking, abandoning or falling away from what one has believed and it involves doctrinal deception, moral insensitivity and ethical departures from God's truth.

The largest and most destructive apostasy came out of a pagan worship of the moon God Allah in Mecca and a heavy influence of a misunderstood theology of Judaism and Christianity in 622 AD under the leadership of Muhammad. The Virtual Jewish Library says the following about Muhammad's relationship with Judaism.

In 622, Muhammad left Mecca for an oasis then known as Yathrib. This trip became known as the hejira, the flight from persecution in Mecca. The term has also come to mean leaving a pagan community for one that adheres to the laws of Islam. In his new home, which was later renamed Medina, Muhammad became a mediator, arbitrating disputes between tribes.

Interestingly, Medina also had a sizeable Jewish community which had probably moved there after being expelled from Palestine by the Romans. Muhammad respected the Jews, and his early teachings appeared to borrow from Jewish tradition. The Jews began to distance themselves from Muhammad, however, when he became critical of their not recognizing him as a prophet.¹

Muhammad's Islam Fulfills the Apostasy Prophecy

The **Islamic** religion controls most of the population of
Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Macedonia, North Africa and Greece.

The **Islamic** religion will soon control most of the population of
Spain, France and Britain.

The **Islamic** religion is making great headway in populating
Italy.

Islam's religious leader will be the **false prophet**
who will lead these ten nations to elect the supreme leader of the
Revived Roman Empire.

Transition from the Period of the Church to the Tribulation



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A Marriage Ceremony

It was part of the LORD's eternal plan to take a bride that would consist of all the people who entered into a personal relationship with Him after His death, burial, resurrection and ascension into heaven. He called those people the Church and together they make up the body of His bride.

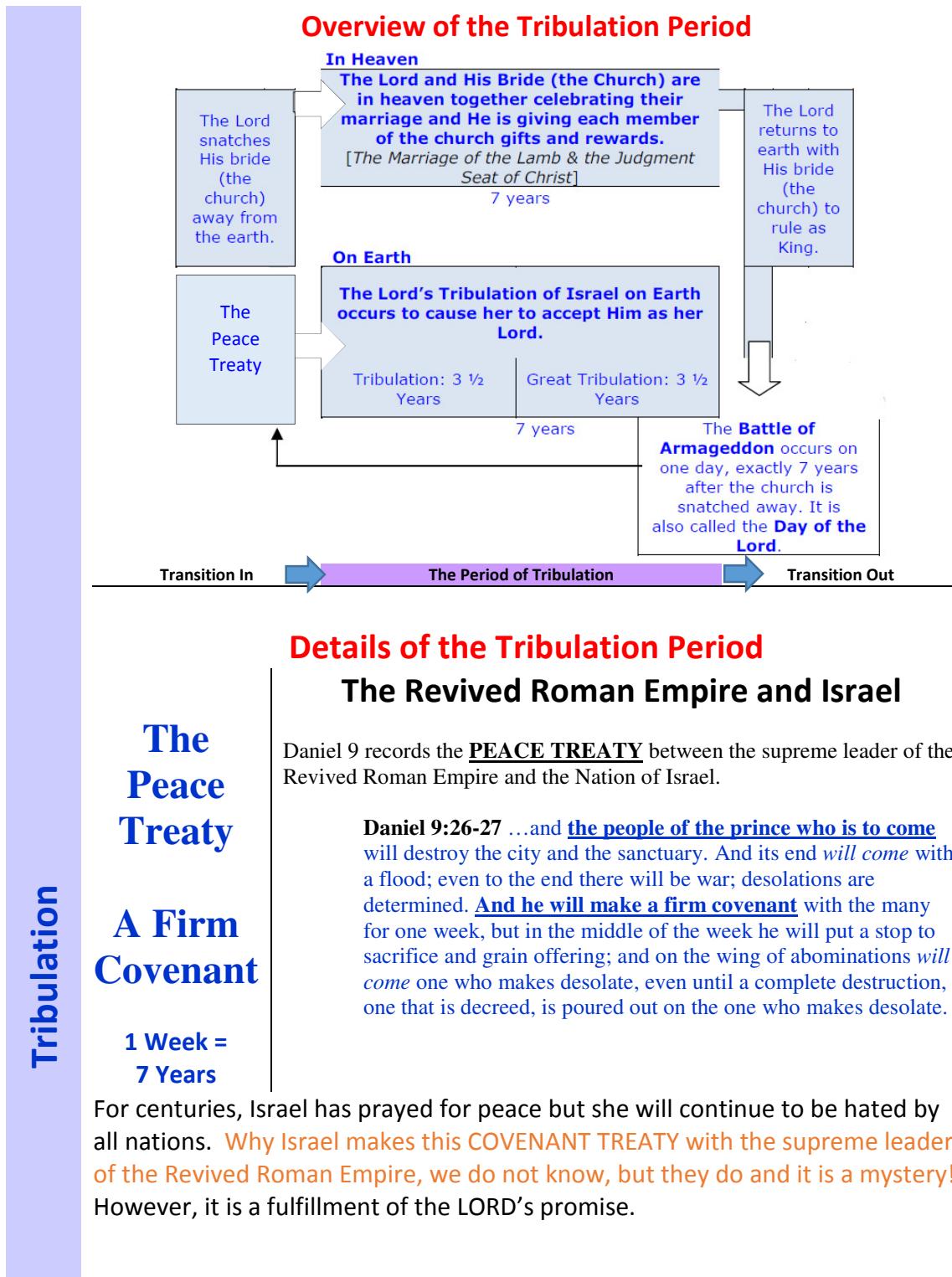
Some day in the future, the LORD will return to the visible clouds with those who have gone on to be with Him to receive those who are here on earth. Together, all the believers become His bride and return to heaven for the marriage ceremony. Paul and John record the prophecy of the event.

1 Thessalonians 4:7-17 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. ... For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.

¹ <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/Muhammad.html>

With the Church with the LORD in heaven at the marriage ceremony, the Period of the Tribulation Begins!



Rider on the White Horse

Revelation 6:1-6 And I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." And I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer.

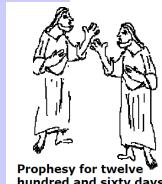


The supreme leader of the Revived Roman Empire is the **Rider on the White Horse**. Upon his election, he will not be satisfied with his empire of ten countries and seven vice presidents. He will immediately attempt to strike deals and covenants with all the other nations of the world. Notice that this leader has the authority to make covenants with other nations as symbolized by his crown. He also has the power to overthrow other nations as symbolized by the bow in his hand; however, at this point in his reign, he does not use the power at his disposal as symbolized by the absence of any arrows.

False Peace in the World for Israel

Several indicators mark the beginning of the Tribulation.

1. The Church will no longer have a direct presence on earth. The people of the world will be clearly aware of the sudden disappearance of the Church members. One clear and disturbing fact will concern the supposed Christians, Church members, who did not disappear in the great snatching away. Even with the absence of the influence of the Church to enlist believers for the Body and Bride of Christ, salutations will continue. The Bible will still be present as a witness of the Gospel message and people will accept the LORD as Savior; however, they will not be part of the Bride; in addition, the restraining work of the Holy Spirit that has protected the Church through the centuries will cease and the new believers will not be protected.
2. Temporarily, the world will be at peace with Israel. As we will see in Scripture, it will be a false peace because the supreme leader of the Revived Roman Empire will not protect them. Nevertheless, Israel will cover the nation with crops to feed her people. All the nations of the world will have their eyes on Israel with a renewed intent to take her land and resources while she has her defenses down.
3. Two witnesses arrive in Jerusalem to call for the nation of Israel to turn to the LORD. Both Israel and the world will reject their presence and show great hatred toward them.



Revelation 11:3-18 And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. And if anyone desires to harm them, fire proceeds out of their mouth and devours their enemies; and if anyone would desire to harm them, in this manner he must be killed. These have the power to shut up the sky, in order that rain may not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.

Tribulation