



The prophets of Israel recorded hundreds of prophecies that are in the bible. I believe the bible is the Word of God because of the fulfillment of those prophecies. There is no other reasonable explanation for the fulfillment of those prophecies but God.

The prophets of Israel predicted that a messiah from the lineage of Abraham and David would rule the world and save the world. I believe Jesus is the Son of God and the savior of the world because His life was a fulfillment of these prophecies.

The disciples of Jesus believed He was the promised messiah who would rule the world and save the world. Jesus told His disciples that to save the world, He first had to die for the sins of the world.

Jesus told them that He would leave this world for a while but then He would return to rule the world. (John 14:1-3) In Matthew 24, they asked Him when He would return. Jesus did not tell them when. But He told them the signs that would occur on the earth when His return was near.

Last week, we learned those seven signs. This week I want to spend some time talking about the last sign, the great tribulation.

[Matt 24:21-31](#)

[21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.](#)

[22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.](#)

[23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it.](#)

[24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.](#)

[25 See, I have told you beforehand.](#)

[26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it.](#)

[27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.](#)

[28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.](#)

[29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.](#)

[30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.](#)

[31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.](#)

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The tribulation our world is currently experiencing due to Covid-19 is surreal to me. It is like a science fiction movie. Every person in the world is being impacted by a virus has a death rate of 3% of those that are infected. Our government has issued stay at home orders. Unless you work for an essential business, our new normal is to shelter in place unless we need groceries or medical assistance.

Imagine with me if the death rate was much higher. Let's say 25% of the world population suddenly died just from one event like the one we are currently experiencing. Our medical personnel and our hospitals would be overwhelmed all over the world. What would you do with the bodies of those who died? What impact would that have on our society and our economy?

Imagine with me if there was not just one catastrophic event that impacted the whole world like that but a series of catastrophic events. They happened one after another. And every one of them caused more damage to the earth and the world population than the previous one.

Imagine with me if that series of events occurred in just a period of seven years. And there was never enough time for recovery before the next major event happened.

Jesus told His disciples that our world would experience a great tribulation like this just before He returned to rule this world. He said it would be unlike any tribulation the world has ever experienced. He called it the great tribulation.

The last book in the bible is the book of Revelation. It was written by a disciple of Jesus named John. Many years after Jesus left His disciples and ascended into heaven, John received this revelation from Jesus about the great tribulation and recorded it for us to read. As we read it, we can understand why Jesus said nothing like it has occurred since the beginning of the world.

Revelation 6:1-17

1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."

2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."

4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So, I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."

8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

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According to the Revelation of Jesus given to John,

During the great tribulation...

1. **There will be a worldwide ruler who is anti-Christ (verses 1-2)**

Paul calls him the son of perdition and the man of sin. (2 Thess. 2:3-4) The spirit of the anti-Christ has been present in the world since the fall of man. The spirit of the anti-Christ persuades people to believe that the messiah did not come in the flesh. (1 John 4:3).

The spirit of the antichrist will be embodied in a man. He will seemingly bring about world peace through his powers to persuade men. He will be Satan's superman. He will be all the Caesar's, Napoleon's, Hitler's, Stalin's, Sadaam Hussein's all rolled into one man.

He will bring peace to the world for a season. He will be followed by a coalition of nations. Most of the world's population will be deceived and follow him. They will receive a mark to indicate their loyalty to him. (Rev. 16:2).

But after a season of peace, everything comes unraveled.

2. **There will be worldwide conflicts that produce massive death tolls (verses 3-4)**

The antichrist is not for peace. He is for war. He is inspired by Satan. Mankind was created in the image of God. Satan hates mankind and so will the antichrist. He especially hates those that are not his servants and loyal to him. His hatred will inflame the hearts of his followers. There will not just be wars between nations, but hatred will be unrestrained. Brother will kill brother, and fathers will slay their sons.

3. **There will be worldwide famine (verses 5-6)**

Famine follows war. Food will be rationed out. A measure of wheat will be sold for a day's labor. A measure of wheat is about one quart. A whole day's labor will be just enough for a meal for one person. This will be a terrible time of limited productivity and economic deprivation. Starvation will impact

every region of the world. Grocery stores shelves will be stripped clean of all food. Starving animals will attack the human population.

4. [There will be a worldwide pandemic that kills one fourth of the world's population \(verses 7-8\)](#)

War and famine lead to disease and pandemics.

5. [There will be worldwide hatred and persecution of Jews and Christians \(verses 9-11\)](#)

There is no one that the antichrist will hate more than Jews and Christians. Many will be martyred because of their faith. Jews and Christians will even be falsely accused for the conflicts that are happening in the world.

6. [There will be worldwide natural disasters. \(verses 12-17\)](#)

There will be a great earthquake that will be felt around the world. The light of the sun will be shut out. Stars will fall to the Earth and asteroids will hit the Earth.

We can only imagine what these natural disasters will do to the earth. But we don't have to imagine. The bible is very specific in Revelation 8-9.

[Revelation 8-9](#)

- [A third of the trees will be burned up, and all green grass will be consumed.](#)
- [A third of the sea will become polluted and a third of the living creatures in the sea will die, and a third of the ships on the seas will be destroyed.](#)
- [A third of the fresh waters will be polluted and many will die from the water.](#)
- [And a third of the sun will be blotted out, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars.](#)
- [A great pestilence will come upon the earth in the form of poisonous insects that will torment mankind. In those days' men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.](#)
- [A third of the remaining population of mankind will die from war and by other pandemics.](#)

As the effects of these catastrophes spread all over the world, things will only get worse.

[Revelation 16-17](#)

- [There will be loathsome sores on people](#)
- [All the oceans will become polluted and every living creature in the sea will die.](#)
- [All the fresh water on the earth will become polluted.](#)
- [People will be scorched by the heat of the sun as the atmosphere of the earth is destroyed.](#)

People will gnaw their tongues because of the pain. Instead of repenting, the followers of the antichrist will blaspheme the name of God who has power over these plagues.

One last incredible earthquake will shake the earth that will cause incredible atmospheric changes and causes buildings in the cities to collapse. It levels mountains and the oceans cover the islands of the earth. Great hail stones fall from heaven upon men. Once again, instead of repenting, men who follow the antichrist will continue to blaspheme God because of the plague of the hail.

[Most of the world becomes uninhabitable and those who survive will know the world is moving toward extinction.](#)

Now you understand why Jesus said in Matthew 24:21...

Mathew 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

How does the great tribulation end?

There is a fight for survival. This fight leads to one last battle. The battle is for what is left of the most inhabitable place on the earth, the land of Israel.

The last remaining population of the Jews will be in Israel. Those that remain will have remembered what their prophets have said about their messiah. They will read the book of Revelation and they will believe it. They will believe that Jesus is their messiah. They will all mourn over what their ancestors did to Jesus and they will repent. They will cry out to Jesus for their salvation and their deliverance.

The land of Israel will be invaded by the armies of the antichrist. The Jews will be terribly outmanned and out weaponized. It appears that they will all be killed.

But then, Jesus returns!

Matthew 24:29-31

29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

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Revelation 19:11-21

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,

18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

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Jesus returns to save His chosen people and the world as a conquering king.

- He defeats the army of the antichrist.
There is a great slaughter with no survivors.
- He cast the antichrist alive into a lake of fire
- He establishes His kingdom on earth.
- He restores the whole earth, a planet that was on the verge of being uninhabitable. (Ezekiel 47:1-12)

From Jerusalem He rules over His people and all the remaining inhabitants of the world. There will be a first resurrection of His followers that were martyrs. (Revelation 20:4-6)

He rules on the earth for 1000 years. Satan and all evil are bound during this period. The world experiences peace, prosperity, and purity that has not existed since the garden of Eden.

This is how the great tribulation ends!
Jesus will reign!

Why will there be a great tribulation?

Revelation 6:15-17

15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,
16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and *from the wrath of the Lamb!*

17 *For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

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The wrath of God is terrifying. If you understand it, it should make you tremble with fear.

God created the world. He owns the world and all that is in it.

God has revealed Himself to the world through creation, man's conscience, through His prophets, and through His written Word. Mankind has rejected God and His revelation. We have rebelled against God and His ways and gone our own way. We have made ourselves god.

God is perfect in justice. He keeps an account of every sin. He makes right every wrong. His wrath is measured exactly proportionately to the sin that is committed.

God is patient with sinners, but He does not overlook sin.

He stores up His wrath and gives mankind an opportunity to repent. (Romans 2:5).

But in due time, He pours out His wrath. That day is called the day of the Lord.(Joel 2:31). You cannot escape it. You cannot run from it. You cannot hide yourself from it. You cannot defend yourself from it.

- God judges the sins of governments.
- God judges the sins of nations.
- God judges the sins of families.
- God judges the sins of individuals.

Since the great flood, God has been storing up His wrath.

Imagine with me the wrath that God has stored up just against America.

- The sin of racism
- The sin of greed
- The sin of sexual perversion
- The sin of hatred
- The sin of murder-over 60 million abortions since 1973. There have been over 240,000 abortions this year. There have been 1.5 billion abortions worldwide since 1980.

Our government and our nation who elects our leaders is personally responsible for all these sins.

Now multiply the sins of our nation by the number of nations on the earth that have existed since nations were first formed. America is one of the more civilized nations in human history.

Paul said the whole earth is groaning for its redemption.

[Romans 8:19-22](#)

[19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.](#)

[20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;](#)

[21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.](#)

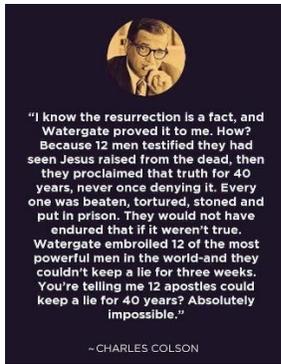
[22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.](#)
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God promises the nations that when they reject God and His ways, their land will spew them out. (Lev. 18:24-28)

The great tribulation is the fulfillment of this promise on the whole earth.

Why should you believe this incredible story about the great tribulation and the return of Jesus?

- The fulfillment of prophecies in the bible
- The witness to the resurrection of Jesus by the disciples of Jesus



- Jesus changed my life

You may be alive to see the great tribulation and the return of Jesus.

Whether you live to see it or not, God has made a way for you to be saved from the judgment you deserve for your sins. The same Jesus that will come and rule and save the world, loves you. He died to atone for your sins.

- Your selfishness
- Your greed
- Your hatred
- Your evil lusts

God is just. He has kept an account of every sin you have committed. He knows your evil imaginations and your secret sins.

You will stand before God and be judged for your rebellion against God.

The only way we to be saved from His judgment is to receive the payment that Jesus made for your sins. To escape the judgment you deserve, you must repent of your sins, believe Jesus died for you, and follow Jesus.

Will you repent of your sin, believe upon Jesus, and follow Jesus?

If you will, tell Him right now, Jesus, you are Lord. I believe you rose from the dead. I am your follower!

If you become a follower of Jesus, your next step is to follow Him in baptism.

Church, will you make it your purpose in life to know Jesus and to make Him known one person at a time. Will you tell others Jesus changed my life?