

WEEK 3

After the Rapture

Who is able to stand?

Heaven and Earth



After the Rapture

HEAVENLY EVENTS



BEMA SEAT OF CHRIST (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Believers judged for works, not for salvation.



MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB (Revelation 19:7-9)

Heavenly event.
The Church is united with Christ as His Bride.



MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB (Revelation 19:9)

Takes place during the Millenium on earth, with the Church celebrating with Christ.

EARTHLY EVENTS

REMOVAL OF THE RESTRAINER



- The Holy Spirit's restraining influence is removed.
- Allows lawlessness to increase in the world.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-7

GLOBAL POLITICAL REALIGNMENT



- A powerful world leader (the Antichrist) emerges.
- Gains influence and brings nations together.
- Moves toward a global government and economy.

Daniel 7:8, 24-25
Revelation 13:1-8

THE RISE OF THE ANTICHRIST (THE LITTLE HORN)



- A charismatic leader arises, gaining worldwide influence and power.

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PEACE FOR ISRAEL



- The Antichrist brings a period of peace and security for the nation of Israel.

Daniel 9:27

THE BATTLE OF GOG AND MAGOG (OPTIONAL)



- A possible pre-Tribulation conflict with a northern coalition (Gog and Magog).
- May clear the way for the 7-year covenant.
- Timing is uncertain.

Ezekiel 38-39
(Timing Uncertain)

REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM



- The third temple is built, and preparations are made to resume sacrifices.

2 Thessalonians 2:4
Ezekiel 40-43
(future temple)

FROM THE RAPTURE TO THE COVENANT

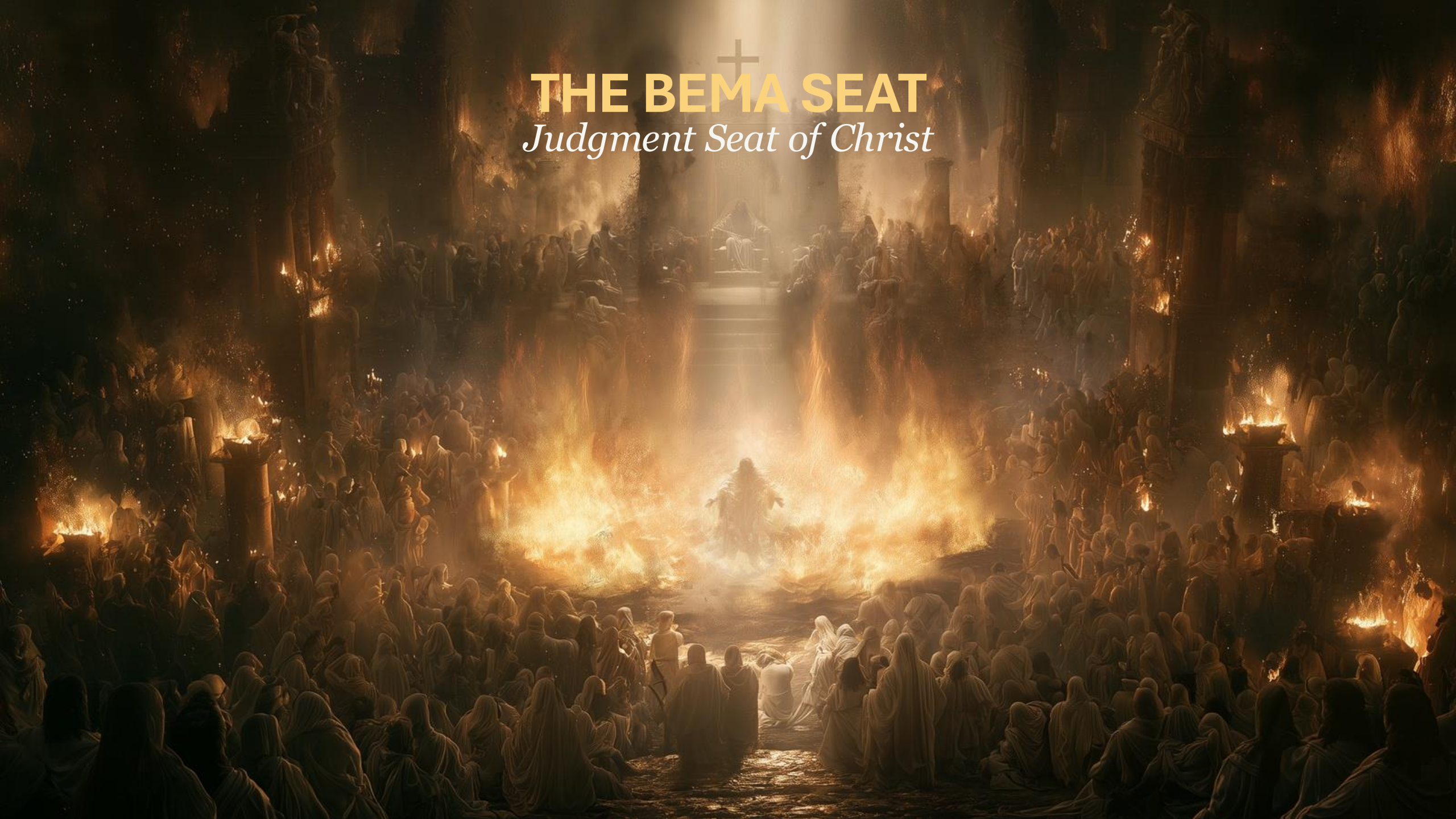
THE EVENTS BETWEEN THE CHURCH'S DEPARTURE AND THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIBULATION
(A TIME OF WEEKS, MONTHS, OR PERHAPS UP TO A YEAR)



After the Rapture in Heaven

Judgment and Wedding





THE BEMA SEAT

Judgment Seat of Christ

The Bema Seat / Judgment Seat of Christ

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

2 Corinthians 5:10

“Each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work.”

1 Corinthians 3:13

The Bema Seat / Judgment Seat of Christ

When, where, and who?

1

THE TIME

Immediately after the Rapture

The Church is gathered to Christ and then appears before Him.

2

THE PLACE

The Bema — the “judgment seat”

A raised platform or tribunal; also the stand at athletic games where rewards were presented.

3

THE PARTICIPANTS

Believers only — and participation is not optional

“We must all stand before Christ to be judged.”

The Bema Seat / Judgment Seat of Christ

The purpose of the judgment

NOT to determine heaven or hell

REWARDS are based on our works for Christ after we trust in Him.

MOTIVE MATTERS There can be bad “good works.” Jesus warns that righteous acts performed to be noticed by people may receive their reward here rather than from the Father.

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.”

Matthew 6:1–2, 5, 16

The Bema Seat / Judgment Seat of Christ

What will Christ examine?

1 How we treat other believers

Matthew 10:41–42; Hebrews 6:10

2 How we employ our God-given talents and abilities

Matthew 25:14–29; Luke 19:11–26; 1 Corinthians 12:4, 7; 2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Peter 4:10

3 How we use our money

Matthew 6:1–4; 1 Timothy 6:17–19

4 How well we endure personal injustice and mistreatment

Matthew 5:11–12; Mark 10:29–30; Luke 6:27–28, 35; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Peter 4:12–13

5 How we endure suffering and trials

James 1:12; Revelation 2:10

6 How we spend our time

Psalms 90:9–12; Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5; 1 Peter 1:17

7 How we run the particular race God has given us

1 Corinthians 9:24; Philippians 2:16; 3:12–14; Hebrews 12:1

8 How effectively we control our fleshly appetites

1 Corinthians 9:25–27

The Bema Seat / Judgment Seat of Christ

What will Christ examine?

9 How many souls we witness to for Christ

Daniel 12:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:19–20

10 How much the Rapture means to us and shapes our lives

2 Timothy 4:8

11 How faithful we are to God's Word and God's people

Acts 20:26–28; 2 Timothy 4:1–2; Hebrews 13:17; James 3:1; 1 Peter 5:1–2; 2 John 1:7–8

12 How hospitable we are to strangers

Matthew 25:35–36; Luke 14:12–14

13

How faithful we are in our vocations

Colossians 3:22–24

14

How we support others in ministry

Matthew 10:40–42

15

How we use our tongues

Matthew 12:36; James 3:1–12

The issue is faithfulness in the life Christ entrusted to us.

The Bema Seat / Judgment Seat of Christ

What are the rewards? — Crowns

- 1

THE INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN

1 Corinthians 9:24–27

The reward for those who consistently practice self-discipline and self-control is the crown that will not fade away.
- 2

THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

2 Timothy 4:8

The crown of righteousness is the reward for those who eagerly look for the Lord's coming and live a righteous life in view of this fact.
- 3

THE CROWN OF LIFE

James 1:12; Revelation 2:10

The sufferer's crown is given to those who faithfully endure and persevere under the trials and tests of life.
- 4

THE CROWN OF REJOICING

1 Thessalonians 2:19

The soul winner's crown is given to those who win people for Christ.
- 5

THE CROWN OF GLORY

1 Peter 5:1–4

The shepherd's crown will be given to those pastors, elders, and church leaders who lovingly, graciously, faithfully shepherd and oversee God's people.

The Bema Seat / Judgment Seat of Christ

What are the rewards? — Beyond crowns

GREATER RESPONSIBILITY & AUTHORITY

Believers will occupy various positions of authority in God's Kingdom based on how well we lived our lives here on earth.

Luke 19:13–26

INCREASED CAPACITY TO REFLECT THE LORD'S GLORY

Daniel 12:3 says, "Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever."

Daniel 12:3

The Bema is not about whether we belong to Christ. It is about how faithfully we lived because we belong to Christ.

If you are standing in line at the judgment seat and see a line with a bunch of preachers in it, get in another line. **It will go faster.**



The Rapture and the Ancient Jewish Wedding

Illustrative parallels often noted by Renald Showers and other pre-tribulational teachers

1

The Bride Is Chosen



A bride is set apart for the son.

The Church is presented as the bride of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:2
Ephesians 5:25–27

2

The Bride-Price Is Paid



A costly price secures the covenant.

Christ purchased His bride with His own blood.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20
Acts 20:28

3

The Groom Departs



The groom leaves to prepare a place in his father's house.

Jesus ascended and is preparing a place for His own.

John 14:2–3

4

The Bride Waits



The bride waits in readiness, not knowing the exact hour.

The Church lives expectantly, watching for Christ.

Matthew 25:1–13
Titus 2:13

5

The Groom Returns



The groom comes suddenly, often with a shout and trumpet.

The Lord descends with a shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17

6

The Bride Is Taken



The bride is taken to the groom's father's house.

Believers are caught up to meet the Lord and be with Him.

John 14:3
1 Thessalonians 4:17

7

Celebration and Union



The marriage is celebrated and the feast follows.

The Church will share in the marriage of the Lamb and the marriage supper.

Revelation 19:7–9

Key Idea: The ancient Jewish wedding beautifully illustrates Christ's relationship to His bride and helps picture the Rapture, the Father's house, and the future marriage of the Lamb.

THE WEDDING OF CHRIST & THE CHURCH

The Bridegroom: Jesus Christ
The Bride: The Church

Revelation 19:7–9



BEMA JUDGMENT



WEDDING
IN HEAVEN



SECOND COMING

Christ returns with His bride

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MARRIAGE

HOST | The Father in Heaven

BRIDEGROOM | Jesus Christ

BRIDE | The Church

GUESTS | Old Testament and
Tribulation Saints

DRESS | Finest white linen

After the Rapture

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IV. After the Rapture on Earth

Global panic, deception, and the rise of the Antichrist



TRUTH
IN A
CHANGING
WORLD

VOL. 78, NO. 21,448

The Global Times

A MORE INFORMED WORLD

LATE EDITION
WORLD NEWS
ANALYSIS
PERSPECTIVE
TOMORROW

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

MISSING

Millions Vanish Around the World

Families Separated • Cities in Chaos • No Explanation



A Global Mystery

- Alien Abduction?
- Catastrophic Event?
- Government Involvement?
- No Answers Yet



"My family is gone...
I don't understand."



MAJOR CITIES REPORT MASS DISAPPEARANCES



TRAVEL IN DISARRAY
AS MILLIONS ARE MISSING



FEAR AND PANIC
SPREAD WORLDWIDE



1

A vanished Church would demand an immediate global explanation.

2

Governments would seek stability and centralized response.

3

Markets and supply chains would experience shock.

4

The world would be vulnerable to powerful deception.

A charismatic leader empowered by Satan could consolidate power rapidly. This leads naturally toward the satanically empowered ruler of Daniel, Thessalonians, and Revelation—



FROM THE RAPTURE TO THE COVENANT

THE EVENTS BETWEEN THE CHURCH'S DEPARTURE AND THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIBULATION

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THE INVASION OF

GOG & MAGOG

Ezekiel 38–39

A future coalition invades Israel.
God destroys the armies—and makes His name known.

WHO?

WHEN?

WHY?

Two principal timing views

What Ezekiel Actually Requires

Latter years

The invasion occurs in the latter years / latter days.

Ezekiel 38:8, 16

Regathered Israel

A people gathered from many nations is living again in the land.

Ezekiel 38:8, 12

Security / rest

Israel is described as living securely, at rest, in unwalled settlements.

Ezekiel 38:11, 14

Multinational invasion

Gog leads a large coalition from the north and other regions.

Ezekiel 38:2–6, 15

A Coalition Larger Than a Single Nation

“Many peoples with you” widens the picture beyond the named core.

NORTH / NORTHEAST

Gog • Magog • Meshech • Tubal •
Beth-Togarmah

EAST

Persia — modern Iran

SOUTH

Cush — Sudan / upper Nile region

WEST / SOUTHWEST

Put — Libya / North Africa

ADDITIONAL PEOPLES

Gomer + “many peoples with you”

Cush

Ethiopia

Persia

Iran

Magog

Kazakhstan

Afghanistan

Pakistan

Oman

Yemen

Arabian Sea

Mediterranean Sea

ISRAEL

Syria

Niger

Chad

Mali

GOG & MAGOG

The Coalition of Ezekiel 38–39



The Plan: A Massive Attack for Plunder

Gog devises an evil plan—but God remains sovereign over the confrontation.

THE TARGET

A people living securely in a restored land—wealthy enough to invite plunder.

THE ADVANCE

The armies come like a storm and a cloud covering the land.

THE MOTIVE

Spoil, silver, gold, livestock, goods—“much plunder.”

Sheba • Dedan • merchants of Tarshish

They protest the invasion rather than join it: “Have you come to capture spoil?”

God’s sovereignty

“I will bring you against My land... so that the nations may know Me.”

GOG & MAGOG

The Coalition of Ezekiel 38–39

Tarshish

(Merchants of Tarshish)

Rosh

Magog

**Gomer
Togarmah**

**Meshech
& Tubal**

Persia

Put

Dedan

Sheba

Cush

ISRAEL

Sheba, Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish (Ezekiel 38:13):
surrounding nations/trading powers that question the invasion
but are not shown as participants in it.

Surround Israel,
but **not part** of the
invasion coalition.



God Intervenes: The Coalition Is Destroyed

Israel's deliverance is unmistakably supernatural.

1 GREAT EARTHQUAKE

Mountains, cliffs, walls collapse

2 BATTLEFIELD CONFUSION

Every man's sword against his brother

3 PESTILENCE & BLOODSHED

Judgment falls on Gog and his forces

4 RAIN, HAIL, FIRE & SULFUR

A catastrophic storm strikes the coalition

5 FIRE BEYOND ISRAEL

Judgment reaches Magog and the coastlands

The Aftermath: Cleansing the Land

The aftermath is unusually specific—and becomes important in the timing debate.

7

MONTHS

Israel buries the dead
and cleanses the land.

7

YEARS

The captured weapons
serve as fuel.

SYSTEMATIC CLEANSING

- A burial place is established for Gog and his hordes.
- Search teams mark remaining bones.
- Specialized personnel complete the burial.
- The land is cleansed after the invasion.

Timing implication: the seven-year fuel period must fit somewhere in the prophetic chronology.

The Difficult Question: **When Does It Happen?**

What is certain

- After Israel is regathered to the land
- In the “latter years”
- Before the Millennial Kingdom
- At a time of unusual security / rest

The interpretive hinge

What best explains Israel being “at rest” and “living securely”?

VIEW 1

After the Rapture
but before the
Tribulation

VIEW 2

During the first half
of the Tribulation

Both are early-sequence views. Neither requires identifying Ezekiel 38–39 with Armageddon.

The background image is a dark, apocalyptic landscape. It features a hazy, grey sky with smoke rising from the ground. In the foreground and middle ground, there is a lot of wreckage, including what appears to be destroyed vehicles and debris. A large fire is visible on the right side, with bright orange and yellow flames. The overall tone is somber and destructive.

TIMING VIEW ONE

VIEW 1 — POST-RAPTURE / PRE-TRIBULATION

The invasion occurs in the interval after the Church is removed but before Daniel's 70th week begins.

View 1: The Case for a Pre-Tribulation Invasion

Advocates include Fruchtenbaum, Ice, LaHaye, Price, Reagan, and Rhodes.

POST-RAPTURE DISRUPTION

The disappearance of the Church could produce global instability and strategic opportunity.

POWER VACUUM

God's destruction of the northern coalition removes major military powers and clears the way for a western ruler.

THE COVENANT FOLLOWS

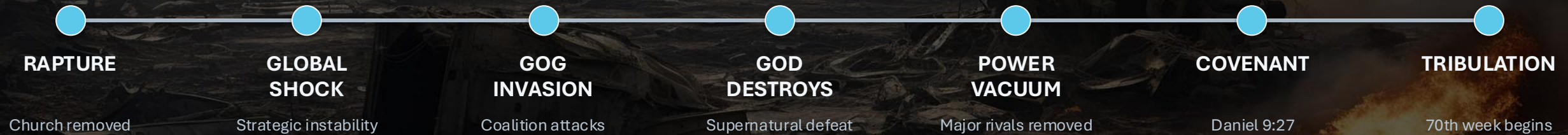
The Antichrist can then confirm a covenant with Israel, marking the start of the Tribulation.

ANTICHRIST ABSENT FROM EZEKIEL 38–39

The prophecy never identifies him as the protector, attacker, or destroyer of Gog's coalition.

View 1: How the Sequence Could Unfold

The Gog invasion helps explain the geopolitical opening for the Antichrist.



Chronological argument

Some proponents place the invasion at least 3½ years before the Tribulation so the seven-year fuel period can finish before Israel flees at the midpoint. Others simply allow an undefined gap.

View 1: Strengths—and the Questions It Must Answer

A strong early-timing model, but not without interpretive pressure points.

WHY IT ATTRACTS SUPPORT

- Explains the absence of the Antichrist from Ezekiel 38–39.
- The coalition's destruction creates a plausible geopolitical vacuum.
- **Gives maximum room for the seven-year weapons-burning period.**
- **Can help explain how conditions develop for the covenant and Temple developments.**

QUESTIONS TO RESOLVE

- **Does post-Rapture chaos naturally produce Israel being “at rest” and secure?**
- Must the interval be long enough to accommodate the fuel period?
- Is the covenant of Daniel 9:27 the most natural explanation for Israel's security?





TIMING VIEW TWO

VIEW 2 — FIRST HALF OF THE TRIBULATION

The covenant begins Daniel's 70th week; during its early false peace, Gog's coalition invades Israel.

View 2: The Case for an Early-Tribulation Invasion

Advocates include Hitchcock, Pentecost, Ryrie, Walvoord, Hoyt, and others.

FALSE SECURITY

Daniel 9:27 provides a concrete reason Israel could relax militarily and feel protected.

“AT REST” FITS NATURALLY

The first half of the Tribulation offers a unique window before the midpoint crisis and persecution.

POWER VACUUM ACCELERATES THE BEAST

The coalition’s supernatural destruction removes rivals and can speed the Antichrist’s rise to wider authority.

BEFORE THE MIDPOINT FLIGHT

Israel can still bury the dead and function nationally before Matthew 24:15–21 forces flight from Judea.

View 2: How the Sequence Could Unfold

The covenant supplies the “secure / at rest” setting within the first 3½ years.



Key textual advantage

This view ties Ezekiel’s repeated language of security directly to a defined prophetic event: the covenant of Daniel 9:27.

Why Ezekiel 38–39 Is Best Kept Distinct from Armageddon

The two battles share judgment imagery, but their participants, setting, and outcome differ.

Ezekiel 38–39

Gog leads the invasion

Israel is living securely

Specific coalition

Purpose: plunder Israel

Destroyed by earthquake, confusion, plague, hail, fire

Detailed burial and cleanup follows

Armageddon

The Antichrist / kings of the earth gather

Israel is in severe distress

All nations / kings gathered

Purpose: final rebellion against Christ

Destroyed at Christ's personal appearing

The Millennium follows immediately

SEVEN CONDITIONS THAT **MUST** BE IN PLACE FOR THE TRIBULATION TO BEGIN

These events must occur before Daniel's 70th week can begin.

1

The Restrainer Removed



The Holy Spirit's restraining influence through the Church is removed.

2 Thessalonians 2:6–8

2

Israel in the Land



Israel must exist as a nation in her land.

Ezekiel 36:24–28
Matthew 24:32–34

3

A Covenant-Capable Middle East Crisis



A situation must exist in which the Antichrist can make a 7-year covenant with Israel.

Daniel 9:27

4

A Western / Roman Power Base



A European confederacy of ten rulers must be in place.

Daniel 7:7–8, 24
Revelation 17:12–13

5

A Man Capable of Becoming the Antichrist



A man must be alive who can rise to power and make the covenant with Israel.

2 Thessalonians 2:3–4

6

Global Control Mechanisms Possible



The ability to exercise global control over economics, commerce, communication, and movement must be feasible.

Revelation 13:16–17

7

Temple-Capable Conditions in Jerusalem



Conditions must exist for the rebuilding of the Temple and the resumption of sacrifices in Jerusalem.

2 Thessalonians 2:4
Revelation 11:1–2

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A MASTER DISPENSATIONAL ESCHATOLOGY CHART

FROM THE RAPTURE TO ETERNITY
A COMPREHENSIVE TIMELINE OF BIBLICAL PROPHECY

"He changes times and seasons;
He removes kings and sets up kings."
Daniel 2:21

