

The Trumpet Judgments

- The second phase of the Tribulation opens with a series of environmental disasters.
 - The first trumpet judgment could be a reference to an eruption of a super volcano, such as the one at Yellowstone National Park.
 - “The first angel blew his trumpet, and hail and fire, mixed with blood, were hurled to the earth. So a third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.” (Revelation 8:7)
 - The second trumpet judgment heralds what appears to be an asteroid strike in the ocean.
 - “The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain ablaze with fire was hurled into the sea. So a third of the sea became blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.” (Revelation 8:8-9)
 - The third trumpet judgment announces the impact of the Wormwood meteor.
 - “The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from heaven. It fell on a third of the rivers and springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood, and a third of the waters became wormwood. So, many of the people died from the waters, because they had been made bitter.” (Revelation 8:10-11)
 - The fourth trumpet could be the result of atmospheric changes caused by the first three trumpets.
 - “The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day was without light, and the night as well.” (Revelation 8:12)
- The final three trumpet judgements, also known as the three woes.

- “I looked again and heard an eagle flying high overhead, crying out in a loud voice, ‘Woe! Woe! Woe to those who live on the earth, because of the remaining trumpet blasts that the three angels are about to sound!’” (Revelation 8:13)
- They take place during roughly the second half of the Tribulation, based on the time required for them to be completed.
- Several things occur with the sounding of the fifth trumpet judgment.
 - A demon is permitted to open the abyss, which releases smoke that darkens the sun and air.
 - “The fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth. The key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him. He opened the shaft of the abyss, and smoke came up out of the shaft like smoke from a great furnace so that the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the shaft.” (Revelation 9:1-2)
 - A host of locusts that stings anyone that does not have God’s seal on their foreheads is also released from the abyss to torment people for 5 months.
 - “Then locusts came out of the smoke on to the earth, and power was given to them like the power that scorpions have on the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green plant, or any tree, but only people who do not have God’s seal on their foreheads. They were not permitted to kill them but were to torment them for five months; their torment is like the torment caused by a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days people will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, but death will flee from them.” (Revelation 9:3-6)
 - By their description, these are supernatural demonic creatures.

- “The appearance of the locusts was like horses equipped for battle. Something like gold crowns was on their heads; their faces were like men’s faces; they had hair like women’s hair; their teeth were like lions’ teeth; they had chests like iron breastplates; the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses rushing into battle; and they had tails with stingers like scorpions, so that with their tails they had the power to harm people for five months. They had as their king the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon.” (Revelation 9:7-11)
- This is the 1st woe.
 - “The first woe has passed. There are still two more woes to come after this.” (Revelation 9:12)
- The sixth trumpet is the second woe
 - This woe releases 4 angels to kill one third of the human race.
 - “The sixth angel blew his trumpet. From the four horns of the gold altar that is before God, I heard a voice say to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, ‘Release the four angels bound at the great river Euphrates.’ So the four angels who were prepared for the hour, day, month, and year were released to kill a third of the human race.” (Revelation 9:13-15)
 - The demonic army assembled against humanity consists of 200 million mounted troops.

- “The number of mounted troops was 200 million; I heard their number. This is how I saw the horses in my vision: The horsemen had breastplates that were fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow. The heads of the horses were like lions’ heads, and from their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur. A third of the human race was killed by these three plagues—by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur that came from their mouths. For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails, which resemble snakes, have heads, and they inflict injury with them.” (Revelation 9:16-19)
- Those not killed by this woe still did not repent.
 - “The rest of the people, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands to stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which are not able to see, hear, or walk. And they did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.” (Revelation 9:20-21)
- The hour, day, month, and year represent a 13-month period in which this judgment takes place. (Revelation 9:15)
- Between this judgment and the first four seal judgments, fully one half of the human population will be killed.
 - With a current world population estimated to be 7.8 billion people, this represents the deaths of 3.9 billion people.
- During this second woe, a mighty angel reads a small scroll and the seven thunders speak, but the details of this are hidden (Revelation 10).
- The Antichrist will kill the two witnesses and their bodies will lie in the public square for everyone to see.

- “Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified. (Revelation 11:7-8)
- People all over the world will see the witnesses lying dead in the street and they will have celebrations similar to Christmas.
 - “For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.” (Revelation 11:9-10)
- The two witnesses will then be resurrected, and everyone will see them taken to heaven.
 - “But after the three and a half days the 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.” (Revelation 11:11-12)
- The second woe concludes with a violent earthquake that destroys a tenth of Jerusalem and kills 7,000 people.
 - “At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.” (Revelation 11:13).

- The seventh trumpet marks the beginning of the Great Tribulation.
 - “The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.’ And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: ‘We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.’ Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.”
(Revelation 11:15-19)
 - This war is an inflection point that begins the transition from the Tribulation to the Great Tribulation, and several significant events happen at this time both in heaven and on earth.
 - This begins a major war in heaven where Michael and his angels fight against Satan and his demons.
 - Satan loses this war and is thrown out of heaven.

- “Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”
(Revelation 12:7-9)
- This is the third woe because while heaven rejoices over this, it means that Satan turns his wrath on humanity.
 - “Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: ‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.’” (Revelation 12:10-12)
- It clear that Satan is thrown out of heaven at the midpoint of the Tribulation because he persecutes the Jews for the remaining three-and-a-half years of the Great Tribulation.

- “When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach. Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.” (Revelation 12:13-17)
- One of the physical outcomes of this spiritual war is that the Antichrist is killed and resurrected.
 - “The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.” (Revelation 13:1-3)

- The imagery of this prophecy is consistent with other prophecies in Revelation 17 as well as in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7, which indicates that the entity being resurrected is the Roman Empire, not an individual.
 - Another possibility is that during the political struggle in which the Antichrist destroys three of the leaders of the ten-nation alliance, he appears defeated and this resurrection implies a political resurrection with the Antichrist assuming total control.
- This description about the two witnesses' killer indicates that this prophecy regarding the Antichrist's death and resurrection may also have dual fulfillment with Satan attempting to mimic the resurrection of Christ as a way to deceive people into worshiping the Antichrist.
 - Revelation 11:7 states that “the beast that comes up out of the abyss” will kill the two witnesses.
 - This is foreshadowing because the Antichrist's resurrection occurs after he kills the two witnesses.
 - Revelation 17:8 describes the Antichrist as “the beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction.”
 - A governmental or political resurrection does not address the concept of the beast returning from the abyss.
 - This resurrection could be an illusion and not a true resurrection.
 - “For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.” (2 Thessalonians 2:11)

- Or God could allow Satan to perform a true resurrection as part of a larger deception.
 - “Then the Lord said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.’ ‘Does Job fear God for nothing?’ Satan replied. ‘Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.’ The Lord said to Satan, ‘Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.’” (Job 1:8-12)

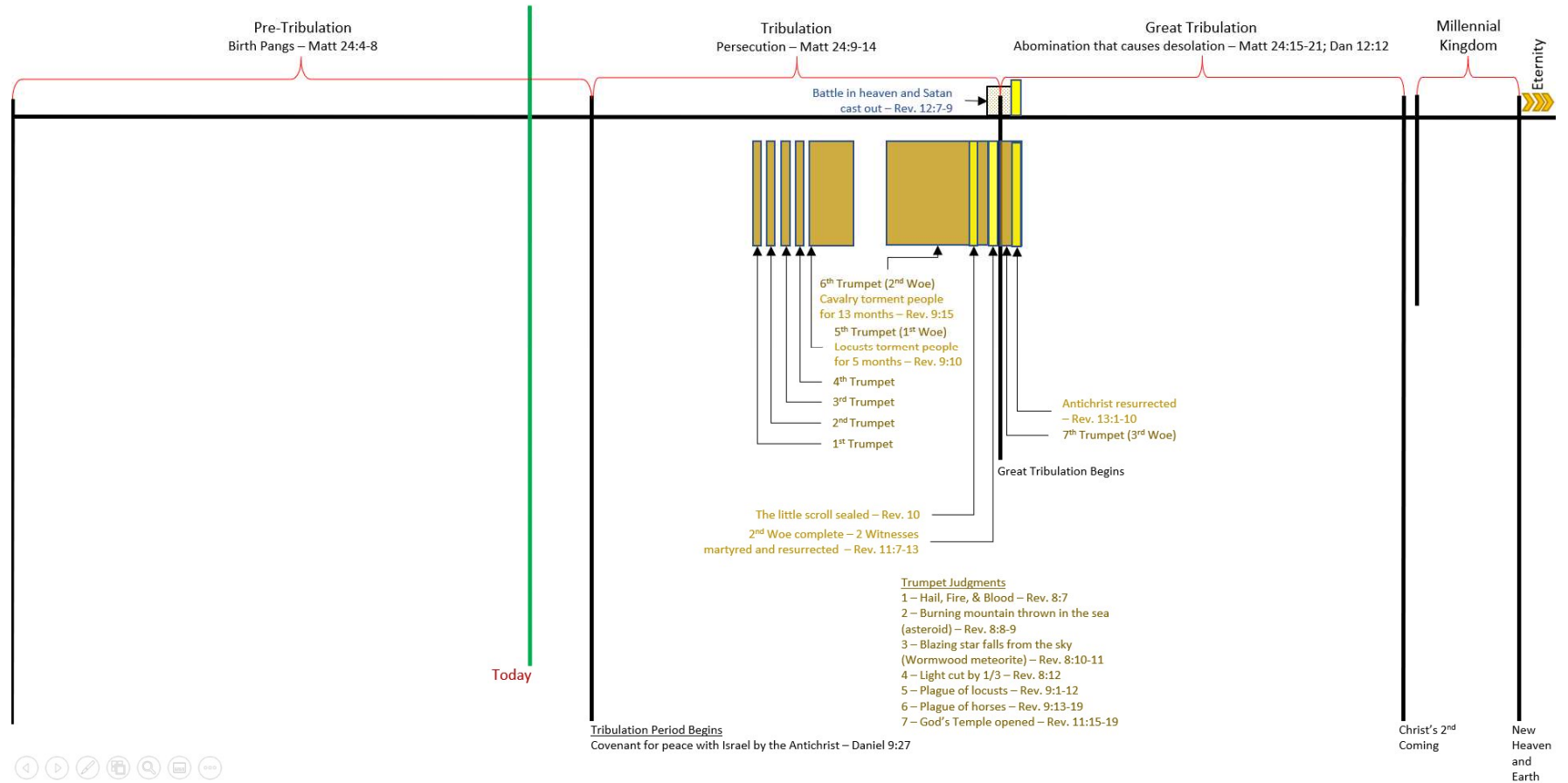


Figure 1: Timeline of the Trumpet Judgments

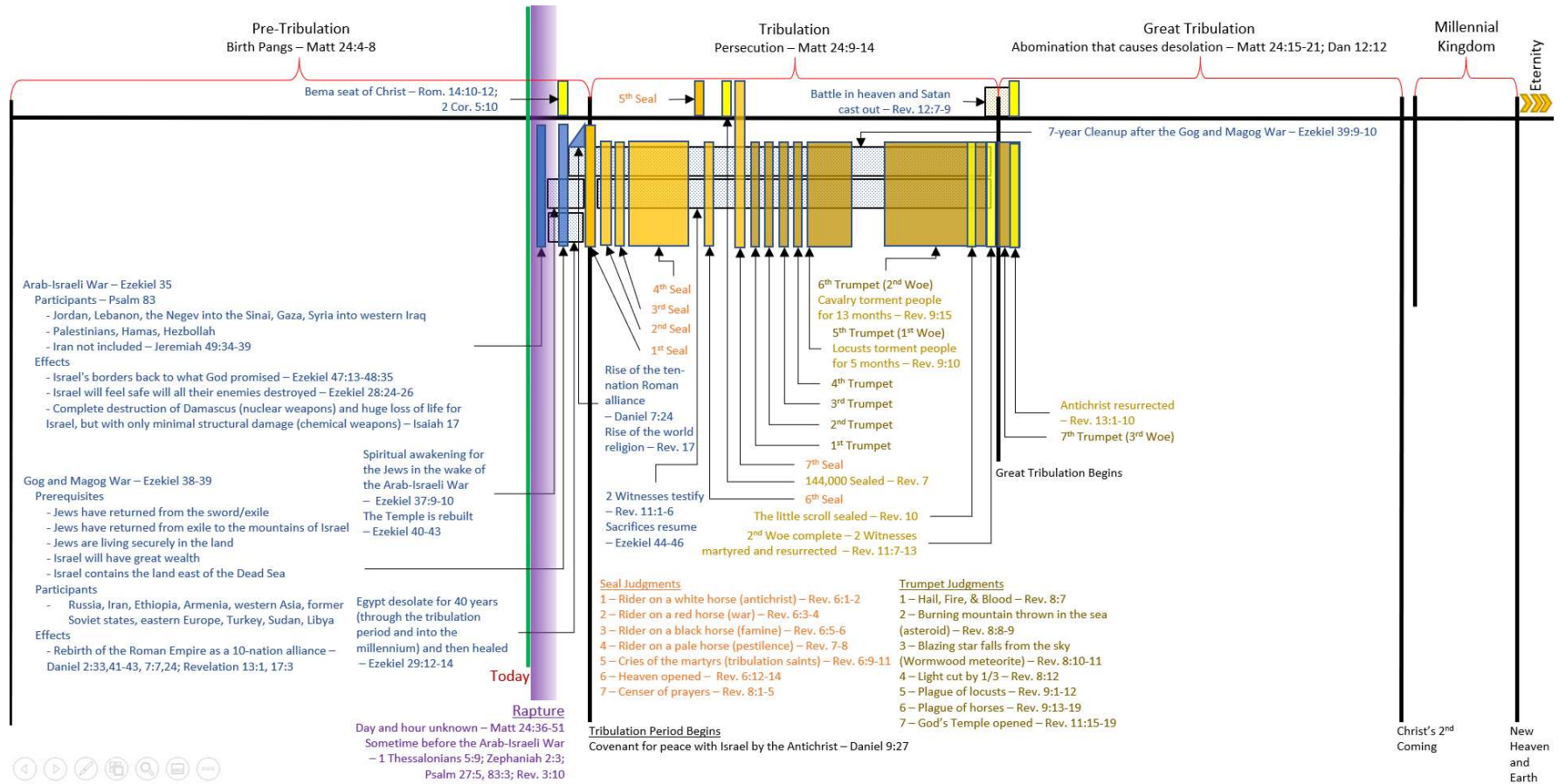


Figure 2: Timeline of End-Times Events