

## Eternity

- With all of God’s enemies defeated, including death, eternity is ushered in and the kingdom delivered to God the Father.
  - “Then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when He abolishes all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He puts all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be abolished is death. For God has put everything under His feet. But when it says ‘everything’ is put under Him, it is obvious that He who puts everything under Him is the exception. And when everything is subject to Christ, then the Son Himself will also be subject to the One who subjected everything to Him, so that God may be all in all.” (1 Corinthians 15:24-28)
  - There are several important concepts to note.
    - Jesus is completely equal to the Father as part of the Triune God.
      - “Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross. For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:5-11)

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1,14)
- “The Father and I are one.” (John 10:30)
- “For the entire fullness of God’s nature dwells bodily in Christ.” (Colossians 2:9)
- Jesus is still under the authority of the Father.
  - “You have heard Me tell you, ‘I am going away and I am coming to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I.” (John 14:28)
  - “But I want you to know that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of the woman, and God is the head of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:3)
- Each member of the Trinity has their designated roles.
  - God the Father
    - “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)
    - “Yet for us there is one God, the Father. All things are from Him, and we exist for Him. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ. All things are through Him, and we exist through Him.” (1 Corinthians 8:6)
  - God the Son

- “Then God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.”  
(Genesis 1:3)
- “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together. He is also the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything.” (Colossians 1:15-18)
- The Holy Spirit
  - “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.” (Genesis 1:2)
  - “When You send Your breath, they are created, and You renew the face of the earth.” (Psalm 104:30)
- One of Jesus’ roles is to be the mediator between man and God and with this role now complete, Jesus voluntarily surrenders the kingdom to God the Father.
  - “For there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, Christ Jesus, Himself human, who gave Himself—a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time.” (1 Timothy 2:5-6)
- A new heaven and earth are ushered in.
  - The current universe is cursed and subject to decay.

- “And He said to Adam, “Because you listened to your wife’s voice and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘Do not eat from it’: The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.” (Genesis 3:17-18)
- “For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it—in the hope that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of corruption into the glorious freedom of God’s children.” (Romans 8:20-21)
- To resolve these issues, the universe is renewed.
  - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea no longer existed.” (Revelation 21:1)
  - “Look up to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and its inhabitants will die like gnats. But My salvation will last forever, and My righteousness will never be shattered.” (Isaiah 51:6)
  - “But by the same word, the present heavens and earth are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men... But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief; on that day the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed.” (2 Peter 3:7,10)
- When the universe is renewed, it will be purified of all evil, sin, suffering, and death.

- “For I will create a new heaven and a new earth; the past events will not be remembered or come to mind. Then be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I will create Jerusalem to be a joy and its people to be a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people. The sound of weeping and crying will no longer be heard in her. In her, a nursing infant will no longer live only a few days, or an old man not live out his days. Indeed, the youth will die at a hundred years, and the one who misses a hundred years will be cursed. People will build houses and live in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build and others live in them; they will not plant and others eat. For My people’s lives will be like the lifetime of a tree. My chosen ones will fully enjoy the work of their hands. They will not labor without success or bear children destined for disaster, for they will be a people blessed by the Lord along with their descendants. Even before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but the serpent’s food will be dust! They will not do what is evil or destroy on My entire holy mountain, says the Lord.” (Isaiah 65:17-25)

- “I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate dangerous animals in the land, so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the forest. I will make them and the area around My hill a blessing: I will send down showers in their season—showers of blessing. The trees of the field will give their fruit, and the land will yield its produce; My flock will be secure in their land. They will know that I am Yahweh when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hands of those who enslave them. They will no longer be prey for the nations, and the wild animals of the land will not consume them. They will live securely, and no one will frighten them. I will establish for them a place renowned for its agriculture, and they will no longer be victims of famine in the land. They will no longer endure the insults of the nations.”  
(Ezekiel 34:25-29)

- A new Jerusalem, described as a gigantic and brilliant jewel, will then come down from heaven.

- “I also saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband...Her radiance was like a very precious stone, like a jasper stone, bright as crystal. The city had a massive high wall, with 12 gates. Twelve angels were at the gates; the names of the 12 tribes of Israel’s sons were inscribed on the gates. There were three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. The city wall had 12 foundations, and the 12 names of the Lamb’s 12 apostles were on the foundations...The city is laid out in a square; its length and width are the same. He measured the city with the rod at 12,000 stadia. Its length, width, and height are equal. Then he measured its wall, 144 cubits according to human measurement, which the angel used. The building material of its wall was jasper, and the city was pure gold like clear glass. The foundations of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone: the first foundation jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. The 12 gates are 12 pearls; each individual gate was made of a single pearl. The broad street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.” (Revelation 21:2,11-14,16-21)
- The 12 angels that guard the gates are doing so in their role as ministering spirits to those that have received their inheritance.
  - “Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve those who are going to inherit salvation?” (Hebrews 1:14)
- The names of the 12 tribes of Israel that are written on the gates are there to remind the inhabitants that salvation is from the Jews.

- “You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews.” (John 4:22)
- The names of the apostles that are written on the foundations are there to remind the inhabitants that the church was built upon these Godly men.
  - “So then you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone.” (Ephesians 2:19-20)
- Based on the measurements provided in scripture, the city will measure approximately 1500 miles by 1500 miles and be 1500 miles high.
  - It would measure approximately the distance from Canada to Mexico and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rocky Mountains, giving it a surface area of 2.25 million square miles.
  - This would give the city the capacity to house 20 billion residents, each having a private 75-acre cube, with plenty of room for parks, streets, and other things found in a typical city.
  - Some scholars prefer to envision the city shaped as a pyramid and others prefer to consider it shaped as a cube because the Holy of Holies in Solomon’s Temple was cube shaped.
    - “The interior of the sanctuary was 30 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 30 feet high; he overlaid it with pure gold. He also overlaid the cedar altar.” (1 Kings 6:20).
- There will not be a sanctuary in the city because God will be its sanctuary.



- “I did not see a sanctuary in it, because the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its sanctuary.” (Revelation 21:22)
- The city will not need light because God’s glory will illuminate it.
  - “The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God’s glory illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Each day its gates will never close because it will never be night there.” (Revelation 21:23-25)
  - “Night will no longer exist, and people will not need lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will give them light.” (Revelation 22:5)
  - “The sun will no longer be your light by day, and the brightness of the moon will not shine on you; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your splendor. Your sun will no longer set, and your moon will not fade; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and the days of your sorrow will be over.” (Isaiah 60:19-20)
- Nothing profane will ever enter it.

- “And he received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while still uncircumcised. This was to make him the father of all who believe but are not circumcised, so that righteousness may be credited to them also...For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would inherit the world was not through the law, but through the righteousness that comes by faith...He did not waver in unbelief at God’s promise but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, because he was fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. Therefore, it was credited to him for righteousness. Now it was credited to him was not written for Abraham alone, but also for us. It will be credited to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.” (Romans 4:11,13,20-24)
- “They will bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. Nothing profane will ever enter it: no one who does what is vile or false, but only those written in the Lamb’s book of life.” (Revelation 21:26-27)
- Within the city, there will be a river of life that flows from the throne of God.
  - “Then he showed me the river of living water, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the broad street of the city.” (Revelation 22:1-2)
  - This may also be symbolic of the perpetual outpouring of spiritual blessing and the abundance of spiritual life that will characterize those who are living in the city.
- The tree of life will also be on both sides of the river of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit each month and whose leaves provide healing to the nations.

- “The tree of life was on both sides of the river, bearing 12 kinds of fruit, producing its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for healing the nations, and there will no longer be any curse.” (Revelation 22:2-3)
  - Because this is the perfect and eternal state, the idea of healing cannot mean that there is any form of sickness or hurts that need to be renewed.
  - Instead, it means that the tree of life promotes the enjoyment of life.
- God will dwell in the city and the people will know and serve Him.
    - “The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His slaves will serve Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.” (Revelation 22:3-4)
    - They will reign forever and ever.
      - “Night will no longer exist, and people will not need lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign forever and ever.” (Revelation 22:5).

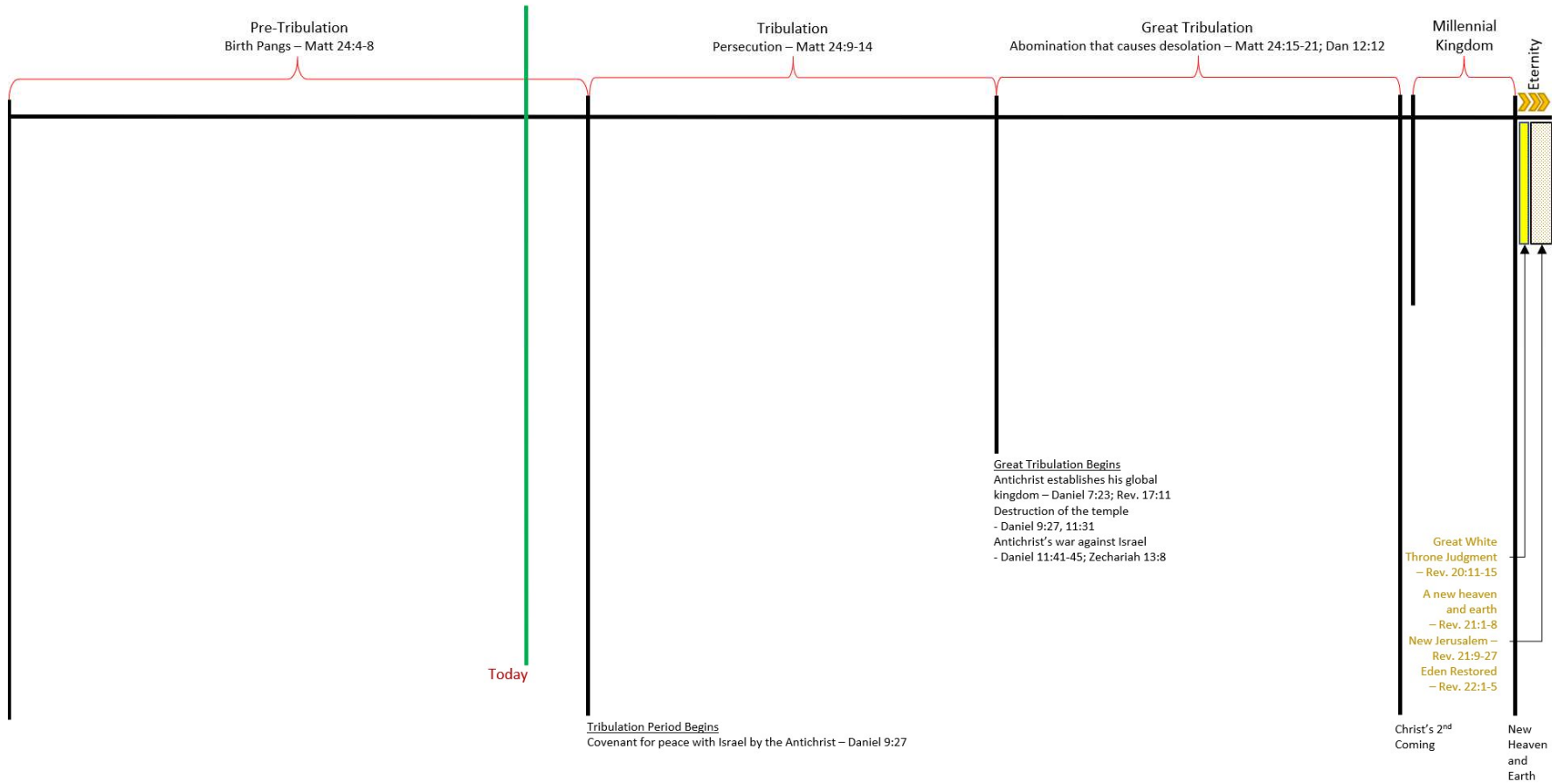


Figure 1: Timeline of Eternal Events

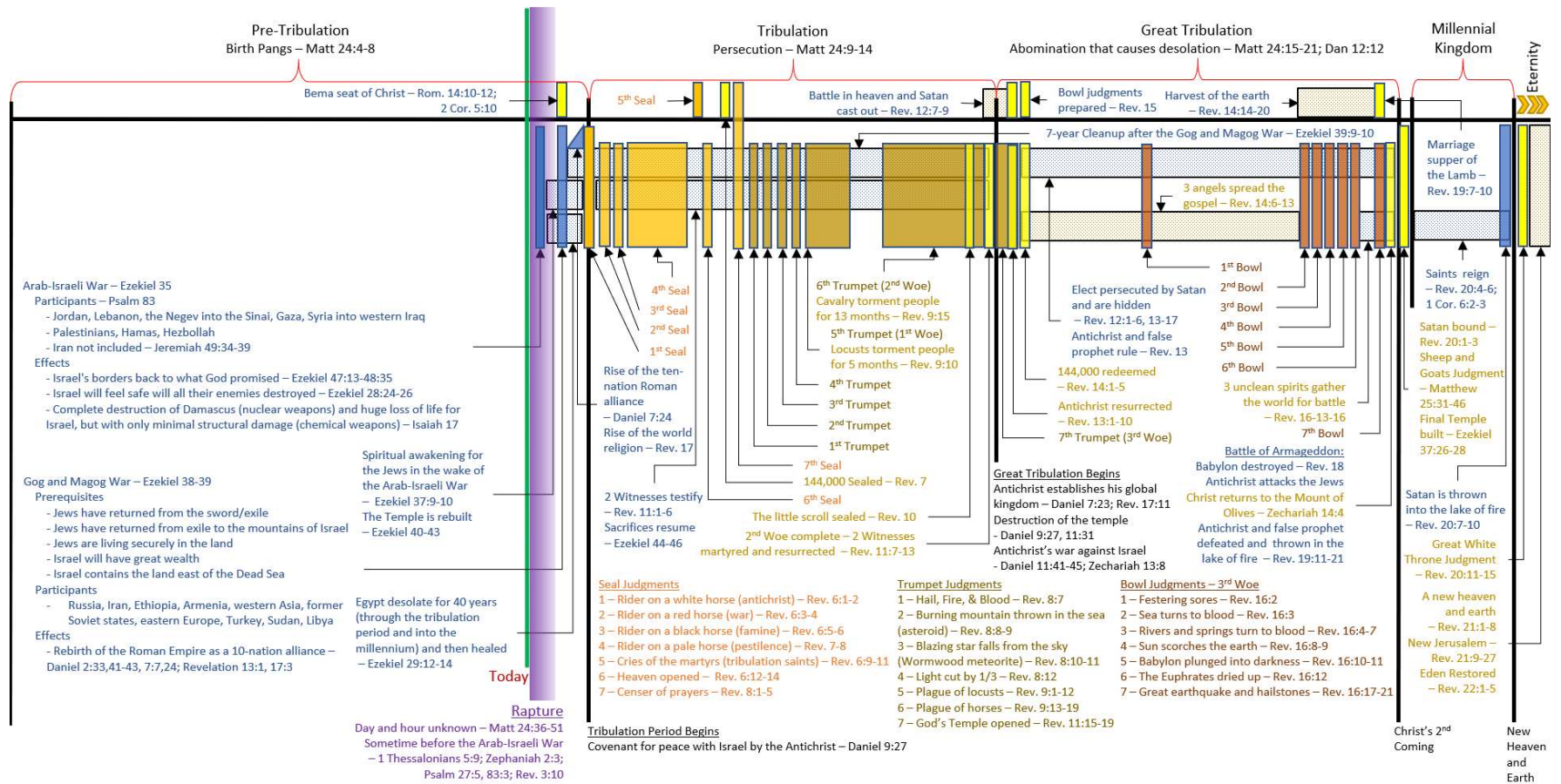


Figure 2: Timeline of End-Times Events