

What's Ahead For US, Biblically Speaking:

Looking Forward Through The Lens Of The Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering

Fact: We live in eschatological (end-time) harm's way and many followers of Christ need to better come under the protection of their Shepherd.

As the evidence suggests, the popular end-time positions are not explicitly biblical. As a result, sincere followers of Christ who affirm the proven foundation [that is, "The Bible is our standard for faith and practice"] are encouraged to go back to the Word of God to review what it actually says concerning our days ... days just prior to the return of Christ Jesus our Lord.

What will take place in the days ahead, **biblically speaking**?

How does the **Word of God** describe the end-time scenario?

These two questions will be answered in light of the Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering, a view which seeks to emphasize the actual content of God's revelation to His end-time people. A thorough definition of this proposed chronology has been included in the book titled, *The Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering: An Introduction* – available through Amazon.com (via "endmin") and Endurance Ministries, Inc.

So what's next on the prophetic calendar? Let's first set our present context.

1. We are currently, as of January, 2013, still in the period of time the Bible calls the 'beginning of sorrows' or 'birth pains.' (Matthew 24:3-8)
2. We are also possibly experiencing the first seal of the Book of Revelation as the spirit of antichrist *conquers* the globe through the fostering of an anti (Yahweh/Yeshua) God consciousness. (Rev. 6:1,2)

Other passages speaking to the days of the end (and which are currently being fulfilled) include I Tim. 4, II Tim. 3, 4 and selected themes in the books of Peter and John—themes which keep coming up in end-time contexts. And yes, there are additional passages also speaking to current cultural affairs.

Soon, additional events will unfold. Because the Rapture event does not take place until the "Final Trumpet" (see I Cor. 15:51,52; cf. the last/final trumpet of Revelation 10:5-7; 11:15-19; 14:14-16), God's New Covenant people are strongly encouraged to OBEY our Lord's watch-care mandate—"What I say to you I say to all: Be on the alert / Watch!" (Mark 13:37) This is CRUCIAL to our eternal well-being.

3. Soon, if it hasn't already begun happening, the other seals of Revelation will be broken. This will bring on unrest unto killing (Seal 2), famine (Seal 3), more death (Seal 4) and ultimately Seal 5—the time of persecution about which our Lord forewarned (Matthew 24:9-22; also see additional details of this period throughout the book of Daniel—including some events which unfold during *Daniel's 70th Week*—and in Rev. 13).

Immediately after the tribulation of those days (and please recall, the great tribulation of those days is cut short), astronomical signs will take place (Mt. 24:29; Rev. 6:12-14). Thereafter, the

initial appearing of Christ will take place in this event: the Sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky (Mt. 24:30; Rev. 6:14-17). This will prompt the false prophets (of Mt. 24:23-28) to make their deceptive claims. (See the closing pages of this handout for important chronological details on this important matter.)

4. The final seal will bring on the seven trumpet blasts. The events tied to the sounding of these trumpets will include effects upon one third of the earth (on trees, the oceans, the water supply, and the atmosphere – Revelation 8:6-12). But ***the end (including the Rapture event) is not yet.***
5. The whole earth will be invaded by strange *locust-like* creatures who will pain mankind for five months. The four angels bound at the Euphrates River will then be released, bringing about the destruction of one third of mankind (Rev. 9:1-21). Even in this state of affairs, fallen members of humanity will refuse to repent and turn back to Creator God.
6. The two witnesses will also be testifying during this time. (Rev. 11:1-14)
7. Prior to the Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering of the Church, the following events will also take place (though not necessarily in the specific order as listed below):

The seven peals of thunder will sound. The seventh peal will make clear the Final Trumpet Rapture is *imminent*. (Rev. 10)

The taking up of the 144,000 into the presence of the Father – before His throne (Rev. 14:1-5) – will take place. These members of the clan of Israel are called “first fruits” as a result of their being the first of those gathered—“These have been purchased from among men ...”. The translation of the two witnesses will also take place – Rev. 11:12. With this, the *second woe* (the events included within the sixth trumpet) concludes, but ***the end is still not yet.***

Both victorious reward (through the Rapture of the Saints in Christ—including those yet remaining on the earth) and destructive judgment (for those who have rejected God’s provision of Life through His beloved Son) take place at the Seventh and Final Trumpet. How appropriate the response of the 24 Elders at the sounding of this last trumpet:

“We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.” (Rev. 11:17-19; NKJV)

The Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering also makes a distinction between the two groups of Revelation 14 – the first group representing those raptured; the second group representing those who incur God’s seven Bowls of Wrath just prior to the Second Advent of Christ to the earth (Rev. 19).

As a result of these things, because followers of Jesus Christ will be present during most of the difficult days ahead, crucial questions emerge: **“How should we then live?”** “What must we now be doing?”

“Aren’t we called to be ‘ready’ and just what does that mean in light of the biblical truths above and in light of the Parable of the Ten Virgins?” (NB: All ten virgins, you may recall, were waiting for the Bridegroom, yet only five were adequately prepared to the point they made it into the wedding feast!)

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was *heard*: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘*No*, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ **Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.**” (Mt. 25:1-13; NKJV; emphasis ours)

The following 3-page worksheet can be used as a Bible study handout IF copied in its entirety. Please honor copyright laws.

For the advancement of your ministry efforts,
please consider visiting www.endmin.org for more helpful information.

To order the book which affirms this Matthew 24 outline of prophetic events, please go to www.TheRaptureGathering.com.

(Please select the vendor option which reads:
\$14.95 ; Seller: endmin / “fulfillment by Amazon”
to assure a quality ordering experience and in order to receive your gift DVD—one addressing a present end-time affair.)

To contact the ministry sponsoring this biblical proposal,
please email our field director at EMFieldDirector@gmail.com.

Sample taken from:

The Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering Workbook © 2010–2013

(For the advancement of your ministry efforts, permission to photocopy this 3-page sample—in its entirety—is granted by copyright holder, Endurance Ministries)

Mt. 24:3 – 31 The following three pages unlock a huge key to prophetic understanding!

What are the two explicit topics of inquiry raised by the disciples in verse 3c?

What word is used throughout this portion of Scripture that clearly states this passage presents a progression of events (vv. 9, 10, 14, 16, 21, 23, 30)?

_____ (The N.T. Greek word in these verses is $\tau\omicron\tau\epsilon$.)

What are other textual signs indicating this passage is indeed chronological?

a. _____ b. _____

c. _____ d. _____

e. _____

f. _____

In light of the biblical data in Matthew 24:3-31, place the following events in their correct order. (Please use only the left column at this time.)

- | | | |
|---------|---|---------|
| 1. ____ | A. The sign of the Son of Man | 1. ____ |
| 2. ____ | B. The abomination of desolation
and the great tribulation | 2. ____ |
| 3. ____ | C. The global gathering of the elect | 3. ____ |
| 4. ____ | D. The false christs and false prophets
who perform signs and wonders
as they give incorrect reports as
to the physical location of Christ | 4. ____ |
| | | or |
| 5. ____ | E. The time of tribulation (i.e., persecution) | 5. ____ |
| 6. ____ | F. The beginning of sorrows/birth pains | 6. ____ |
| 7. ____ | G. Heavenly signs involving the sun,
moon and stars | 7. ____ |

Is there any room to allow for adjustment of this chronological progression **given the explicit data contained in this very passage**? Specifically, the tribulation is followed by the word “then” in verse 23. This indicates the event following the great tribulation period is what? (vv. 23-28)

Does the text specifically state how long after the tribulation this deception takes place?

But after this (vv. 23-28) paragraph, additional chronological information is recorded in this chapter. What **word** in verse 29 identifies the rate of that which rapidly follows the time of tribulation?

_____ (The N.T. Greek word in this verse is εὐθεως.)

What are the events that quickly follow the tribulation (vs. 29)?

Is it possible the signs which “immediately” follow the tribulation actually **precede** (chronologically) the content of vv. 23-28? On what textual grounds is this possible?

Here’s our proposal tied to the view of this workbook (and which is more thoroughly defined in the book, *The Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering: An Introduction*):

We believe the great tribulation is immediately followed by the astronomical signs of verse 29. “Then,” as verse 30 describes, another sign takes place—the sign of the Son of Man appears in the sky. After this initial appearing of Jesus Christ—an appearing only—He again disappears, for the passages which inform on this event (namely Matthew 24:30 and Revelation 6:14-17) do not state He descends to the earth at this time nor do they teach the sign continues. In other words, these passages describe the event of His revealing, not that He continues to hang in the sky for days, weeks, or months. This is why we find a fascinating event which we believe takes place AFTER

the tribulation ... AFTER the astronomical signs in the sky (which are stated to take place "immediately after the tribulation") ... and AFTER the sign of the Son of Man in the sky.

And what is this fascinating event according to Matthew 24:23-28 (as we understand the chronology to unfold, as the text explicitly states and as we're presenting it here)?

This interpretation—and we confess it's an interpretation—in no way violates the data of the biblical texts addressing the time of the end. In other words, in conformity with literal interpretation principles, we affirm the deceit of the false christs and false prophets takes place AFTER (due to the use of the word "then" in 23) the great tribulation. But because the event of the heavenly signs (S1) is said to take place "immediately after the tribulation of those days" (an event which is followed by the sign of the Son of Man [S2]—substantiated by the inclusion of the word "then" in verse 30), we believe these two events (S1 & S2) actually PRECEDE the event of the deceptive false prophets of vv. 23-28. We believe this in agreement with the grammar and syntax of the passage AND in light of the content. This also clarifies why the false prophets bring the deceptive messages they do.

As a result of the initial appearing of the true Christ in the sky (who then disappears again), false prophets then emerge who falsely declare the whereabouts of Christ. This understanding of the passage resolves some major difficulties many end-time positions have concerning the chronological unfolding of the events of this Matthew chapter, not to further develop why the false prophets would make such claims concerning the location of Christ after the tribulation period and after the initial appearing of the Son of Man.

In light of these comments, go back to the preceding page and fill in the order of events, only this time use the column on the right. Note the two possible options under this arrangement.

Why does the event of the sign of the Son of Man coming before the false christs and false prophets of vv. 23 – 28 (instead of inverting these two events where these specific false prophets make their appearance before the sign of the Son of Man) better fit the context? (Hint: Answer in light of the content of their false messages, the ones found in vv. 23 and 26)

Okay, it's time to get back to some more [Bible] study questions.

This is the end of our sample. THANK YOU for taking the time to give this important inquiry a look-over. May God be praised as we follow His Counsel, specifically (in this sample), that which is contained in the following verses: Mark 13:28-37; Phil. 3:20, 21; II Peter 3:3-9. Let's be longing for His return as He's so outlined—again, for our best interest, for the interest of others and ultimately unto His glory and praise. Even so, please COME LORD JESUS!