

End Time Chronology

The Old and New Testament prophets give us the order of events

Note: Scripture used in this Bible Study is from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.

Reference: Daniel 9:25-27 (written ~500 BC., before or during the rule of Cyrus)

25 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."

Note: The term "weeks" in these verses must mean weeks of years, it would make no sense otherwise. Also note that the Jewish calendar had 360 days/year.

1. Verse 25 - How many years are there between of "the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince" would come?

Adding 7 to 62 gives us 69 weeks of years between the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince would come. Converting this to years by multiplying 7 times 69 weeks of years we get 483 Jewish calendar years between the command to restore Jerusalem and the coming of the Messiah.

2. How do we convert 483 Jewish calendar years to our current calendar?

Over this period of time, we'll need to convert to our current 365-day calendar. To determine the equivalent for the Gregorian Calendar, first convert to days:

483 years \mathbf{X} 360 days/year = 173,880 days Then convert to the Gregorian Calendar:

173,880 days / 365 days/year = 476 years

3. From my detailed Bible Study on End Time Chronology, I demonstrated that the command to restore and build Jerusalem was made in 444 BC (Nehemiah 2:1-8). So when would "Messiah the Prince" come?

Subtracting 476 years from 444 BC means that Messiah officially presented Himself to Israel as their king in 33 AD (accounting for 1 BC. to 1 AD. as one year).

4. What happened in 33 AD. ?

Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, a few days before He was crucified...

Luke 19:37-38 - Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: " `Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

I understand that this math works out to the very day that Bible scholars have determined that Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Note: the "troublesome times" that the wall was built also came to pass as recorded in Nehemiah 6. The Jews built the wall in 52 days because people near them felt threatened by this and they needed it for protection.

5. 9:26 . What does it mean "the Messiah is cut off"? The people did not accept Messiah Jesus as King and crucified Him...

Luke 19:41-42 - Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

6. What was to happen after "the Messiah is cut off"?

The city of Jerusalem and the temple shall be destroyed as Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24. It is a matter of historical record that this happened in 70 AD.

7. What does the "it" in "the end of it" refer to?

The "it" is a veiled reference to the church age, that period of time we are now in between the end of the 69 weeks and the beginning of the 70th week (verse 27).

8. How did Daniel describe the time leading up to the 70th week?

Daniel prophesied that the end of the church age would come with a flood, in other words, it would overwhelm people rapidly. Also that the time leading up to Christ's return would be a war opposing Him and there would be desolations, events causing places to be devoid of people and hope. These calamities serve as wake-up calls to draw people to God reminding them to trust in Him rather than in themselves, their bank accounts, their governments, etc.

9. What kind of wake-up calls have we had?

Both world wars were wake-up calls because they effected the whole world. The gulf war was another one which involved the whole world and it demonstrated the potency of a unified world power. I also believe the 9-11-01 terrorist attacks on the U.S. was a world-shaking event because it was not just an attack on the U.S., it was an attack on Western values. All the world has rallied around the idea that we need to work together to stamp out terrorism.

10. What kind of war is Daniel 9:26 referring to?

A first reaction here is that this is talking about Armageddon but verse 27 describes the 70th week which is the tribulation. The book of Revelation says that the war at Armageddon occurs at the end of the tribulation. So I believe this is talking about spiritual warfare against the church...

Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

11. 9:27 - What happens during the 70th week?

The prince who is to come will confirm a covenant, bring an end to sacrifice and offering, and make people desolate which means devoid of hope.

12. When does the prince bring an end to the sacrifice? The prince who is to come brings an end to the sacrifice at the middle of the seven-year period of the 70^{th} week, $3 \frac{1}{2}$ years after he confirms a covenant with many.

13. Who is this prince and what else happens along with the end of the sacrifice?

This prince is the Antichrist per the reference Jesus made to the "abomination of desolation" in Matthew 24:15 since Jesus was speaking about the tribulation and Revelation tells us about the beast who will receive worship representing himself as God. Daniel described this event in other places:

Dan 11:31 - "And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation."

14. What sacrifice is Daniel 9:27 referring to here?

The Jewish sacrifices as ordained by the Mosaic Law.

15. What must there be for the sacrifice to be ended? The sacrifices must have first started.

16. What is needed for Israel to have sacrifices?

The sacrifices must be done at the temple.

17. When was the last time Israel had sacrifices?

The sacrifices in Israel ended with the destruction of Herod's temple in 70 AD.

18. So when did this 70th week occur?

The 70th Week of Daniel hasn't happened yet and can not until there is a temple and the sacrifices begin.

19. Why will Israel rebuild the temple and resume the sacrifices?

Besides the fact that God says it will happen, it is part of Israel's heritage as a people. They will do this in their zeal to please God and bring the Messiah. Certainly there is a desire for this to happen as any one who has visited the Temple Institute in Jerusalem can attest. They already have most of the instruments they need to resume the sacrifices, all they need is the temple. There is also a building anticipation for the Messiah to come. They are beginning to realize that only the Messiah can bring them peace.

20. Does it seem likely that Israel will have a temple in Jerusalem any time soon?

No, it seems impossible today but the Lord loves to demonstrate His sovereignty over impossible situations. I wasn't yet living at the time but I understand that it seemed impossible for Israel to re-establish itself as a nation in the land prior to 1948.

21. 9:27 - What does it mean the prince will "<u>CONFIRM</u> a covenant with many"?

I believe this means that there is already a peace agreement with multiple parties in place, the prince just reinforces it.

22. Where do we see this scenario being set up today?

The so-called "peace process" between Israel and their Arab enemies surrounding them. The power of the Revived Roman Empire, which is the Western Confederation of nations, will guarantee the treaty with Israel. This is what give them the security to proceed with building a temple. It however is a false security that only lasts 3 ¹/₂ years.

Jeremiah 6:14 - They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, saying, `Peace, peace!' When there is no peace.

1Thessalonians 5:3 - For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Now let's take a look at a key passage where the prophet Daniel not only interpreted king Nebuchadnezzar's dream but told him what it was. Nebuchadnezzar didn't tell what his dream was as a test so he would know if the interpretation was true. While they were anxious to give an interpretation, none of the Chaldean magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, or "wise men" could also tell the king the dream. They said, *"It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."* (Daniel 2:11)

This dream is important because it maps out the significant world governments from the captivity of Israel to the return of Christ...

Daniel 2:31-44

31 "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

32 "This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,

33 "its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.34 "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. 36 "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

37 "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;

38 "and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all-- you are this head of gold.

39 "But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

40 "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

41 "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

42 "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.

43 "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

23. Verses 31-33 - How would you describe the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream?

It was a statue with a head made of gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

24. Verses 31-33 - What is the significance of the materials of the image?

They are of decreasing value which indicates an order of succession.

25. Verses 34-35 - What happened to the image in the dream?

A stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and disappeared.

26. Verses 34-35 - How is the stone contrasted to the materials that make up the image?

- The stone is not man-made while metals (and the clay which is a reference to ceramic) are all hand crafted.
- The stone was not cut with hands, it was different the metals which were worked by human hands, it was the work of God.

27. Verse 34 - What is the significance of where the stone struck the image?

The stone represents Christ who will put an end to the world governments of man. Note that the stone strikes the last man-made material that is of least value, the iron mixed with clay. The last world government of man will see the coming of Christ.

28. Verses 34-35 - What is to become of the stone and what is its significance?

- After the stone struck the image, it became a great mountain and filled the whole earth...
- The stone represents the coming of Jesus Christ in glory to crush the last world government of man and set up a government ruled by Christ.

29. Verses 36-38 - What does the gold head in the image represent?

The head of gold represented the human king that was ruling the world at the time of the prophecy, Nebuchadnezzar.

30. What was king Nebuchadnezzar given reign over?

Nebuchadnezzar ruled the whole world: wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, he was to be ruler over them all (verse 38).

31. How did Nebuchadnezzar reach this lofty position in life? Did he earn it?

No, Nebuchadnezzar did nothing to earn his authority, God give them into his hand...

Romans 13:1 - Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

32. Verse **39** - What is the commonalty between all the statue's materials?

All the man-made materials represent governments that like Nebuchadnezzar rule over the whole earth.

33. What governments have we had in history that have ruled over the civilized world? If Gold corresponds to the Babylonians, what do the other materials represent?

- **Egyptians** existed before the time of the dream but worth noting - they were used by God to demonstrate His deliverance to Israel
- Gold Babylonians in power 605 to 539 BC, took Israel into captivity as God's judgment for turning away from Him
- Silver Medeo-Persians in power 539 to 330 BC, allowed Israel to rebuild the Temple and return to Jerusalem
- **Bronze Greeks** Alexander the Great came in power 330 to ~250 BC, provided a common language to conduct trade and share ideas.
- **Iron Romans** added Israel to its empire in 68 BC, they built roads to improve transportation, communication, and trade ("command & control"). The Roman empire broke into nations between 450 to 900 AD.

34. Has there been any world governments since the Romans?

There have been no world governments since the Romans, many have tried but it hasn't happened since then. One might say the Roman empire continued to rule the world until WWII through the European colonial system. In 1945 at Yalta, Stalin & Roosevelt decided to break up the colonial system and these empires further fragmented into nations.

35. So what does this tell us about the government represented by the mix of ceramic clay and iron?

The iron and clay world government is yet to come if not here already. The iron is there in the Roman system of democratic and republic governing, all that is needed is the clay that binds the separate fragments of local governments together.

36. What about the Indians in North America and the aborigines on other continents, they weren't ruled over by the Babylonians, Medeo-Persians, Greeks, how then could these governments be considered world governments?

These people could have been ruled over had the world governments want to and if it was part of God's plan. Note the use of the qualifier "civilized". If the other people managed to record their histories, God did not allow it to be preserved to the degree that it was in the "civilized world". These other indigenous people we simply irrelevant when it comes to significantly impacting world history.

37. Verses **41-43** - What are the characteristics of the last world government?

- The last human world government will be divided; as the two dissimilar materials represent, possibly a mix of dictatorship and a democratic/republic.
- The last human world government will be partly strong and partly fragile, a shaky coalition of nations speaking different languages.
- The last human world government will have the strength of Roman government that preceded it.
- The continuity of the iron represents the similarity to the Roman government that preceded it. This is where Bible prophecy students get the term, "revived Roman Empire."

38. Ceramic is a lot closer to stone in its properties than metal, do you think there is any significance in that? It is interesting to note that ceramic has some similar properties to stone yet is man-made... I think it represents man's attempt to replace God with his own religion...

Revelation 13:11-12 - Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast,

39. Is there any significance in the two arms, two legs, and ten toes?

- Probably, I believe the two arms represents the combined Medeo and Persian empires...
- The two legs represent the eastern and western divisions of the Roman empire.
- The ten toes represent the ten governmental powers that will comprise the core of the revived Roman Empire...

A study of another vision that Daniel had about the fourth beast with 10 horns in chapter 7 will reveal more details about this last world empire of man. Further insight about the 10-horned beast may also be found in the Revelation...

Revelation 17:12 - The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

40. Verse 44 - What is God doing during the time of the world governments in the dream?

God has not been idle, He has been busy setting up a kingdom which shall:

- (1) never be destroyed
- (2) not be left to other people
- (3) be used by God to destroy the kingdoms of the dream
- (4) it will stand forever.

41. How has God the world government to set things up to bring us our Savior?

- The Babylonians were used to dispense God's judgment on the nation Israel and turn them back to Him.
- The Medeo-Persians were used to bring the remnant of Israel back to the land.
- The Greeks provided a common language to improve the dissemination of God's Word in preparation for the revelation of the Gospel (a.k.a. New Covenant).
- The Romans built roads to improve transportation to deliver the gospel through missionary journeys.

It was all part of God's plan ...

Galatians 4:4 - when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son

42. How is God likewise using the Revived Roman Empire to set the stage for the return of Jesus?

- Germany's persecution of the Jews convinced them that they needed to return to their homeland.
- WWI and WWII convinced the world that we needed a world government.
- English has become the common language of commerce thus serving to unite the world.

Revelation

43. Rev 1:1 - What is revealed in the book of Revelation?

Revelation 1:1 - The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants-- things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

The revelation of Jesus Christ to the whole world and things which must shortly take place.

44. Revelation 1:19 - What may we conclude about the order of events in Revelation?

Revelation 1:19 - Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

They are generally chronological, this is however not something to be dogmatic about.

Chapters 2 & 3 are letters to 7 churches that existed in John's day but many Bible scholars believe that the reason God addressed these particular churches and chose this particular order was significant: It represents the church age. Prophetic passages often have multiple applications through "types", partial fulfillment and actual fulfillment. Also, the fact that there a 7 churches is significant: the number 7 has symbolic significance in the Bible, it means "completion". (as in completing creation in 7 days).

At any given time (including John's time) congregations can be found that have these characteristics. However, if one was to describe the church taken as a whole throughout its history, it maps very closely to Chapters 2 & 3. A brief summary is as follows:

Ephesus: Duty without love - the Apostolic church - 33-100 AD

Smyrna: Poor & persecuted but rich - the trials of Rome - 100-312 AD

Pergamos: Compromise with the world system - the state endorses the church - 312-590 AD

Thyatira: The great counterfeit - middle ages (dark ages), image worship, superstition, priestcraft - 590-1517 AD

Sardis: Dead Orthodoxy - reformation era, complacency & new legalism - 1517-1750 AD

Philadelphia: Revival & evangelism - missionary era - 1750-1925 AD

Laodicea: Compromise & apostasy - lukewarm relationship with Christ, scientific & philosophical rationalism - 1900-Tribulation

Reference: Revelation 6

The first four seal judgments are the four horsemen of the apocalypse representing...

- 1. white horse consolidation of political power: conquering and to conquer
- 2. fiery red horse war: to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another.
- black horse famine: "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."
 - Note: a day's wages will buy a day's food, but luxuries will be inexpensive

4. pale horse - death: a fourth of the population of the earth dies from war, hunger, & pestilence

45. Revelation 6:9-11 - What does the fifth seal reveal?

The followers of Christ during the tribulation will have to die for their faith

46. Does Rev 6:12-16 describe supernatural events?

They could be but I believe they describe the use of nuclear weapons...

- a great earthquake (blast)
- the sun became black as sackcloth of hair (dust in atmosphere "nuclear winter")
- the moon became like blood (dust in atmosphere further away from the detonations)
- the stars of heaven fell to the earth (ICBM warhead entering atmosphere)
- the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up (air sucked into mushroom cloud)
- every mountain and island was moved out of its place (terrain changed)
- people hid themselves in the caves and in mountains (bomb shelters)

47. Why would God allow the use of nuclear weapons rather than bring about these events supernaturally?

It is consistent with the pattern God has established for the way He operates, acting a subtlety as possible. God allowing nuclear weapons to be used will accommodate those eager to explain away the course of events. If the destruction is man's doing, they think it can all be fixed given enough funding and education because they have faith in the fundamental good of mankind (which is a deception).

48. If the destruction during the tribulation were supernatural, would people turn to God?

Even if the events were supernatural, they would fail to attribute them to God. Note that people accused Jesus of performing miracles by the power of Satan. If God do not orchestrate events to provide for a convenient explanation people would still come up with some reasoning that provides for any cause but God. If they were to admit it is God's doing, they would have to admit their need for Him and repent.

49. Rev 6:16-17 - What is the period of time called?

The great day of wrath of the Lamb is the Great Tribulation.

50. Who is the Lamb?

The Lamb is Jesus Christ who is revealed to the world as Savior during the course of the great day of wrath and inperson at the end of the day.

John 1:29 - The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Reference: Revelation 7-8

- God will supernaturally protect 144,000 of the children of Israel that represents the nation of Israel.
- Martyrs of Christ will serve God in His temple, they shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; not feel discomfort but live forever (per the living fountains of waters) without any sorrows.
- The seventh seal introduces the next set of judgments: the seven trumpets. Please note that this reinforces the idea that the book of Revelation is basically chronological.

The Trumpet Judgments appear to be more nuclear war:

- Hail and fire mingled with blood causing a third of the trees and all green grass to be burned up.
- A great mountain burning with fire thrown into the sea.
- There is a great burning star poisoning fresh water.
- A third of the heavens will be obscured.
- A 200 million-man army kills a third of mankind on the way to the Mid-East.
- But there are other punishments besides nukes:
- Locusts that sting like scorpions will torment only people but not the 144,000 for 5 months.

51. Revelation **11:2** - Who will control the city of Jerusalem for how long during the tribulation?

- The Gentiles will be in control of Jerusalem for 3 1/2 years representing the second half of the tribulation. Recall that the second half of the tribulation begins when the Antichrist commits the abomination of desolation causing the Jews to flee the city.
- Note that "the court which is outside the temple", may indicate the solution for the temple mount. The peace treaty that the Antichrist confirms may accommodate both the Jews and the Moslems declaring there is room for both on the temple mount.

52. Revelation 11:3-6 - Describe the two witnesses.

There will be two Old Testament style prophets who will have God's protection and power "to strike the earth with all plagues as often as they desire."

53. Revelation 11:7-10 - What happens to the two witnesses when they finish their ministry?

The Antichrist will kill them and let their bodies lie in the street of Jerusalem

54. What did the people think of these two witnesses?

The people of the world hated the two witnesses of God and will celebrate their deaths.

55. What is necessary to fulfill verse 9?

It is obvious today that satellite TV makes it possible for all people in the world to see something going on in the Mid-East.

56. Was this possible before satellite TV?

"with God all things are possible" (Matt 19:26) but current technology helps us see how God will bring it to pass

57. What becomes of the two witnesses?

Rev 11:11-12 - But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

God will visibly resurrect them after 3 1/2 days.

58. Who are the two witnesses? Which two prophets never saw death?

Enoch & Elijah

Malachi 4:5 - Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

59. Rev 13:1-2 – What does this tell us about the beast?

Sea is a common symbol in the Bible of the Gentile world, so the Antichrist comes out of the Gentile nations. The 10 horns and crowns are political power structures, see Revelation 17:6-17.

60. Revelation 13:2 - What three things will the dragon give the beast?

The Dragon will give the Beast his power, his throne, and great authority.

61. Who is "the dragon"?

The dragon represents the devil (see Revelation 12:9).

62. Rev 13:3 – Who will follow the beast?

All the world will marvel after and follow the beast.

63. What is the head wound?

Some say the Antichrist will make a miraculous recovery from a fatal wound thus mimicking the resurrection of Christ. However, this reference to a head is in a context which means a political power structure. I take it to mean then that he will be seen as dead politically at one point but comes back to the amazement of all.

64. Who will give authority to the beast?

The dragon or devil will give authority to the beast (a.k.a. Antichrist).

65. Who gives authority to the devil?

God does, He permits Satan to have authority for a time because it serves His purpose. God is in control of all things and all authorities are ordained by God...

Romans 13:1 - Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

66. Revelation 13:5 – What is the significance of the time period here?

The beast will continue 3 1/2 years, this is a reference to the second half of the tribulation which Jesus called the "great tribulation."

67. Revelation 13:7-10 - Who will the beast persecute?

The Antichrist will target saints, those who trust in Christ for salvation. There will be a lot of Christian martyrs during the tribulation. If you are not a Christian before the rapture, you'll pretty much have to expect to die for your faith if come to Christ after the rapture. Here is a parallel passage...

Daniel 7:25 - He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.

68. What does it mean that the Antichrist will change times and law?

The Antichrist will be a historical revisionist and he will say what is right is really wrong and visa versa.

69. Revelation 13:11 - What does the appearance of the other beast suggest?

The other beast looks like a lamb and speaks like a dragon, he is a religious leader who is a false prophet. Note that Jesus warned of false prophets...

Matthew 7:15 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."

Jesus also gave this warning specifically about the tribulation...

Matthew 24:11, 24 - many false prophets will rise up and deceive many... For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

70. Rev 13:12 - Where will the second beast get his power and what will he do with it?

The second beast gets his power from the first beast. The second beast uses his power to cause people on the earth to worship the first beast.

71. What pattern do you see here in the hierarchy of power between these two beasts?

Satan is mimicking the triune Godhead setting himself up as the Father with the Antichrist trying to take the place of the Savior, the Son of God and the second beast having a role similar to the Holy Spirit who glorifies the Son. It is interesting to note that the second beast brings down fire from heaven (verse 13) which may be a satanic version of Pentecost.

72. Rev 13:16-18 - What is the mark of the Beast?

The false prophet will cause all people to receive a mark of either the name of the beast or the number of his name (666) on their right hand or foreheads. People will need this mark in order to buy or sell anything. There is nothing like choices! The world is into choices that masquerade as such but really are not choices at all. Abortion is called a choice but it is really murder. Here, the Antichrist gives three choices of mark on two choices of location but the net result of all these choices is the same, eternal damnation.

73. What is the significance of the number 666?

The number 3 is used in Scripture to represent God which makes since the Godhead consists of three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Likewise the number 6 is the Biblical number of man, so 666 is man's attempt to be as God.

74. What technology today makes it understandable how no one may buy or sell without a certain mark?

Most transactions can not even be made without computers to keep track of the money. There are also today rice grainsized transponders for identification of animals and body parts. It is also interesting to note that all product bar codes already display "666" on them... Check it out, the beginning middle and end of bar codes are marked with two thin parallel lines usually a little longer than the rest of the bar code bars. The two thin parallel lines is also the bar code for the number 6.

75. Since some transactions require credit cards, does

this mean that credit cards are the mark of the beast? No, the mark of the beast is required for all transactions and it only comes into effect during the tribulation. We are not in the tribulation and, in fact, the Church will not go through the tribulation so we do not have to fear the mark of the beast.

76. Besides the time-frame, what else makes the mark of the beast what it is?

According to Revelation 13:15, recipients of the mark of the beast will be required to declare their allegiance to the Antichrist by worshiping him in order to receive the mark.

Revelation 14 & 15 – These chapters describe a "flashforward" of the scene in heaven where the 144 thousand are before the throne of God. Flash forwards are used in the text to give the reader hope that, as terrible as things are in the tribulation, all will work out in the end.

Revelation 16 – The Bowl Judgments:

- 1. a foul and loathsome sore will come upon the men who had the mark of the beast
- 2. the sea became blood (poison) and every living creature in it died.
- 3. all fresh water became blood there will be no water to drink
- 4. the sun scorched men with fire and great heat
- 5. the beast's kingdom became full of darkness and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain
- 6. the great river Euphrates dried up to prepare the way of the kings from the east.
- 7. three demon spirits will come out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. (the unholy trinity)

77. What is the purpose of the three unclean spirits?

The three unclean spirits perform signs (or miracles) and gather the whole world to battle God Almighty at Armageddon.

78. Why would people gather to fight God?

The people must not recognize God for who He is. One likely scenario is for the Antichrist and his minions to say that the coming Christ is a bad alien coming to destroy earth. Note that the unclean spirits are described a frogs... What do pictures of man's concept of aliens almost always look like? They are hairless, smooth-featured, big-eyed, noseless creatures that have faces like a frog. The Antichrist will blame these "bad aliens" for many of the earth's problems. The unclean spirits will present themselves as "good aliens" there to help the people of earth. Certainly the people of earth will see Jesus coming in advance of His setting foot on earth...

Matthew 24:29-30 - 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. 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.

79. Rev 16:9 - How will mankind react to God's bowl judgments?

Man's response to the bowl judgments will be to blaspheme God and not repent nor give Him glory.

Revelation 17 & 18 – These chapters describe Mystery Babylon, the end-time economic system that will come crashing down. See my study on the Financial Signs of the End-Times for a detailed look at these chapters.

80. Rev 19:11-15 - What will Jesus do when He returns:

- He comes in righteousness to judge and make war.
- He will lead the armies in heaven riding white horses and clothed in fine white linen.
- He strikes the nations with His Word which is as a sharp sword.

81. Rev 19:14 – Who make up the armies in heaven?

The angles are probably part of this force but so is the church, note the parallelism with Revelation 19:8...

Revelation 19:7-8 - Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

82. Rev 19:20 - What will become of the beast and the false prophet?

The beast and false prophet will both be cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

83. Rev 19:21 - What will become of those who worshipped the beast?

Those who worshiped the beast will be killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse (Jesus).

84. Rev 20:1-3 - What will become of Satan?

An angel locks Satan in the bottomless pit for 1000 years.

85. Why is Satan merely locked up and not thrown into the lake of fire?

God still has a purpose for Satan. He is locked up to show mankind the Satan is not the source of all their temptations, he is released to deceive those rebelling against God so that they may receive the consequences due them.

86. Rev 20:4-6 - Who is involved in the first resurrection?

Christians raptured prior to the tribulation along with Christians killed during the tribulation

87. Rev 20: 6 – What will the saints be doing during the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth?

The saints will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him a thousand years. For more details about what we will be doing, see my study on Heaven.

88. Revelation 20:7-8 - What will happen at the end of the Millennial reign of Christ?

Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations into confronting Jesus one last time

89. Why will allow Satan to go free for a time?

I think God releases Satan to remind mankind of his sin nature before the eternal state is ushered in. Everything God does is out of His grace and this is intended to shake-up those who are not saved to get them to repent and be saved before it is too late.

90. Rev 20:9-10 - How does God respond to this final rebellion?

The rebels who did not repent are destroyed with fire from heaven and Satan will be cast into hell (the lake of fire and brimstone).

91. Rev 20:11-13 - What happens at the great white throne?

At the Great White Throne, the dead were judged according to their works.

92. How do you think those who are judged according to their works will fare?

Per verse 15, anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into hell. Per Philippians 4:3 and Revelation 3:5, only those who have trusted Jesus as their personal Savior have their names written in the Book of Life. Everyone judged at the Great White Throne will end up in the lake of fire because salvation can not be earned by good works.

Isaiah 64:6 - But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

93. Rev 21:1 - What happens to the world?

God re-creates heaven & earth... The apostle Peter explained how God would do this...

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

94. Rev 21:4 - What will the new heaven & earth be like?

There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

The rest of the chapter describes the New Jerusalem that will be like a cube 1500 miles high.

95. Revelation 22 - What are the last words Jesus told John as part of His Revelation?

Per verse 20, "Surely I am coming quickly."