

The Bowl Judgments and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

The Bowl Judgments

- As with the seal judgments, the sounding of the seventh trumpet judgment brings forth the bowl judgments.
- It is likely that the bowl judgments do not occur until the second half of the Great Tribulation.
 - The majority of the bowl judgments will occur at the very end of the Great Tribulation.
 - The bowl judgments will have extreme impacts to life on earth.
 - The 144,000 witnesses have just been redeemed.
 - “Then I looked, and there on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with Him were 144,000 who had His name and His Father’s name written on their foreheads... These are the ones not defiled with women, for they have kept their virginity. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They were redeemed from the human race as the firstfruits for God and the Lamb.”
(Revelation 14:1,4)
 - The three angels need time to spread the gospel throughout the world.
 - The first angel preaches the Gospel.
 - “Then I saw another angel flying high overhead, having the eternal gospel to announce to the inhabitants of the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. He spoke with a loud voice: ‘Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.’”
(Revelation 14:6-7)
 - The second angel exclaims that Babylon (the harlot church) has fallen.

- “A second angel followed, saying: ‘It has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen, who made all nations drink the wine of her sexual immorality, which brings wrath.’” (Revelation 14:8)
- “The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.” (Revelation 17:16)
- The third angel warns not to take the mark of the beast.
 - “And a third angel followed them and spoke with a loud voice: ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he will also drink the wine of God’s wrath, which is mixed full strength in the cup of His anger. He will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the sight of the holy angels and in the sight of the Lamb, and the smoke of their torment will go up forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or anyone who receives the mark of his name.’” (Revelation 14:9-11)
- With these proclamations, God provides comfort to those that reject the Antichrist and keep God’s commands and remain faithful to Jesus even though they know that martyrdom will be the result of that decision.
 - “This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’” (Revelation 14:12-13)

- “I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” (Revelation 20:4)
- During the first half of the Great Tribulation the bowl judgments are prepared.
 - “Then I saw another great and awe-inspiring sign in heaven: seven angels with the seven last plagues, for with them, God’s wrath will be completed...After this I looked, and the heavenly sanctuary—the tabernacle of testimony—was opened. Out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, dressed in clean, bright linen, with gold sashes wrapped around their chests. One of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven gold bowls filled with the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. 8Then the sanctuary was filled with smoke from God’s glory and from His power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.” (Revelation 15:1,5-8)
- When the first bowl judgment is poured out, those that have not accepted Christ are plagued with painful sores.
 - “The first went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and severely painful sores[b] broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.” (Revelation 16:2)
 - The first bowl judgment most likely occurs sometime early in the second half of the Great Tribulation while the three angels are still spreading the gospel as a final warning to repent.

- These boils cover the entire body and are incurable.
 - “The Lord will afflict your knees and legs with painful boils that cannot be cured, spreading from the soles of your feet to the top of your head.”
(Deuteronomy 28:35)
- It is possible that these sores are a reference to a viral pandemic because other sources, such as chemical or nuclear, would be seen as being caused by man, not God.
 - Since this judgment only affects those that accepted the mark of the beast, it would appear that this virus or infection is linked to either how mark is applied, its composition, or to the universal healthcare services afforded the bearer.
- At some point after the first bowl judgment is poured out and before the second bowl judgment is poured out, the harvest of the earth begins.
 - “Then I looked, and there was a white cloud, and One like the Son of Man was seated on the cloud, with a gold crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. Another angel came out of the sanctuary, crying out in a loud voice to the One who was seated on the cloud, ‘Use your sickle and reap, for the time to reap has come, since the harvest of the earth is ripe.’ So the One seated on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. Then another angel who also had a sharp sickle came out of the sanctuary in heaven. Yet another angel, who had authority over fire, came from the altar, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, ‘Use your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from earth’s vineyard, because its grapes have ripened.’ So the angel swung his sickle toward earth and gathered the grapes from earth’s vineyard, and he threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath. Then the press was trampled outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press up to the horses’ bridles for about 180 miles.” (Revelation 14:14-20)

- This harvest concludes in the final days of the Great Tribulation after the three angels complete their work of spreading the gospel.
- It is during this time when the remaining bowl judgments are poured out.
- The next 4 bowl judgments are so devastating that they can only occur during the last days of the Great Tribulation.
 - The second and third bowl judgments may manifest through volcanic activities.
 - When the second bowl judgment is poured out into the sea all life in the sea will die.
 - “The second poured out his bowl into the sea. It turned to blood like a dead man’s, and all life in the sea died.” (Revelation 16:3)
 - This could be caused by the eruption of an underwater super volcano.
 - When the third bowl judgment is poured out into the rivers and springs of water, they will become blood.
 - “The third poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. I heard the angel of the waters say: You are righteous, who is and who was, the Holy One, for You have decided these things. Because they poured out the blood of the saints and the prophets, You also gave them blood to drink; they deserve it! Then I heard someone from the altar say: Yes, Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.” (Revelation 16:4-7)
 - When the fourth bowl judgment is poured out onto the sun, people will be burned by the intense heat.

- “The fourth poured out his bowl on the sun. He was given the power to burn people with fire, and people were burned by the intense heat. So they blasphemed the name of God, who had the power over these plagues, and they did not repent and give Him glory.” (Revelation 16:8-9)
- It is likely that at this point the protective ozone layer has been destroyed.
- This type of judgement would then be seen if the sun enters an active phase with large solar flares.
- Sustaining life will now be extremely difficult with all of the water on earth poisoned and intense solar radiation burning everything.
- When the fifth bowl judgment is poured out onto Babylon, it will be plunged into darkness.
 - “The fifth poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues because of their pain and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, yet they did not repent of their actions.” (Revelation 16:10-11)
 - Since the Antichrist’s kingdom is global by this time, this judgment is also global.
 - This judgment may be caused by a massive electromagnetic pulse (EMP) from the fourth bowl judgment’s solar flare that destroys all electronics.
 - In addition to the continuing pain from the boils of the first bowl judgment, people are now tormented by having the global economy shut down because the means to execute transactions has been removed.
- The last 2 bowl judgments set the stage for the Battle of Armageddon.

- When the sixth bowl judgment is poured out on the Euphrates river, it is dried up to prepare for the final battle of Armageddon.
 - “The sixth poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the east.” (Revelation 16:12)
 - These are forces coming from countries in Asia such as Korea and China.
 - “The Lord will divide the Gulf of Suez. He will wave His hand over the Euphrates with His mighty wind and will split it into seven streams, letting people walk through on foot.” (Isaiah 11:15)
- Three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouths of Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet to rally the Antichrist’s forces and assemble them for war.
 - “Then I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming from the dragon’s mouth, from the beast’s mouth, and from the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons performing signs, who travel to the kings of the whole world to assemble them for the battle of the great day of God, the Almighty. ‘Look, I am coming like a thief. The one who is alert and remains clothed so that he may not go around naked and people see his shame is blessed.’ So they assembled them at the place called in Hebrew, Armagedon.” (Revelation 16:13-16)
- At this point, the Antichrist assembles his armies to destroy Israel.

- “At the time of the end, the king of the South will engage him in battle, but the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, horsemen, and many ships. He will invade countries and sweep through them like a flood. He will also invade the beautiful land, and many will fall. But these will escape from his power: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of the Ammonites. He will extend his power against the countries, and not even the land of Egypt will escape. He will get control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the riches of Egypt. The Libyans and Cushites will also be in submission. But reports from the east and the north will terrify him, and he will go out with great fury to annihilate and completely destroy many. He will pitch his royal tents between the sea and the beautiful holy mountain, but he will meet his end with no one to help him.” (Daniel 11:40-45)
- “I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel, because they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land...Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for holy war; rouse the warriors; let all the men of war advance and attack! Beat your plows into swords and your pruning knives into spears. Let even the weakling say, ‘I am a warrior.’ Come quickly, all you surrounding nations; gather yourselves. Bring down Your warriors there, Lord. Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side.” (Joel 3:2,9-12)

- “A day of the Lord is coming when your plunder will be divided in your presence. I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem for battle. The city will be captured, the houses looted, and the women raped. Half the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be removed from the city.” (Zechariah 14:1-2)
- As the Antichrist gathers his armies to destroy Israel, the seventh bowl judgment is poured out into the air.
 - God laughs at the armies arrayed against Him.
 - “Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying, ‘Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.’ The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, ‘I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain.’” (Psalm 2:1-6)
 - This causes flashes of lightning and rumblings of thunder.
 - “Then the seventh poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the sanctuary from the throne, saying, “It is done!” There were flashes of lightning and rumblings of thunder.” (Revelation 16:17-18)
 - There will be a severe earthquake like no other.

- “And a severe earthquake occurred like no other since man has been on the earth—so great was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the Great was remembered in God’s presence; He gave her the cup filled with the wine of His fierce anger. Every island fled, and the mountains disappeared.” (Revelation 16:18-20)
- It appears that the epicenter of the earthquake is centered on Rome. (Revelation 16:19)
 - “Then a mighty angel picked up a stone like a large millstone and threw it into the sea, saying: In this way, Babylon the great city will be thrown down violently and never be found again.” (Revelation 18:21)
- One hundred-pound hailstones will fall from the sky.
 - “Enormous hailstones, each weighing about 100 pounds, fell from the sky on people, and they blasphemed God for the plague of hail because that plague was extremely severe.” (Revelation 16:21)
 - “Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of the hail, which I reserve for times of trouble, for days of war and battle? (Job 38:22-23)
 - These are extinction level events and it is almost impossible to imagine the utter devastation wrought by these judgments.
- These judgments do not stop the Antichrist from pursuing his campaign against Israel.
 - As the Antichrist advances on Jerusalem, the Antichrist’s armies are thrown into chaos.

- “‘Look, I will make Jerusalem a cup that causes staggering for the peoples who surround the city. The siege against Jerusalem will also involve Judah. On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who try to lift it will injure themselves severely when all the nations of the earth gather against her. On that day’—this is the Lord’s declaration—‘I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness. I will keep a watchful eye on the house of Judah but strike all the horses of the nations with blindness. Then each of the leaders of Judah will think to himself: The residents of Jerusalem are my strength through the Lord of Hosts, their God. On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves; they will consume all the peoples around them on the right and the left, while Jerusalem continues to be inhabited on its site, in Jerusalem. The Lord will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of David’s house and the glory of Jerusalem’s residents may not be greater than that of Judah. On that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that on that day the one who is weakest among them will be like David on that day, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the Lord, before them. On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.’” (Zechariah 12:2-9)
- The chaos either causes orders to be confused such that parts of the Antichrist’s army believes the enemy is now located in Babylon or they feel that they have been double-crossed by the Antichrist.
 - A coalition from the north destroys Babylon (Rome).

- “For I will soon stir up and bring against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country. They will line up in battle formation against her; from there she will be captured. Their arrows will be like those of a skilled warrior who does not return empty-handed...Look! A people comes from the north. A great nation and many kings will be stirred up from the remote regions of the earth. They grasp bow and javelin. They are cruel and show no mercy. Their voice roars like the sea, and they ride on horses, lined up like men in battle formation against you, Daughter Babylon. The king of Babylon has heard reports about them, and his hands fall helpless. Distress has seized him—pain, like a woman in labor.” (Jeremiah 50:9,41-43)
- “Messenger races to meet messenger, and herald to meet herald, to announce to the king of Babylon that his city has been captured from end to end. The fords have been seized, the marshes set on fire, and the soldiers are terrified.” (Jeremiah 51:31-32)
- Babylon will be desolate like Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - “And Babylon, the jewel of the kingdoms, the glory of the pride of the Chaldeans, will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them.” (Isaiah 13:19)
- All the nations mourn.

- “After this I saw another angel with great authority coming down from heaven, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. He cried in a mighty voice: It has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen! She has become a dwelling for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, and a haunt for every unclean and despicable beast...The kings of the earth who have committed sexual immorality and lived luxuriously with her will weep and mourn over her when they see the smoke of her burning...The merchants of the earth will also weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their merchandise any longer...The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand far off in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning...And every shipmaster, seafarer, the sailors, and all who do business by sea, stood far off as they watched the smoke from her burning and kept crying out: ‘Who is like the great city?’ They threw dust on their heads and kept crying out, weeping, and mourning.” (Revelation 18:1-2,9,11,15,17-19)
- With the destruction of Babylon there is rejoicing in heaven.
 - “Rejoice over her, heaven, and you saints, apostles, and prophets, because God has executed your judgment on her!” (Revelation 18:20)
 - “After this I heard something like the loud voice of a vast multitude in heaven, saying: Hallelujah! Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God, because His judgments are true and righteous, because He has judged the notorious prostitute who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality; and He has avenged the blood of His slaves that was on her hands.” (Revelation 19:1-2)

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

- The Marriage Supper of the Lamb completes the wedding between Christ and His church.
 - Jesus frequently referred to Himself as a bridegroom.
 - “Jesus said to them, ‘Can the wedding guests be sad while the groom is with them? The time will come when the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.’” (Matthew 9:15; cf. Mark 2:19-20; Luke 5:34-35)
 - “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.” (Matthew 22:2; cf. Luke 14:15-24)
 - “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like 10 virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom.” (Matthew 25:1)
 - The church is frequently portrayed as His virgin bride.
 - “For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy, because I have promised you in marriage to one husband—to present a pure virgin to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 11:2)
 - This is the actual wedding and the third and final phase of the wedding ceremony.
 - “Then I heard something like the voice of a vast multitude, like the sound of cascading waters, and like the rumbling of loud thunder, saying: Hallelujah, because our Lord God, the Almighty, has begun to reign! Let us be glad, rejoice, and give Him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has prepared herself. She was given fine linen to wear, bright and pure. For the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints.” (Revelation 19:6-8)
 - The marriage takes place in heaven sometime between the rapture and Jesus’ return at the end of the tribulation period.

- As illustrated by the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-2), the marriage supper may go on for days.
- Attendees will include the Old Testament saints who have yet to be resurrected, but whose souls are in heaven.
 - “Then he said to me, ‘Write: Those invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb are fortunate!’ He also said to me, ‘These words of God are true.’”
(Revelation 19:9)
- The first phase was completed when Jesus paid the dowry to God the Father through His crucifixion on the cross and each individual became betrothed by accepting Jesus as their savior.
- The second phase will be completed when Jesus returns for His bride with the rapture.

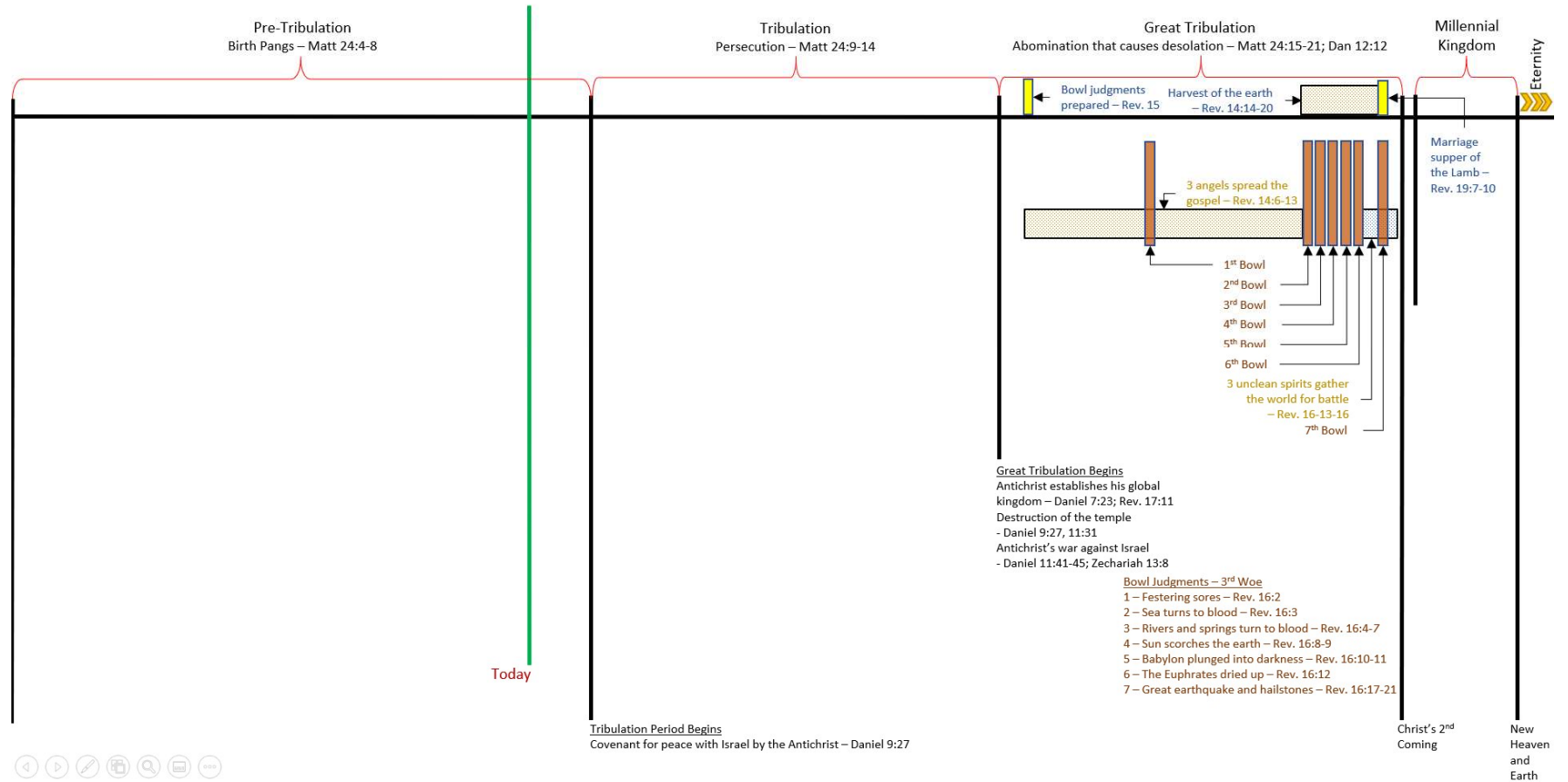


Figure 1: Timeline of the Bowl Judgments

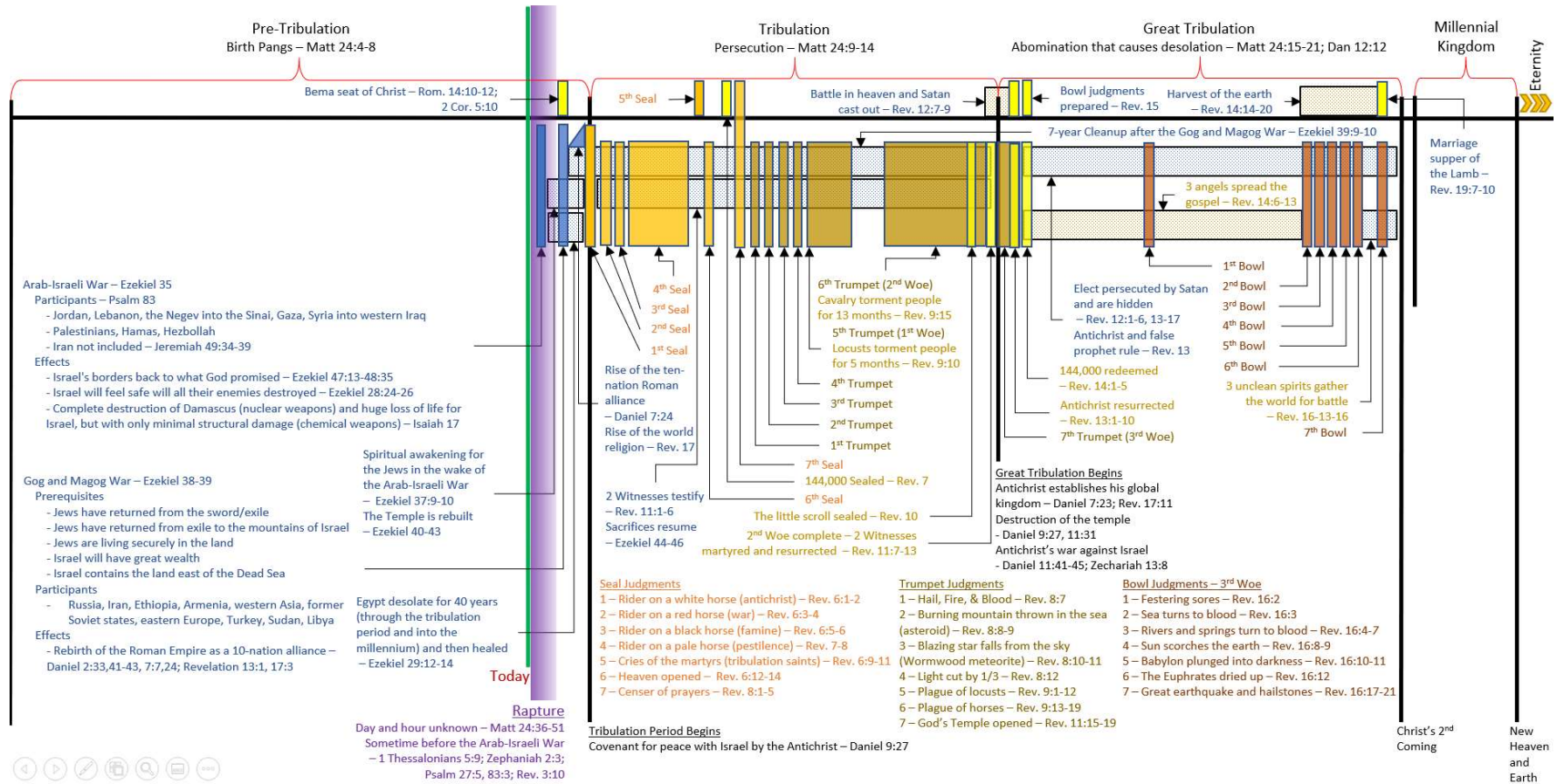


Figure 2: Timeline of End-Times Events