

THE FUTURE TIMES

**BIBLICAL PROPHECIES ABOUT THE
REMAINDER OF HISTORY & BEYOND**



by Neal Fox

About the cover:

After human history is completed and the Lord has destroyed the current universe, the New Jerusalem hovers above the new earth which has no oceans, with the light of God from the New Jerusalem illuminating the new universe as the only source of light during eternity.

“There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light...The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp...It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal...The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.” (Rev 22:5, 22-24; 21:11)

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by Neal Fox

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"Exploring Deep Concepts & Mysteries of the Bible" 2018

INTRODUCTION

Prophecy concerning the future times is included as part of the Bible so believers in Jesus Christ can understand God's plan for history, know it is under His control, and live by faith trusting God. History will not play out in some random and uncontrolled way resulting in the earth and all mankind being destroyed. God has told us through His Word how human history will unfold so we can rest in the knowledge that His plan will proceed and conclude exactly as He has preordained. As believers we are on the winning side of history.

This book is a study of the future times, called eschatology, as revealed primarily in the book of Revelation and also in associated passages throughout the Bible. Note the use of “future times” instead of “end times” since the phrase “end times” for what Revelation reveals is generally inaccurate. Revelation tells us many things about the future of human history, including great judgments to come, but they will not result in some random calamitous ending to the earth and all mankind. Even though there will be a seven year Tribulation in the future which will be horrific, it is by no means the end of human history since it will be followed by 1000 years of perfect environment on the same earth. God's plan for His believers will never end, although human history will end. We believers have a wonderful eternal future beyond human history in a resurrection body living with our Lord in a new eternal universe and on a new earth far superior to the current one. So this study is about the future times, not about end times since there will be no end.

Regarding future judgments, all Church Age believers will be removed from the earth by the Rapture (resurrection) before the severe judgments of the Tribulation begin. We Church Age believers have no need to worry about being caught up in the struggles and disasters which will engulf the earth during those very difficult times. But Revelation is still important to both Church Age as well as Tribulation believers since one of the main issues regarding our faith is trusting God concerning future things, whether personal or historical. Revelation completed the Bible, so we have all the information necessary to understand the will and plan of God for our lives, and we who have believed in Jesus Christ as our Savior may trust God knowing that the details are in His hands. With regard to how history will play out, we can live by faith knowing it is all under God's control. And if God can control

the outcome of human history, He can even more easily solve our daily problems.

The Bible in general and Revelation in particular reveal how human history will play out, and what will become of all people in eternity. Every single person in all human history, and every single angel in all angelic history, will live forever. The issue is whether it will be with God or apart from Him. Human history will eventually end, but then the Eternal State will go on forever with all believers and elect angels residing with God, while all unbelievers, Satan, and fallen angels will reside apart from God in the Lake of Fire.

This study will begin with a brief overview of eschatology, or the study of future times as revealed in Biblical prophecies. This overview will provide a framework to help us understand specific prophecies along the way by viewing them in the overall context of where God's plan for the future is headed. After the future times overview, a study of the eschatology contained in Revelation and associated passages will fill in the details. Since Revelation Chapters 1 - 3 contain no prophecies they will not be covered in detail, so we will focus on Revelation Chapters 4 – 22 which reveal six parts to Biblical eschatology as outlined in the following section.

Chronology and Overview of the Future Times

1) Rapture of the Church: The next prophetic event in human history is the Rapture (resurrection) of the Church when all living believers will be removed from the earth apart from death and taken to Heaven in an eternal resurrection body. At the same time all Church Age believers who have previously died are given their resurrection bodies during the Rapture. This happens just before the Tribulation begins, and is NOT the same as the Second Advent of Christ, which occurs seven years later at the end of the Tribulation. There are no other prophecies remaining to be fulfilled during the Church Age, so the Rapture can occur at any time since it is the next prophetic event in God's plan for the future times. Once the Rapture occurs a 1,007 year clock starts ticking toward the end of human history on the current earth.

2) Tribulation: Immediately after the Rapture occurs the Tribulation begins, initiating a seven year period of concentrated judgments and disasters divided into two parts, each lasting 3 ½ years. The last 3 ½ years is called the Great Tribulation, which is the worst period of disaster, misery and divine judgment in all human history.

3) Second Advent of Christ: At the end of the Tribulation Jesus Christ returns to claim His rightful possession, the earth, at the Second Advent of Christ. He will destroy the armies of unbelievers at Armageddon and elsewhere, remove all other unbelievers who remain on earth, and put Satan and all fallen angels into jail until His Millennial reign is complete.

4) Millennium: Jesus Christ then implements the Millennial Kingdom on earth whereby He will reign from Jerusalem for 1000 years. There will be perfect environment on the current earth during this final stage of human history.

5) Human History Ends: After the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth is complete, Satan is released from the Abyss for his final judgment but attempts one last revolt on the earth. His revolt fails and he is thrown into the Lake of Fire along with all other fallen angels. The earth is vacated then it and the entire universe are destroyed. Both the angelic conflict and human history are complete at this point.

6) Eternal State: God creates a new heavens and new earth with a New Jerusalem hovering above the new earth. Eternity begins, and all believers live forever in resurrection bodies with Jesus Christ and the entire Trinity in this new eternal universe.

As this overview shows the future times will include a seven year period of great judgment and disasters on the earth during the Tribulation, however the following 1000 years of human history will be in perfect environment on the current earth. Afterward all believers will live eternally with the Lord. Again we see why the phrase “end times” is not an adequate description for what lies ahead in the future times, either during human history or beyond it.

The book of Revelation can be divided into two sections, and starts by revealing information about the remainder of the Church Age in Chapters 1 – 3. But since these chapters do not reveal any prophecies, they are not part of a discussion of eschatology. The second part of Revelation in Chapters 4 – 22 contains the eschatology portion which discusses the future times. This study will focus on the eschatology portion of Revelation contained in Chapters 4 - 22 as a separate subject area. However, to briefly set the stage for the events of Chapter 4, Revelation begins in Chapter 1 with John on earth and the Lord Jesus Christ visiting him to provide information about the remainder of the current Church Age, which is the subject of Revelation Chapters 1 – 3. These three chapters cover the time period from 96 AD when the book was written until the Church Age ends with the Rapture (resurrection) of the Church just before the Tribulation begins. The information in these first three chapters outlines the types of issues facing believers during the Church Age by relating them to seven specific local churches on earth during John's time. This information focuses on issues associated with the spiritual life of Church Age believers and is not prophetic or sequential, so these first three chapters do not outline seven specific or separate time periods during the Church Age. This is consistent with the rest of the Bible whereby there is no prophecy associated with the Church Age once the Bible has been completed except that it will end with the Rapture. The overall purpose of Chapters 1 - 3 is to show how the Church will remain on earth for an extended and unspecified period of time until it is removed by the Rapture, which is covered at the beginning of Revelation 4. God has determined to keep the timing of the Rapture completely unknown, and since there is no prophecy which must be fulfilled

during the remainder of the Church Age prior to the Rapture any attempt to discover the timing of the Rapture using any method is futile. The structure and sequence of Revelation shows the Church will not go through the Tribulation, but instead will be removed before it begins. Until that happens, the Church has a mission to live the unique spiritual life God has given to it alone as a special category of believers blessed with the most powerful spiritual gifts God has given to any group of believers during any spiritual period of time (called in the Bible “Ages”). Therefore, since Revelation Chapters 1 – 3 are not prophetic they are not included as part of this eschatology discussion.

With the final instructions to Church Age believers serving as background in Chapters 1 – 3, Revelation Chapter 4 proceeds with eschatology to reveal what will happen after the Church Age ends. The future times immediately following the Rapture will be a time of intense disaster, human misery and judgment lasting for seven years, followed by 1000 years of perfect environment on earth.

An issue which makes the book of Revelation somewhat difficult to understand is how the narrative goes back and forth, rather than using a straight time-line approach. Trying to view the events as linear, with one event following another, can lead to confusion. The format is generally a back and forth “vignette” approach which describes certain future events in preview form, followed by going backward to explain other related issues in detail, or show different views of the same event from Heaven and then from earth, often while introducing new related events into the scene. This back and forth approach does not provide for a smooth flow of events in historical order, so it requires a detailed study, not simply a reading. Of course there is a purpose to the format of Revelation. The point of the book is to provide the information we need, not to tell us everything which will satisfy our curiosity. Remember, we live by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). God does not tell us everything we want to know, only what we need to know. This is so we will trust Him for the details, and is also why trying to predict the timing of these future events is futile. God does not want us to know certain things, especially the timing of future events. Knowing enough about what is to come in the future times strengthens our faith, but knowing everything about the future would set aside faith.

With this overview in mind as a framework to help understand the specifics which are about to be covered, let us begin the study of Revelation Chapters 4 – 22. All quotes from the Bible are New International Version (NIV). Any explanations and clarifications within quoted verses will be contained inside brackets [like this].

OUTLINE OF REVELATION CHAPTERS 4 – 22

These chapters can be summarized as follows:

Chapter 4: The Rapture of the Church – John's Vision of Heaven

Chapter 5: The Book of Judgments

Chapter 6: The Tribulation Begins

Chapter 7: 144,000 Witnesses: Evangelism & Martyrdom

Chapter 8: Trumpet Judgments Begin

Chapter 9: Satan & Demons – Fury on the Earth

Chapter 10: The Angel & the Little Scroll

Chapter 11: The Two Witnesses

Chapter 12: The Woman and the Dragon

Chapter 13: The Two Beasts – Antichrist & False Prophet

Chapter 14: Evangelism During The Great Tribulation

Chapter 15: Preparations for the Bowl Judgments

Chapter 16: The Bowl Judgments Begin

Chapter 17: Babylon the Great

Chapter 18: Babylon Destroyed

Chapter 19: The Second Advent of Jesus Christ

Chapter 20: The Millennium & the End of Human History

Chapter 21: New Heavens, New Earth, New Jerusalem

Chapter 22: Encouragement to the Church

REVELATION CHAPTER 4

The Rapture of the Church – John's Vision of Heaven

Revelation Chapter 4 begins the eschatology portion, the study of the future times. Revelation is written primarily to and for Church Age believers so we will understand the future times in enough detail to comprehend the plan of God for the remainder of time and also for the eternal state after history has been completed. It is also for believers during the Tribulation so they will understand that God has not abandoned them despite all the disasters and misery going on around them. And they will be very tempted to abandon their faith because of what they see happening, as they must endure many hardships, and will see many believers martyred because of their faith in Jesus Christ. But God has provided enough information so all believers of all time can live by faith knowing He has a plan and that history is under His control, even when world events would suggest otherwise. Chapter 4 starts with John being shown a scene in Heaven so the remainder of human history can begin to be revealed to him.

Rev 4:1 “After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

Jesus Christ speaks to John from Heaven. This verse says the voice of the Lord will sound “like a trumpet” saying “come up here”, as will happen when the Church is called off the earth to come up for resurrection at the end of the Church Age. The “door standing open in heaven” shows the Rapture (resurrection) of the Church has just occurred with the Church having entered through this open door in Heaven. The Apostle Paul revealed the “trumpet call of God” will be sounded at the Rapture when Jesus Christ takes the Church to Heaven, and He will give us a “loud command” calling the Church off the earth:

2 Thessalonians 4:16 “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, **with a loud command**, with the voice of the archangel and **with the trumpet call of God**, and the dead in Christ will rise

first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”

1 Corinthians 15:51 “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. **For the trumpet will sound**, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

The Rapture must occur before the Tribulation begins to comply with Rev 3:10 written to Church Age believers which says: “... I will also **keep you from the hour of trial** that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”

And as will be discussed later, all Church Age believers in resurrection bodies will return with Christ during the Second Advent at the end of the Tribulation, therefore the Church must first go up to Heaven in order to return from Heaven with Christ seven years later.

The first three chapters of Revelation dealt with the Church on earth during the Church Age, which is the time period from just after the Cross through the Rapture. Now that John is about to be shown the future times beyond the current Church Age, the Church is first removed from the picture. Indeed, despite all the discussions about the churches on earth during the first three chapters of Revelation, the Church is not mentioned again as being on the earth until the summation in the last chapter of Revelation after the eschatology discussion has been concluded.

At the Rapture all living Church Age believers are removed from the earth apart from death and receive their eternal resurrection bodies in the earth's outer atmosphere. At the same time all Church Age believers who had previously died come out of Heaven to receive their resurrection bodies along with those living believers who were just called off the earth apart from death. Then the entire resurrected Church enters Heaven together with the Lord.

Note that the Rapture is not an “Advent” of Jesus Christ since He does not come down to earth, but only comes into the “air” (outer atmosphere) where all Church Age believers, alive and dead, will meet Him to receive their eternal resurrection bodies. The Rapture must not be confused with the Second Advent of Christ. The two events occur seven years apart, with the Rapture occurring just before the

Tribulation begins, and the Second Advent occurring at the end of the Tribulation. At the Rapture Christ does not come to earth, but only into the outer atmosphere to provide all Church Age believers with an eternal body, then immediately returns to Heaven with the newly resurrected Church. At the Second Advent Christ comes to the earth to rule and remains for 1000 years. So the Rapture and Second Advent of Christ are two very different events.

Resurrection provides the believer with a permanent body far superior to any angel. In fact, believers will have an eternal body equivalent to the body Jesus Christ received at His resurrection three days after the cross. Philippians 3:20 says: "...And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, [21](#) who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." And the resurrection body also includes the eternal rewards for each believer. The Church is the first group of believers to receive this eternal resurrection body, and until the Rapture occurs only Jesus Christ has such a body. Prior to the Rapture all believers residing in Heaven are in a temporary body without rewards awaiting resurrection. After the Rapture of the Church all Old Testament believers residing in Heaven will continue to remain in a temporary body until they are resurrected just prior to the Second Advent. This shows the priority Jesus Christ gives to the Church.

So the various resurrections of believers (collectively called the "First Resurrection") occur in stages, starting with Church Age believers (Rapture of the Church), then Old Testament and dead Tribulation believers (just prior to the Second Advent), and finally Millennial believers (at the end of the Millennium). The "second resurrection" of all unbelievers of all time occurs as a single event after the end of the Millennium and is called the Great White Throne Judgment. Unbelievers are dealt with in two stages after death, first they are put temporarily in Torments (Hell) after they die, then after their final trial at the Great White Throne Judgment all are put into the eternal Lake of Fire.

At this point in the vision all Church Age believers have been removed from the earth leaving only unbelievers remaining as the seven year Tribulation begins. After the Church is removed by resurrection the Tribulation starts immediately and will last for seven years. The Tribulation is the completion of the Age of Israel which was interrupted by the Cross and does not involve the Church. Although not part of this study due to its complexities, a brief explanation of "Ages" is necessary to

understand how the future times fit into God's overall plan. God has divided human history into four Ages which are:

- 1) Age of the Patriarchs: from Adam until Moses
- 2) Age of Israel Part I: from Moses to the Cross, then an interruption inserts the Church Age
- 3) Age of the Church: from the Cross until the Rapture
- 4) Age of Israel Part II: resumes and finishes during the seven year Tribulation
- 5) Millennium: the 1000 year reign of Christ completes human history.

We see there are four Ages, however they cover five separate periods of time since the Age of Israel is split into two separate parts, with the Church Age inserted between those two parts. The Tribulation will resume and finish the Age of Israel, since it was interrupted seven years short of completion when the Church Age was instituted after the Cross on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-3). It is important to understand that the Tribulation is part of the Age of Israel since this explains many things about events which will occur during that period of time. But since the cross has occurred, this last seven years of the Age of Israel will not be subject to the requirements of the Mosaic Law and other provisions of the Old Testament which Jesus Christ fulfilled by His salvation work. The Mosaic Law was set aside by the cross. Believers during the Tribulation will live by mostly New Testament instruction instead of under the Old Testament, even though they will not be part of the Church. This means no animal sacrifices, no rituals from the Old Testament, and no requirement to live under Old Testament laws and ordinances unless reiterated in the New Testament. There will be a temple in Jerusalem, but it will be a center of apostate false worship using animal sacrifices and other rituals which are no longer valid. The Tribulation will be a time between covenants. The Old Covenant of the Mosaic Law was canceled forever by the cross, the new covenant for the Church Age does not apply to them, and the new covenant to Israel will not be put in place until the Millennium begins. So the spiritual life of believers during the Tribulation will be one with little direction and few resources. The teachings of Moses and Elijah who will be back on earth will need to fill them in at the time.

So the study of the future times begins with the next prophetic event in history, namely the Rapture of the Church, which initiates the seven year Tribulation, followed by the 1000 year Millennium. But where does the Tribulation come from, and why is it necessary? Why such intense judgment and destruction before the perfect environment of the Millennium? There are several components to this issue, and God has a good reason for including the Tribulation in His divine plan for the future times.

The first reason the Tribulation is necessary is because it will serve as the final battleground for the defeat of Satan. Satan's original coup attempt occurred long before the creation of man when he revolted against God and declared "I will make myself like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:14). Satan's fall resulted in a very long-running angelic conflict in which mankind plays a significant role, and it continues even now although Satan has already been judged guilty and sentenced to the Lake of Fire. This ancient angelic conflict comes to a head during the Tribulation, when Satan and his army of fallen angels (demons) will engage in frenzied activities aimed at trying to gain some advantage in this long-running but futile battle against God. Essentially, Satan is trying to avoid being thrown into the Lake of Fire which is his ultimate end, a judgment already pronounced by God but not yet carried out. In the meantime, Satan will use unbelieving mankind in the form of future world leaders (the Antichrist, False Prophet, and others) to help him attempt to achieve his evil goals. This futile quest will result in much disaster, misery, judgment and destruction on the earth during the Tribulation for mankind because of Satan's evil activities. Time is short for Satan, and he is out of options like a cornered animal who lashes out, and he uses unbelieving mankind to help him. So lacking any other viable options, Satan opts for destruction, violence and chaos as his game plan. It is not much of a plan, but it is all he has. He will focus on destroying Christians and Jews while also trying to destroy the earth itself, since achieving any of those would thwart God's plan to create a Millennial Kingdom as He has promised.

The entirety of human history has been leading up to this final showdown. Acts 2: 34-35: "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." Jesus Christ is in Heaven at the right hand of the throne of God waiting until the end of the Tribulation when Satan will finally be defeated when Christ returns to earth. During the current Church Age God the Holy Spirit restrains Satan from engaging in the types of activities which will occur during the Tribulation. Since the Tribulation will be a resumption of the Age of Israel, the restraints by the Holy

Spirit will be lifted and the frenzied satanic activities will be allowed for this short period of time, enabling Satan to make his final arguments as to why he should not be thrown into the Lake of Fire. The Tribulation is Satan's last stand. That is why the earth will suffer such destruction as Satan seeks to avoid his certain doom, and will use evil dictators to carry out his last desperate plans. Christ will return at the end of the Tribulation, imprison Satan and all fallen angels awaiting their final judgment, and institute His Millennial Kingdom which will last for 1000 years.

At the same time mankind is at a peak of degeneracy and unbelief during the Tribulation. All believers will have been taken off the earth by the Rapture before the Tribulation begins, so the Tribulation starts with only unbelievers which allows evil to be spread more easily. The timing will be such that these unbelievers will be in a cycle of extreme hardness of soul during one of the most degenerate periods of all human history. These unbelievers will be ready and willing to succumb to Satan's overtures and most will end up actually worshiping Satan through an idolatrous false religion set up by the Antichrist and False Prophet. As God always does, this widespread idolatry and satanic worship will be judged harshly, especially because it will severely persecute His believers. This period of time will also be used by God to prepare the Jewish people for their future by returning them to His plan. The blindness which Jews have shown toward Jesus Christ will generally end when they see the Rapture has occurred, and they will believe in Him in significant numbers which sets the stage for the Millennium when Jesus Christ will finally rule the earth from a regathered Israel for 1000 years. This is one of the very important reasons for the Tribulation, to prepare the Jews by turning them toward Jesus Christ paving the way for having large numbers of Jewish believers by the end of the Tribulation so they can populate the Millennial Kingdom as regathered true Israel. The Jews have been and will again be God's chosen people for two main reasons: 1) to evangelize the world, and 2) to be the keeper of the scriptures. God does not offer Jews salvation by race, but rather by the same means as everyone else.

So the intense judgment during the Tribulation is used by God to: 1) convince mankind, and Jews in particular, of the need for salvation to prepare the way for the Millennium, 2) judge unbelieving mankind for extreme degeneracy and evil which expresses itself in satanic worship, 3) fulfill prophecies from the Old Testament, and 4) serve as a final battleground for resolving the angelic conflict between Satan and God. Not wanting to spoil the ending, but Satan loses, the earth is turned into a paradise during the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ, then after 1000 years eternity begins and believers live happily ever after with Christ and the entire Trinity. But there is much more to it than that.

The remainder of the story regarding the Tribulation revolves around a prophecy from the Old Testament which has not yet been fulfilled. God provided information through Daniel the prophet over 500 years before Jesus was born about the future of the Age of Israel in God's plan, including the coming Messiah and the Tribulation. Daniel prophesied how Israel would reject their Messiah, which would result in the Kingdom (Millennium) being postponed. This resulted in the interruption of the Age of Israel, although Daniel was not told the Church Age would be inserted. Daniel prophesied (Daniel 9:24-27) that the Age of Israel would continue for "70 weeks" ("weeks" are 7 year periods of time, so $70 \times 7 = 490$ years) after the order was given to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, which had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC. That decree was made by the Persian King Artaxerxes Longimanus in 444 BC. When the Age of Israel was interrupted just after the Cross, 69 "weeks" (483 years) had elapsed, which is seven years short of the 490 years prophesied by Daniel. Note there are conversions required from the ancient lunar year calendar used in the Old Testament to our present calendar (see Dr. Harold Hoehner's calculations along with Sam A. Smith's inputs for more detailed information on this issue). So the Jewish Age must resume in the future and continue for seven years in order to complete Daniel's prophesy. Daniel 9:24-27 [with added notes inside brackets] shows the sequence:

Daniel 9:24 "Seventy 'sevens' [490 years] are decreed for your people [Israel] and your holy city [Jerusalem] to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place [to complete the Age of Israel in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom].²⁵ "Know and understand this:

From the time the word goes out [decree of Persian King Artaxerxes] to restore and rebuild Jerusalem [after destruction by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC] until the Anointed One, the ruler, [Messiah, Jesus Christ] comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' [69 "sevens", which is 483 years of the total 490 years promised, leaving 7 years remaining]."

Then Daniel goes on to talk about what will happen during the "70th week", meaning the seven years of the Tribulation:

Daniel 9:27 "He [the Antichrist] will confirm a covenant [treaty] with many [Israel] for one 'seven' [the 7 years of the Tribulation]. In the middle of the 'seven' he [Antichrist] will put an end to sacrifice and offering [breaks the treaty]. And at the temple he [Antichrist] will set up an abomination that causes desolation [idol of himself], until the end that is decreed is poured out on him [at Armageddon]."

As we see from Daniel, The Messiah was prophesied to come 483 years after the decree of Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem. That was literally fulfilled on Palm Sunday, 33 AD, the week Jesus was crucified. Since Christ was rejected by the Jews as their Messiah, the Kingdom (Millennium) was delayed. Now God owes Israel 7 years (called Daniel's 70th Week) to fulfill the prophesy of the "seventy sevens", and this last seven years will be the Tribulation. When doing the math, remember that all years in the Bible are lunar years with only 360 days, since that was customary at the time of writing.

The Beast-Antichrist will be revealed for who he is early in the Tribulation (not during the Church Age) and he will initially make a treaty with Israel, which treaty he will later break. The current State of Israel has nothing to do with the prophesy of a regathered Israel recognized by God, since we are currently in the Church Age which must continue until it is completed after an unknowable period of time, so this issue is not about the presence of a Jewish state in the Middle East sanctioned by God, but an apostate Jewish nation called Israel led by an evil dictator will exist during the Tribulation. We will discuss the miraculous regathering of all Jews into Israel later, which occurs after the Tribulation is completed and sets up the true nation of Israel recognized by God during the Millennial Kingdom. The Tribulation is the last of these 70 "weeks" (each "week" a seven year period of time), so it will be the final seven years of the Age of Israel which is currently under suspension after 69 "weeks" because the

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