

“We shall judge angels.”



Are we prepared to judge and be judged?



Prophetic Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-2 “¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on me; because the LORD has anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, **and recovering of sight to the blind**, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; ²To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, **and the day of vengeance of our God**; to comfort all that mourn;”

(inserted by Jesus from Isaiah 42:7 and stopped prior to when quoted by Jesus in Luke 4:18-19)

Lesson Overview

- Who judges whom?
- The Jew First
- The House of God
 - 7 Churches of Revelation
- Judgment at Christ's 2nd Coming
- Judgment at end of Millennial Reign

We shall judge people and angels.

1 Corinthians 5:1-3 “¹Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? ²Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? ³Know you not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?”

Psalms 149:6-9 “⁶Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; ⁷To execute vengeance on the heathen, and punishments on the people; ⁸To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; ⁹To execute on them the judgment written: this honor have all his saints. Praise you the LORD.”

Judgment and punishment not for godly

2 Peter 2:4-9 “4For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved to judgment; 5And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample to those that after should live ungodly; 7And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) 9The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust to the day of judgment to be punished:”

Judgment to those who don't obey the truth; to the Jew first then also to the Gentile

Romans 2:5-12+16 “⁵But after your hardness and impenitent heart treasure up to yourself wrath against **the day of wrath** and revelation of the righteous *judgment* of God; ⁶Who will render to every man according to his deeds: ⁷To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life: ⁸But to them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, ⁹Tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man that does evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; ¹⁰But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that works good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: ¹¹For there is no respect of persons with God. ¹²For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be *judged* by the law; ¹⁶In **the day** when God shall *judge* the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”

Old Covenant makes way for the New



Hebrews 8:6-8 “⁶But now hath he obtained a ministry the more excellent, by so much as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, which hath been enacted upon better promises. ⁷For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then would no place have been sought for a second. ⁸For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, That I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.”

Hebrews 9:27-28 “²⁷And inasmuch as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this *cometh judgment*; ²⁸so Christ also, having been once offered to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time, apart from sin, to them that wait for him, unto salvation.”

Temple worship ended in 70 A.D.

Matthew 24:2-3 “²And Jesus said to them, See you not all **these things?** truly I say to you, There shall not be left here one stone on another, that shall not be thrown down. ³And as he sat on the mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, **when shall these things be?** and **what shall be the sign of your coming,** and of **the end of the world?**”

Mat. 24:4-14 (temple destroyed)

Mat. 24:15-28 (Tribulation)

Mat. 24:27-25:13 (2nd coming)

Mat.25:14-30 (reward works)

Mat. 24:35 (heaven + earth)

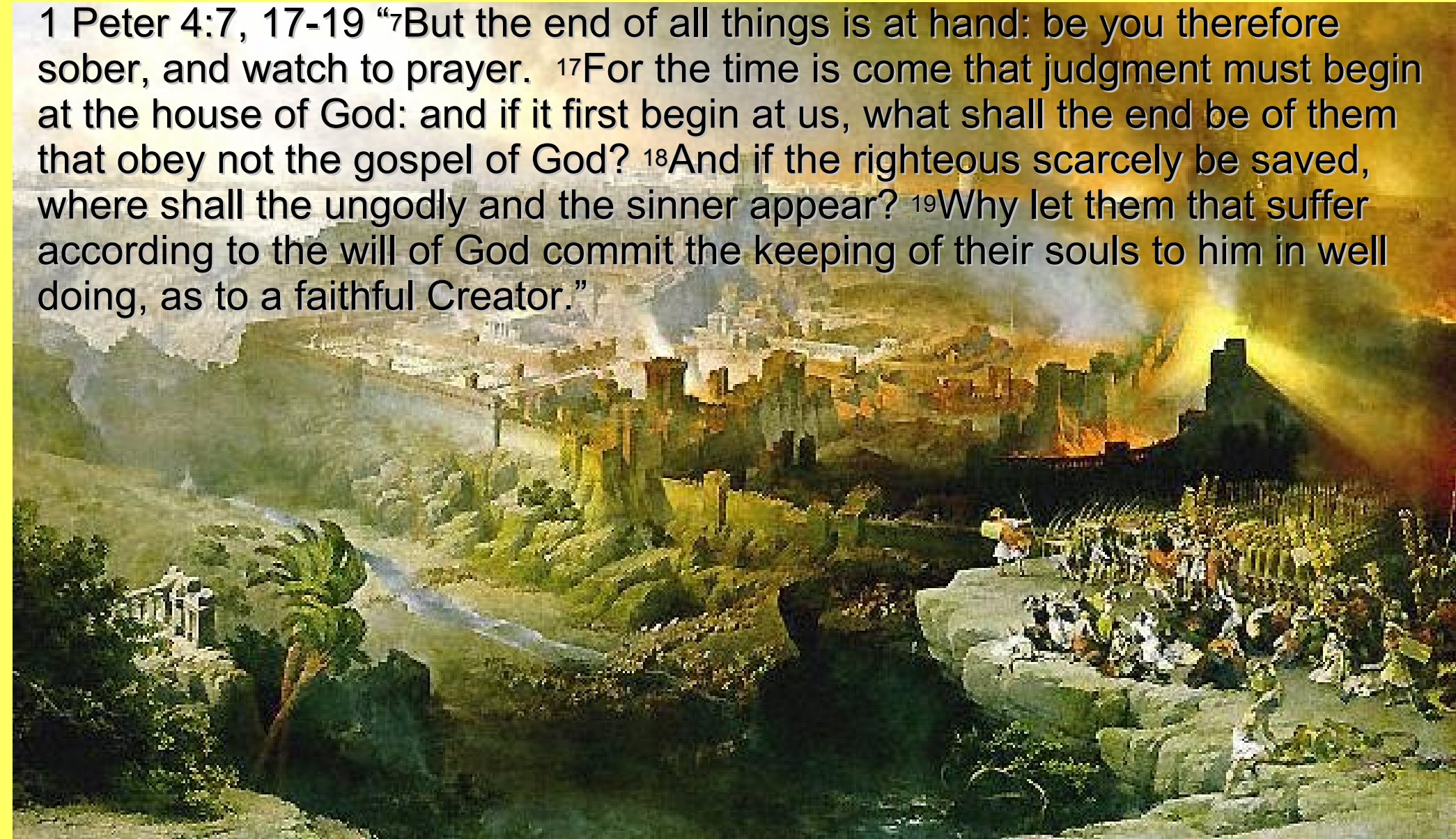
Mat.25:31-46 (judge nations)



Arch of Titus

Peter writes prophetically in 64 AD

1 Peter 4:7, 17-19 “⁷But the end of all things is at hand: be you therefore sober, and watch to prayer. ¹⁷For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? ¹⁸And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? ¹⁹Why let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as to a faithful Creator.”



End Times outlined by Jesus

Mat. 24:4-14 (Jerusalem and Temple destroyed)

The Church Age

Mat. 24:15-28 (Tribulation)

Mat. 24:27-25:13 (2nd coming)

Mat.25:14-30 (reward works)

Mat. 24:35 (heaven + earth)

Mat.25:31-46 (judge nations)

Judgment to **Jews** first

Christian faith grows through trials and testing

Rapture & works rewarded

Earth destroyed by fire -
New Jerusalem

[Reign with Christ 1,000
years - millennium]

King Jesus judges nations according to how they treat
His brethren

7 Churches in western Turkey



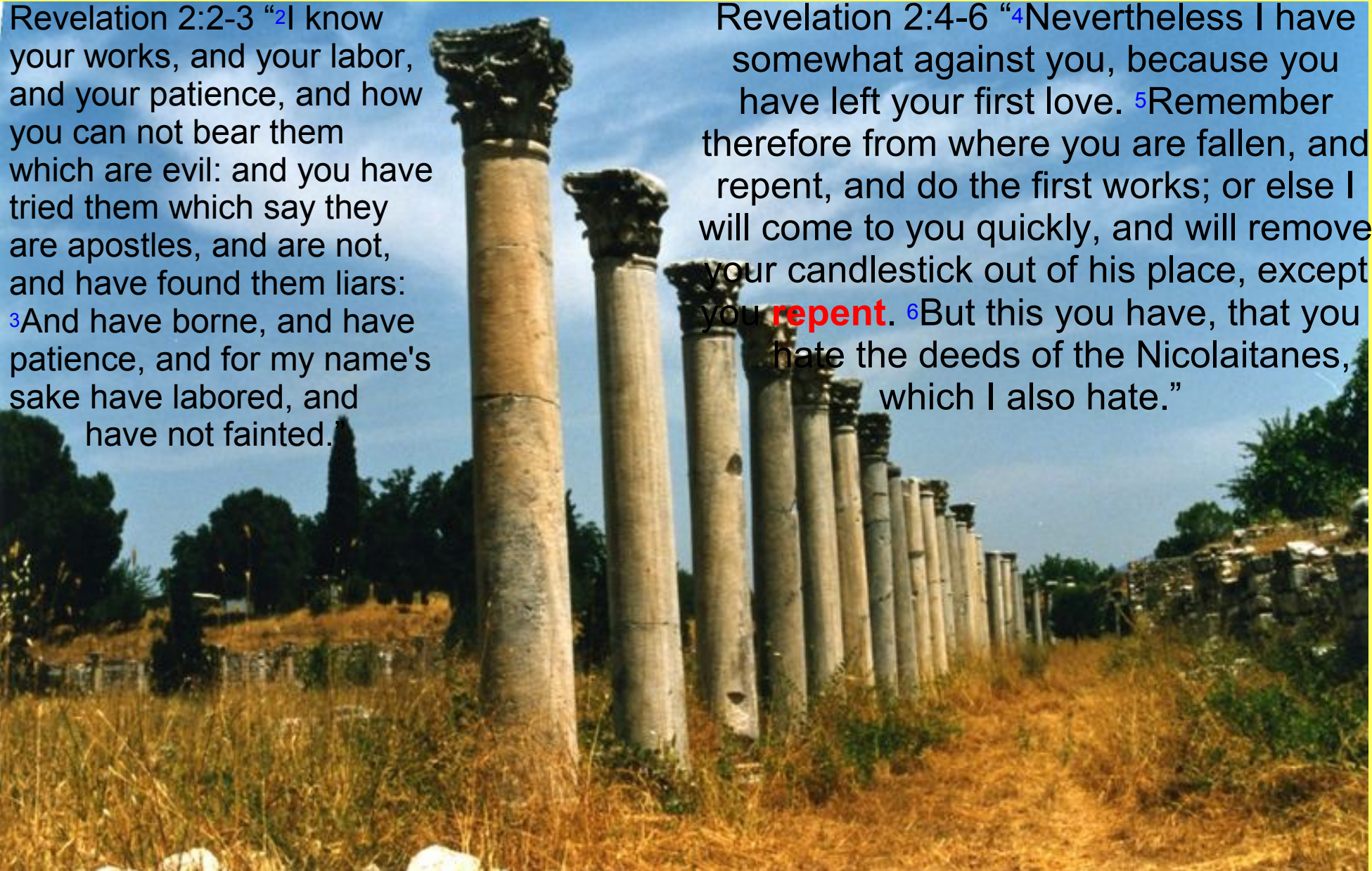
7 Churches through the Ages

- 30-67 Apostolic Age of Ephesus **Desire**
- 67-313 Ten Persecutions of Smyrna **Myrrh**
- 313-606 Constantine to Universal Pope Boniface
(Mohammed 622) Pergamos **Fortified & Mixed**
- 606-1520 The Dark Ages to Reformation of Thyatira
Continual Sacrifice
- 1520-1754 Renaissance to Enlightenment of Sardis **Escape**
- 1754-1917 Reason and Revolution of Philadelphia **Love**
- 1917-now Evolution and Democracy of Laodicea
People Judge

Ephesus: false apostles; renew love

Revelation 2:2-3 “²I know your works, and your labor, and your patience, and how you can not bear them which are evil: and you have tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and have found them liars: ³And have borne, and have patience, and for my name's sake have labored, and have not fainted.”

Revelation 2:4-6 “⁴Nevertheless I have somewhat against you, because you have left your first love. ⁵Remember therefore from where you are fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come to you quickly, and will remove your candlestick out of his place, except you **repent**. ⁶But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.”



Columns in Ephesus

Smyrna: 10 persecutions until Constantine

“Ten toes” (caesars) of Daniel 2

- Nero 64-68
- Domitian 95-96
- Trajan 100-115
- Aurelius 168-171
- Severus 203-210
- Maximin 235-237
- Decius 250-256
- Valerian 257-260
- Aurelian 276
- Diocletian 303-310

Revelation 2:14-16 “⁹I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but you are rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Fear none of those things which you shall suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that you may be tried; and you shall have **tribulation ten days**: be you faithful to death, and I will give you a crown of life.”

Pergamos: fight false teaching

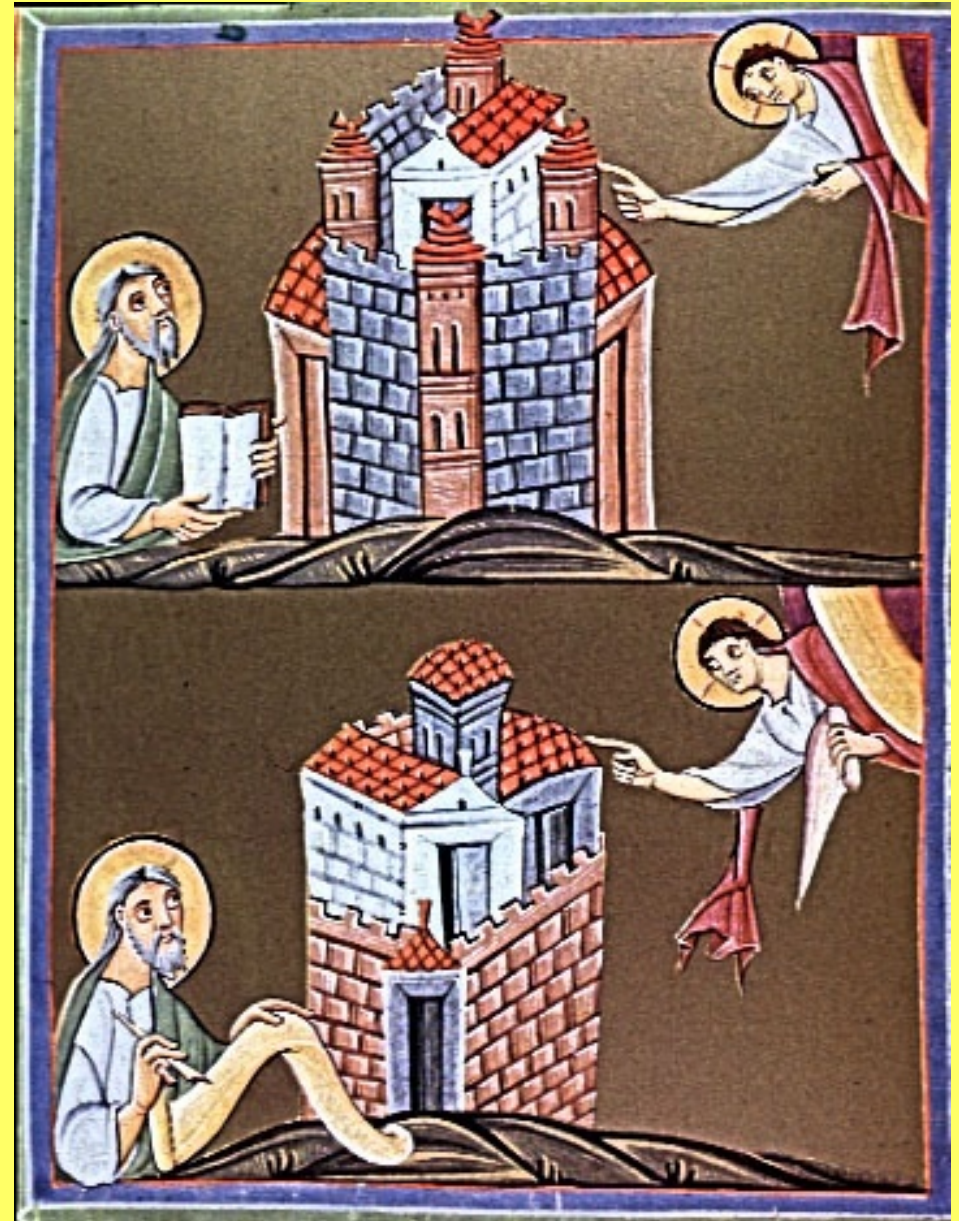


Revelation 2:14-16

“¹⁴But I have a few things against you, because you have there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication. ¹⁵So have you also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. ¹⁶**Repent**; or else I will come to you quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.”

Thyatira: “hold fast till I come”

Revelation 2:20-25 “²⁰Notwithstanding I have a few things against you, because you suffer that woman Jezebel, which calls herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and **she repented not.** ²²Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they **repent** of their deeds. ²³And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searches the reins and hearts: and I will give to every one of you according to your works. ²⁴But to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put on you none other burden. ²⁵But that which you have already hold fast till I come.”



Sardis: repent and watch

Revelation 3:2-5 “²Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found your works perfect before God. ³Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and hold fast, and **repent**. If therefore you shall not watch, I will come on you as a thief, and you shall not know what hour I will come on you. ⁴You have a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. ⁵He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”



Philadelphia has kept His Word

Revelation 3:8-11 “⁸I know your works: behold, I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it: for you have a little strength, and have kept my word, and have not denied my name. ⁹Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. ¹⁰Because you have kept the word of my patience, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation, which shall come on all the world, to try them that dwell on the earth. ¹¹Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which you have, that no man take your crown.”

Martyr's Crown
Revelation 2:10

Victor's Crown
1 Corinthians 9:25-27

Elder's Crown
1 Peter 5:2-4

Righteousness Crown
2 Timothy 4:8

Evangelist's Crown
1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

Revelation 22:12 “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

Laodicea: 'people judge'

Revelation 3:14-22 “¹⁴And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things said the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot: I would you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth. ¹⁷Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ¹⁸I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and white raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness do not appear; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and **repent**. ²⁰Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. ²¹To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. ²²He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said to the churches.”

Laodicea: self-sufficient, self-deceived

■ Physical Reality

■ Colosse's cold and Hieropolis' hot water

■ Wealthy in gold and banks

■ Black wool garments

■ Curative eye salve

■ Christ left outside of church

■ Spiritual Reality

■ Neither cold nor hot makes Jesus vomit

■ Wretchedly poor

■ Naked (white garment)

■ Blind


■ Christ will come in and dine with individuals



Signs Prior to meeting Christ

- Scoffers who deny creation and the flood (2 Peter 3:3-9)
- False prophets/teachers heresies (2 Peter 2:1-2) giving true Christianity a bad name (1 Tim. 4:1)
- Treasure and pleasure at others' expense (James 5:1-8)
- Perilous times due to selfishness (2 Tim. 3:1)
- Religious but lacking love of God and power (2 Tim. 3:4-5)
- Apostasy (“falling away”) Those who once knew Jesus return to life of sin, and anti-christ revealed (2 Thess. 2:3)

Tribulation



False prophets and false Christs deceive many
Wars and rumors of wars (first two horses/seals)
Famines & pestilences (last two horses) and earthquakes
“Peace and safety” then sudden destruction
Martyrdom, hatred, little love
Scoffers deny creation and flood
Treasure and pleasure at others' expense
Apostasy: “having a form of godliness,” but denying its power
Apostasy: “falling away” from Christ, truth, and righteousness
Antichrist (“little horn”) proclaims himself god in temple/shrine

**Wickedness, corruption, violence; thinking evil continually
eating, drinking, and marrying, until the day
Sky signs: sun & moon dark, stars fall, heavens shake, lightning
Jesus' 2nd coming; 1st resurrection**

Jesus is the Judge at His Coming

John 5:22-30 “²²For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment to the Son: ²³That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honors not the Son honors not the Father which has sent him. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, He that hears my word, and believes on him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life. ²⁵Truly, truly, I say to you, **The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.** ²⁶For as the Father has life in himself; so has he given to the Son to have life in himself; ²⁷And has given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. ²⁸Marvel not at this: **for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,** ²⁹**And shall come forth; they that have done good, to the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation.** ³⁰I can of my own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father which has sent me.”

Jesus will judge Babylon and nations who fought Israel

Revelation 19:2 “²For true and righteous are his judgments: for he has judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and has avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.”

Joel 3:12 “¹²Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. ¹³Put you in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. ¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. ¹⁶The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.”

Saints shall judge the antichrist

Daniel 7:21-22 “²¹I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; ²²Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.”

Daniel 7:26-27 “²⁶But the **judgment** shall sit, and **they** shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it to the end. ²⁷And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”

Revelation 20:4a “And I saw thrones, and **they** sat on them, and **judgment was given to them:**”

144,000 sealed & “abomination”

Great Trib.

3 ½ years

Day of the LORD

Satan defeated & bound

New Jerusalem

Heaven & Earth destroyed by fire

New Heavens & New Earth

Marriage Feast of the Lamb

New Temple (Ezekiel 40-43)

End Time-line

Satan loosed & Gog + Magog war

Great White Throne

Lake of Fire = 2nd Death

1,000 year reign

Jesus will punish nations in Millennium

Zechariah 14:12-19 “¹⁶And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁷And it shall be, that whoever will not come up of all the families of the earth to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even on them shall be no rain. ¹⁸And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, with which the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁹This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.”

Psalms 2:6-9 “⁶Yet have I set my king on my holy hill of Zion. ⁷I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to me, You are my Son; this day have I begotten you. ⁸Ask of me, and I shall give you the heathen for your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. ⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”

Jesus will judge based on compassion to Jews at the end of the millennium

Matthew 25:31-34 “³¹When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory: ³²And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats: ³³And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then shall the King say to them on his right hand, Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵For I was an hungered, and you gave me meat: I was thirsty, and you gave me drink: I was a stranger, and you took me in: ³⁶Naked, and you clothed me: I was sick, and you visited me: I was in prison, and you came to me. ³⁷Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we you an hungered, and fed you? or thirsty, and gave you drink? ³⁸When saw we you a stranger, and took you in? or naked, and clothed you? ³⁹Or when saw we you sick, or in prison, and came to you? ⁴⁰And the King shall answer and say to them, Truly I say to you, Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers, you have done it to me.”

Final judgment after millennium

Revelation 20:11-15 “¹¹And I saw a **great white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the **second death.** ¹⁵And whoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the **lake of fire.**”

Live godly lives, hastening His coming

2 Peter 3:10-14,17-18 “¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

¹¹Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

¹²Looking for and hastening to the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? ¹³Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness. ¹⁴Why, beloved, seeing that you look for such things, be diligent that you may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. ¹⁷You therefore, beloved, seeing you know these things before, beware lest you also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. ¹⁸But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

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A study by Eve Clarity ©2008

1

Welcome

Pray

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(inserted by Jesus from Isaiah 42:7 and stopped prior to when quoted by Jesus in Luke 4:18-19)

2

Just as Jews had difficulty separating prophecies regarding Jesus' first and second comings as Redeemer than King, so we have difficulty compartmentalizing prophecies into those pertaining to various judgments.

“The Day of Vengeance of our God” is also called The Day of God's Wrath, The Day of God's Judgment, The Great and Dreadful Day, The Day of the Lord; and it is abbreviate to just “That Day” or “The Day” it is referred to so often.

It is the day when King Jesus returns to earth with His saints to conquer those who have attacked Israel, and to rule the nations with an iron scepter from Jerusalem.

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Judgment and punishment not for godly

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5

“deliver the godly out of temptations” = rescue the godly from trial/testing.

Judgment = justice and damnation

Punishment = infliction

Judgment to those who don't obey the truth; to the Jew first then also to the Gentile

Romans 2:5-12+16 “⁵But after your hardness and impenitent heart treasure up to yourself wrath against **the day of wrath** and revelation of the righteous *judgment* of God; ⁶Who will render to every man according to his deeds: ⁷To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life: ⁸But to them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, ⁹Tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man that does evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; ¹⁰But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that works good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: ¹¹For there is no respect of persons with God. ¹²For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be *judged* by the law; ¹⁶In **the day** when God shall *judge* the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”

6

The day of wrath is at the revelation (“apokolypsis”),
the appearing of Christ.
Judgment is “just sentence.”

Tribulation and anguish came upon the Jews first in 70
AD, and throughout the next 2000 years.

Old Covenant makes way for the New



Hebrews 8:6-8 “⁶But now hath he obtained a ministry the more excellent, by so much as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, which hath been enacted upon better promises. ⁷For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then would no place have been sought for a second. ⁸For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, That I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.”

Hebrews 9:27-28 “²⁷And inasmuch as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this *cometh judgment*; ²⁸so Christ also, having been once offered to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time, apart from sin, to them ⁷ that wait for him, unto salvation.”

Hebrews 9:15ff “¹⁵And for this cause he is the mediator of a new covenant, that a death having taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, they that have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. ¹⁶For where a testament is, there must of necessity be the death of him that made it. . . . all things are cleansed with blood, and apart from shedding of blood there is no remission. He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And inasmuch as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this *comes judgment*; ²⁸so Christ also, having been once offered to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time, apart from sin, to them that wait for him, unto salvation.”

Hebrews 8:12-13 “¹²For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. ¹³In that he said, A new covenant, he has made the first old. Now that which decays and waxes old is ready to vanish away. ”

Hebrews was written in 67 AD when the Jewish revolt began, and Rome sent Vespasian and his son Titus to squash it.

Rome conquered Jerusalem in 70AD and burned it down. The stones of the temple was overturned to get at the gold which had melted between.

Temple worship ended in 70 A.D.

Matthew 24:2-3 “²And Jesus said to them, See you not all **these things**? truly I say to you, There shall not be left here one stone on another, that shall not be thrown down. ³And as he sat on the mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, **when shall these things be?** and **what shall be the sign of your coming,** and of **the end of the world?**”

Mat. 24:4-14 (temple destroyed)

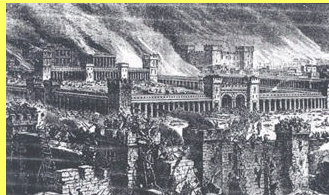
Mat. 24:15-28 (Tribulation)

Mat. 24:27-25:13 (2nd coming)

Mat.25:14-30 (reward works)

Mat. 24:35 (heaven + earth)

Mat.25:31-46 (judge nations)



Arch of Titus⁸

The first covenant was abolished, and the new covenant through faith in Christ's blood had been established.

Matthew 24:12-14 “¹²And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. ¹³But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come.”

Paul wrote in Romans 10 during his last missionary trip (about 57AD) that the gospel of the kingdom has been preached to the world then known (Roman empire).

If you had been a Jew in Jerusalem in 70 AD, you may have thought it was the end of the world.

Rev. 16:15 “¹⁵Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”

Matthew 24:35 “³⁵Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

Peter writes prophetically in 64 AD

1 Peter 4:7, 17-19 "7But the end of all things is at hand: be you therefore sober, and watch to prayer. 17For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 19Why let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as to a faithful Creator."



Art by David Roberts 1850

Peter is writing while Nero is emperor of Rome and committing all sorts of atrocities against Christians. Judgment came upon the Jews first, and then to those who believed in the gospel of God. Peter was crucified three years later in 67 AD.

Jesus Christ is the corner stone and we are living stones built upon Him. The Church has been under the gracious chastening of the Lord for 2,000 years (or two days of the week of earth's history).

End Times outlined by Jesus

Mat. 24:4-14 (Jerusalem and Temple destroyed)

The Church Age

Mat. 24:15-28 (Tribulation)

Mat. 24:27-25:13 (2nd coming)

Mat.25:14-30 (reward works)

Mat. 24:35 (heaven + earth)

Mat.25:31-46 (judge nations)

Judgment to Jews first

Christian faith grows through trials and testing

Rapture & works rewarded

Earth destroyed by fire -
New Jerusalem

[Reign with Christ 1,000
years - millennium]

King Jesus judges nations
according to how they treat
His brethren

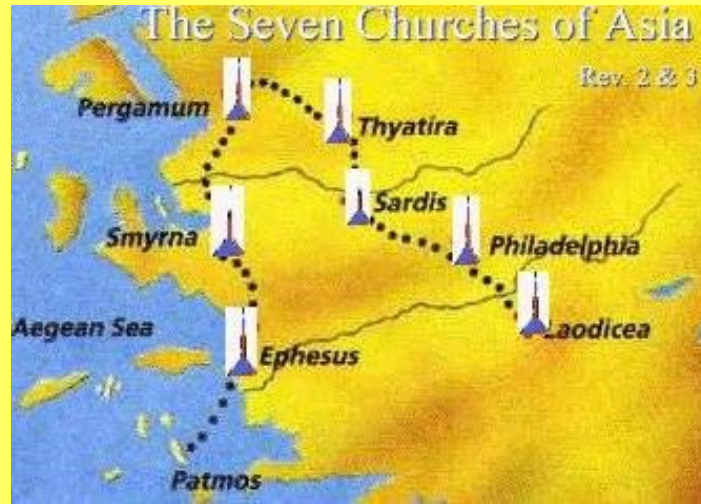
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Between now and Christ's appearing, we are judged by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This period of God's grace will end when His Son returns with wrath for the wicked and rewards for the righteous.

During the millennial reign of King Jesus there will be a new temple and new boundaries for the 12 tribes of Israel in accordance with chapters 40-48 of Ezekiel. How millennial people treat the Israeli brethren of Christ will determine their eternal outcome at the end of the 1,000 years.

Revelation 2+3 record His rebukes and praises of the Church throughout history.

7 Churches in western Turkey

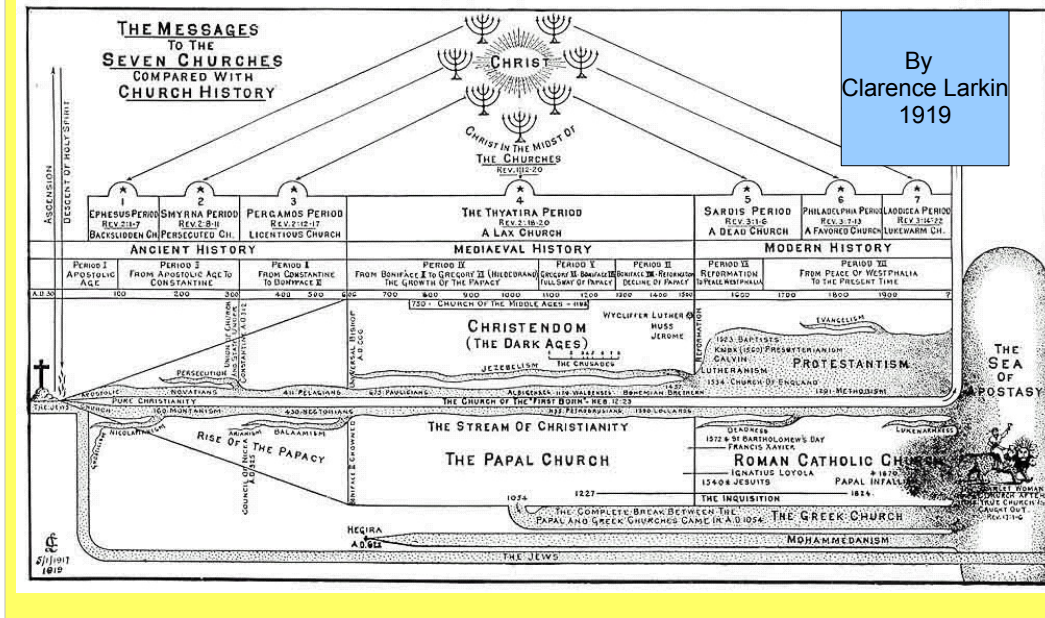


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Revelation 2+3 record His rebukes and praises of the Church throughout history.

The letters to the seven churches are written in the natural order that a messenger's route would take.

Church Age



Mr. Larkin produced this graphic the year the Arabs recognized the state of Palestine for the Jews. Though Christ's critiques of the 7 churches could apply to any church at any time, I agree with Mr. Larkin that there also seems to be a successive link to church history.

7 Churches through the Ages

30-67	Apostolic Age of Ephesus	Desire
67-313	Ten Persecutions of Smyrna	Myrrh
313-606	Constantine to Universal Pope Boniface (Mohammed 622) Pergamos	Fortified & Mixed
606-1520	The Dark Ages to Reformation of Thyatira	Continual Sacrifice
1520-1754	Renaissance to Enlightenment of Sardis	Escape
1754-1917	Reason and Revolution of Philadelphia	Love
1917-now	Evolution and Democracy of Laodicea	People Judge

13

Ephesus means “desire”. The believers' love for the Lord was strong until major persecution came. In 66 The Jewish War with Rome began, and in 67 both Paul and Peter were martyred.

Smyrna means “myrrh”, which was a fragrant perfume used in offering sacrifices. The 10 persecutions occurred during this time; there were many martyrs.

Pergamos means “fortified” or “mixed marriage”; Constantine forced them to meet in pagan temples when he declared all in the Roman Empire to now be Christian.

Thyatira means “continual sacrifice”. It's period ends at the Reformation which ushers in the Renaissance and Enlightenment.

Sardis means “remnant” or “escaping ones”. It was a time many escaped the Inquisitions of Catholicism.

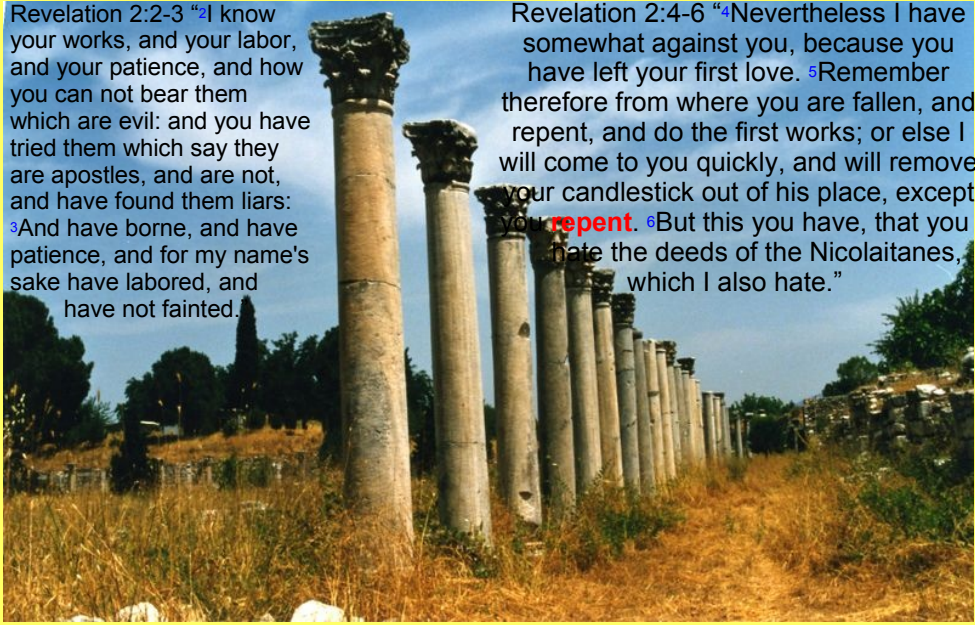
Philadelphia means “brotherly love”. Benjamin Franklin wrote The Albany Plan for Union, Join or Die, and No Taxation without Representation in 1754 in Philadelphia.

Our national capital was there during the Revolution.

Laodicea means “people judge”: democracy flourishes

Ephesus: false apostles; renew love

Revelation 2:2-3 “I know your works, and your labor, and your patience, and how you can not bear them which are evil: and you have tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and have found them liars: 3And have borne, and have patience, and for my name's sake have labored, and have not fainted.”



Columns in Ephesus

Revelation 2:4-6 “4Nevertheless I have somewhat against you, because you have left your first love. 5Remember therefore from where you are fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come to you quickly, and will remove your candlestick out of his place, except you repent. 6But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.”

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“I will remove your candlestick except you repent” of leaving your first love of Christ.

Smyrna: 10 persecutions until Constantine

“Ten toes” (caesars) of Daniel 2

- Nero 64-68
- Domitian 95-96
- Trajan 100-115
- Aurelius 168-171
- Severus 203-210
- Maximin 235-237
- Decius 250-256
- Valerian 257-260
- Aurelian 276
- Diocletian 303-310

Revelation 2:14-16 ⁹I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but you are rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Fear none of those things which you shall suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that you may be tried; and you shall have **tribulation ten days**: be you faithful to death, and I will give you a crown of life.” ¹⁵

Nero and Domitian persecuted Christians while original apostles still lived.

“This was the nineteenth year of the reign of Diocletian in Dystrus [March] when the feast of the Saviour's passion was near at hand, and royal edicts were published everywhere, commanding that the churches be razed to the ground, the scriptures destroyed by fire, those who held positions of honor degraded, and the household servants, if they persisted in the Christian profession, be deprived of their liberty. And such was the first decree against us. But issuing [other] decrees not long after, the Emperor commanded that all the rulers of the churches in every place should be first put in prison and afterwards compelled by every device to offer sacrifice.” (Medieval Sourcebook: Diocletian: Edicts Against The Christians)

Praise without judgment

Pergamos: fight false teaching



Revelation 2:14-16
“¹⁴But I have a few things against you, because you have there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication. ¹⁵So have you also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. ¹⁶**Repent**; or else I will come to you quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of ¹⁶ my mouth.”

Photo by Claus Obleiter 2006 detail of Pergamom altar
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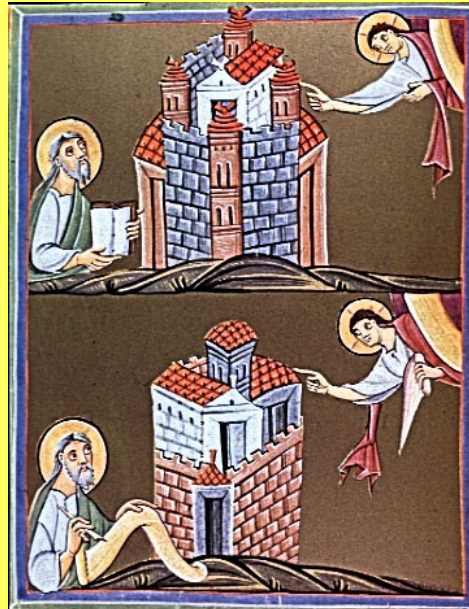
Rev. 2: “¹²And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things said he which has the sharp sword with two edges; ¹³I know your works, and where you dwell, even where Satan's seat is: and you hold fast my name, and have not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwells.”

Though there are fables regarding a bishop named Antipas, there is nothing conclusive.

Nicolatians held power over the people.

Revelation 2:20-25 “²⁰Notwithstanding I have a few things against you, because you suffer that woman Jezebel, which calls herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and **she repented not.** ²²Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they **repent** of their deeds. ²³And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searches the reins and hearts: and I will give to every one of you according to your works. ²⁴But to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put on you none other burden. ²⁵But that which you have already hold fast till I come.”

Thyatira: “hold fast till I come”



John writing to Pergamos and Thyatira.

Pergamos was lured into idolatry and fornication like ancient Balaam did to Israel.

Thyatira was lured into fornication and into idolatry like ancient Jezebel did to Israel.

Revelation 2:26-27 “²⁶And he that overcomes, and keeps my works to the end, to him will I give power over the nations: ²⁷And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.”

Sardis: repent and watch

Revelation 3:2-5 “²Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found your works perfect before God. ³Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and hold fast, and **repent**. If therefore you shall not watch, I will come on you as a thief, and you shall not know what hour I will come on you. ⁴You have a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. ⁵He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”



Visions of John of Patmos, as depicted in the Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry.

Revelation 3:1 “¹And to the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things said he that has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know your works, that you have a name that you live, and are dead.”

Some here are close to losing their salvation.

Watch and watchful are grēgoreuō (gray-gor-yoo'-o)
Meaning to *keep awake*, and be vigilant.

Philadelphia has kept His Word

Revelation 3:8-11 “⁸I know your works: behold, I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it: for you have a little strength, and have kept my word, and have not denied my name.

⁹Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. ¹⁰Because you have kept the word of my patience, I also will keep you from the hour of temptation, which shall come on all the world, to try them that dwell on the earth. ¹¹Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which you have, that no man take your crown.”

Martyr's Crown
Revelation 2:10

Victor's Crown
1 Corinthians 9:25-27

Elder's Crown
1 Peter 5:2-4

Righteousness Crown
2 Timothy 4:8

Evangelist's Crown
1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

Revelation 22:12 “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man ¹⁹ according as his work shall be.”

Revelation 3:7 “⁷And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things said he that is holy, he that is true, he that has the key of David, he that opens, and no man shuts; and shuts, and no man opens;”

Keep is *tereo* from *watch*; meaning to *guard* (from *loss* or *injury*, properly by keeping *the eye* upon it; that is, to *note* (a prophecy; figuratively to *fulfil* a command); or to maintain or hold fast.

Hour can mean season

Temptation is *pi-ras-mos'* from test; a putting to *proof*; *adversity* or *trial*.

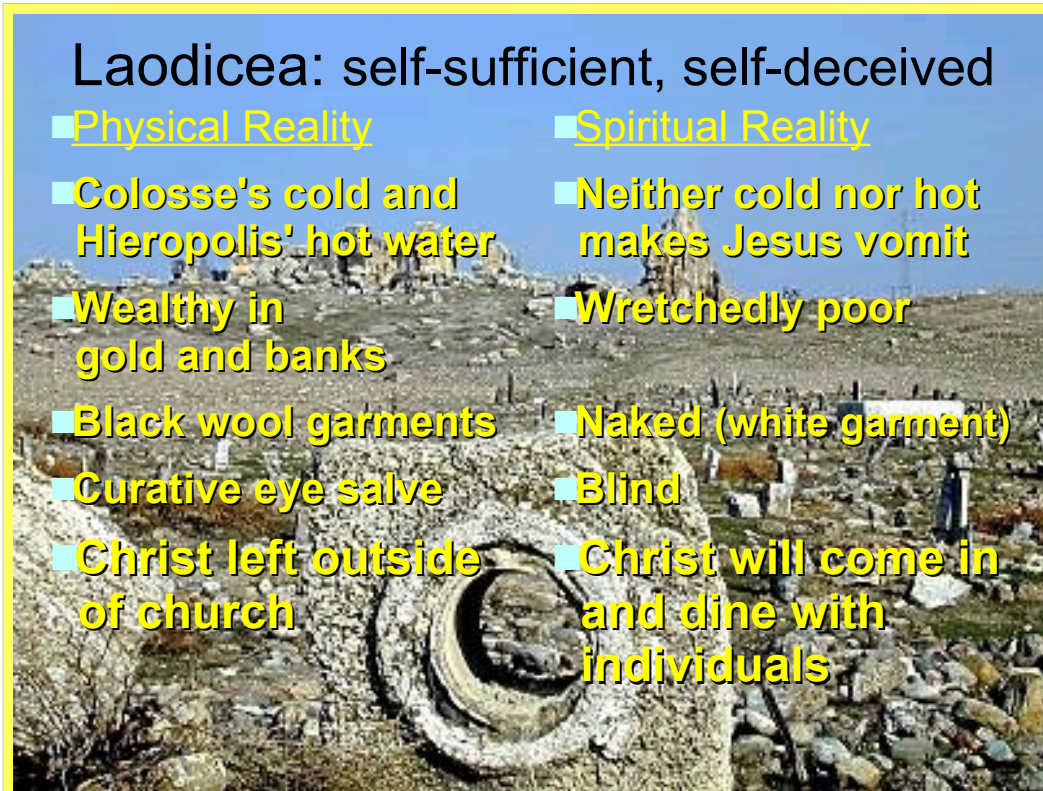
There are those for whom God has prepared a place of safety during the 3 ½ year great tribulation. (Rev. 12)

Laodicea: 'people judge'

Revelation 3:14-22 “¹⁴And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things said the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot: I would you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth. ¹⁷Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ¹⁸I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and white raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness do not appear; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and **repent**. ²⁰Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. ²¹To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. ²²He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said to the churches.”

20

Laos is people; dike is *rights* (as self *evident*), that is, *justice*: judgment, punish, vengeance. So the name means “people judge”



The Laodiceans judged by outward appearances which deceived many of them into thinking they had a relationship with Jesus Christ when they didn't.

Matthew 7:21-23 “²¹Not every one that said to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? and in your name have cast out devils? and in your name done many wonderful works? ²³And then will I profess to them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity.”

Yet for those who receive the loving chastening of the Lord and repent and develop new spiritual zeal; they shall sit with Christ on His throne.

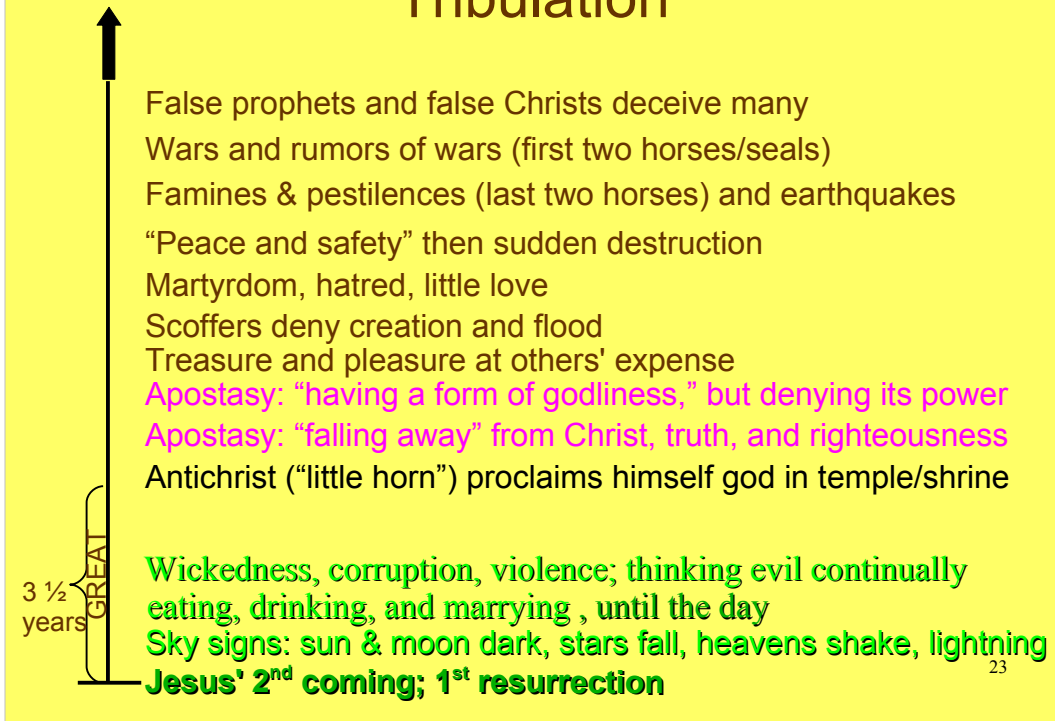
When Jesus catches away His Bride, we shall rule with Him as His queen (Ps. 45), but the type and number of crowns we have is up to each of us.

Signs Prior to meeting Christ

- Scoffers who deny creation and the flood (2 Peter 3:3-9)
- False prophets/teachers heresies (2 Peter 2:1-2) giving true Christianity a bad name (1 Tim. 4:1)
- Treasure and pleasure at others' expense (James 5:1-8)
- Perilous times due to selfishness (2 Tim. 3:1)
- Religious but lacking love of God and power (2 Tim. 3:4-5)
- Apostasy ("falling away") Those who once knew Jesus return to life of sin, and anti-christ revealed (2 Thess. 2:3)

Sounds similar to church of Laodicea

Tribulation



From our lesson on the Tribulation, we put together this timeline of events.

Jesus is the Judge at His Coming

John 5:22-30 “²²For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment to the Son: ²³That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honors not the Son honors not the Father which has sent him. ²⁴Truly, truly, I say to you, He that hears my word, and believes on him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life. ²⁵Truly, truly, I say to you, **The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.** ²⁶For as the Father has life in himself; so has he given to the Son to have life in himself; ²⁷And has given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. ²⁸Marvel not at this: **for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹And shall come forth; they that have done good, to the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation.** ³⁰I can of my own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father which has sent me.” 24

Verse 25 occurred at Jesus death and resurrection when the First Fruit saints in Jerusalem came out of their graves.

Verses 28-29 Is the Great White Throne judgment based upon works.

Jesus will judge Babylon and nations who fought Israel

Revelation 19:2 “²For true and righteous are his judgments: for he has judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and has avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.”

Joel 3:12 “¹²Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. ¹³Put you in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. ¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. ¹⁶The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.”

25

They will be destroyed.

Saints shall judge the antichrist

Daniel 7:21-22 “²¹I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; ²²Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.”

Daniel 7:26-27 “²⁶But the **judgment** shall sit, and **they** shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it to the end. ²⁷And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”

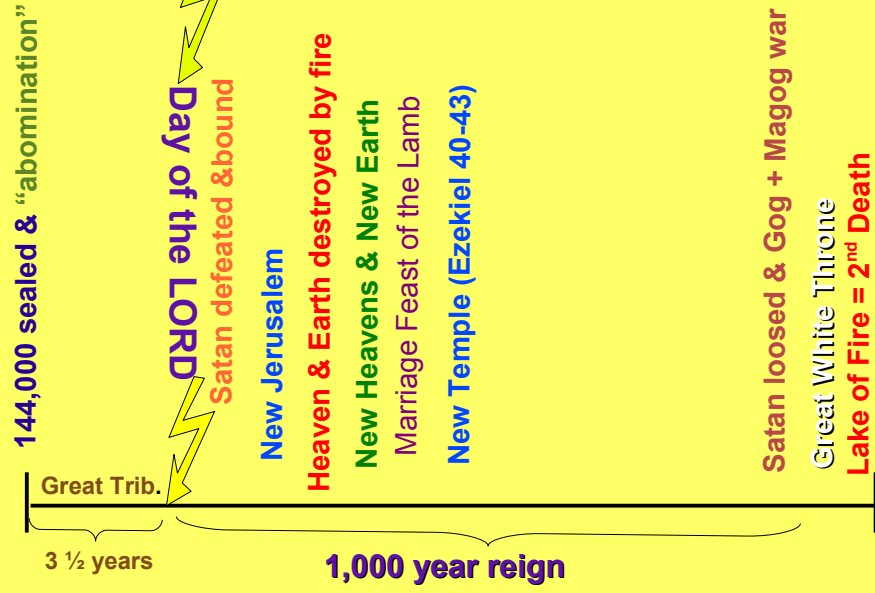
Revelation 20:4a “And I saw thrones, and **they** sat on them, and **judgment was given to them.**”

26

At the end of the great tribulation, we (the saints) will return with Jesus. And together we will judge the antichrist (the beast) and his false prophet and they will be thrown into the lake of fire.

Rev. 19: ²⁰And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that worked miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

End Time-line



Jesus will punish nations in Millennium

Zechariah 14:12-19 “¹⁶And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁷And it shall be, that whoever will not come up of all the families of the earth to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even on them shall be no rain. ¹⁸And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, with which the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. ¹⁹This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.”

Psalms 2:6-9 “⁶Yet have I set my king on my holy hill of Zion. ⁷I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to me, You are my Son; this day have I begotten you. ⁸Ask of me, and I shall give you the heathen for your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. ⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.” 28

Rev. 2:27 “ ²⁷And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.”

Rev. 12:5 ⁵And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up to God, and to his throne.

Jesus will judge based on compassion to Jews at the end of the millennium

Matthew 25:31-34 “³¹When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory: ³²And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats: ³³And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then shall the King say to them on his right hand, Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵For I was an hungered, and you gave me meat: I was thirsty, and you gave me drink: I was a stranger, and you took me in: ³⁶Naked, and you clothed me: I was sick, and you visited me: I was in prison, and you came to me. ³⁷Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we you an hungered, and fed you? or thirsty, and gave you drink? ³⁸When saw we you a stranger, and took you in? or naked, and clothed you? ³⁹Or when saw we you sick, or in prison, and came to you? ⁴⁰And the King shall answer and say to them, Truly I say to you, Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least ²⁹ of these my brothers, you have done it to me.”

Since these people refused to believe in Jesus, He will judge them according to how they treated Jews.

Final judgment after millennium

Revelation 20:11-15 “¹¹And I saw a **great white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the **second death**. ¹⁵And whoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the **lake of fire.**”

Live godly lives, hastening His coming

2 Peter 3:10-14,17-18 “¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
¹¹Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conversation and godliness.
¹²Looking for and hastening to the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? ¹³Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness. ¹⁴Why, beloved, seeing that you look for such things, be diligent that you may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. ¹⁷You therefore, beloved, seeing you know these things before, beware lest you also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. ¹⁸But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”