

### **Conclusions – Signs of the Last Generation**

- While it is impossible to determine the exact timing of the rapture, it may be possible to determine the timing of Christ’s second coming and therefore determine an upper boundary for it.
  - In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul confirmed that the day and hour of the rapture cannot be known.
    - “For you yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. When they say, ‘Peace and security,’ then sudden destruction comes on them, like labor pains come on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3)
  - Paul also confirmed that believers would know the season in which Christ’s return would occur.
    - “But you, brothers, are not in the dark, for this day to overtake you like a thief.” (1 Thessalonians 5:4)
  - To do this we need to determine what the signs of Christ’s return are.

### **The Rebirth of Israel**

- The first set of signs pointing toward Christ’s imminent return center around the rebirth of Israel.
  - The Valley of the Dry Bones prophecy (Ezekiel 37) describes the rebirth of Israel.
  - The nation of Israel will be brought back into existence on a single day.
    - “Before Zion was in labor, she gave birth; before she was in pain, she delivered a boy. Who has heard of such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day or a nation be delivered in an instant? Yet as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her sons.” (Isaiah 66:7-8)

- Israel will be a single unified nation with Judah.
  - “I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will rule over all of them. They will no longer be two nations and will no longer be divided into two kingdoms.” (Ezekiel 37:22)
- Some of these events have been fulfilled.
  - In 1917 the Balfour Declaration announced British support for the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine.
    - “Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.” (Ezekiel 37:4-8)
  - On May 14, 1948 with the Jewish Agency Chairman David Ben-Gurion declaring Israel to be a nation and the United States recognizing Israel on that same day, the State of Israel officially came into being upon termination of the British mandate in Palestine.

- “The word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, ‘Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.’ Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, ‘Belonging to Joseph (that is, to Ephraim) and all the Israelites associated with him.’ Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand... Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on and say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms.’” (Ezekiel 37:15-17,20-22)
- During the Six-Day war in 1967, the mountains of Israel were returned to them when Israel then won the Golan Heights.

- “Son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say, ‘Mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord. This is what the Sovereign Lord says: The enemy said of you, ‘Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession...’ Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I swear with uplifted hand that the nations around you will also suffer scorn. But you, mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home. I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor; you will be plowed and sown, and I will cause many people to live on you—yes, all of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. I will increase the number of people and animals living on you, and they will be fruitful and become numerous. I will settle people on you as in the past and will make you prosper more than before. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I will cause people, my people Israel, to live on you. They will possess you, and you will be their inheritance; you will never again deprive them of their children.” (Ezekiel 36:1-2,7-12)
  - Jerusalem was recognized as Israel’s capital by the U.S. in 2017.
- What remains is for breath to enter them so that they come to life and stand on their feet.
  - “Then he said to me, Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.” (Ezekiel 37:9-10)

- This will occur with the spiritual awakening in the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli war.
- The land will be restored.
  - Israel will have a thriving agriculture.
    - “In days to come, Jacob will take root. Israel will blossom and bloom and fill the whole world with fruit.” (Isaiah 27:6)
    - “The wilderness and the dry land will be glad; the desert will rejoice and blossom like a rose.” (Isaiah 35:1)
  - The Dead Sea will come to life.
    - “Every kind of living creature that swarms will live wherever the river flows, and there will be a huge number of fish because this water goes there. Since the water will become fresh, there will be life everywhere the river goes. Fishermen will stand beside it from En-gedi to En-eglaim. These will become places where nets are spread out to dry. Their fish will consist of many different kinds, like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea.” (Ezekiel 47:9-10)
    - Scientists have been shocked to discover that the sinkholes appearing around the sea are quickly filling up with fish and other forms of life previously unseen in the inhospitable region.
    - Israel’s tourist industry also touts the country’s success in shrinking the Negev Desert over the last century, which currently covers 60% of the country, through the use of modern agriculture technology.
      - This has turned the desert into green fields that produce a variety of crops, including cherry tomatoes that are 2-3 times sweeter than those produced elsewhere due to the unique growing conditions.

- The Negev is also home to fish farms and olive groves.
  - Israel is now also one of the world's leading citrus producers.
- Jerusalem will be the center of world conflict.
  - “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.” (Zechariah 12:2-3)
  - Every U.S. president since Jimmy Carter has attempted to broker peace treaties between Israel and her neighbors.
    - While each has had varying success, none have been fully accepted, let alone lasting.
    - One reason for this is that all of the plans require Israel to give up land for peace.
      - These are all doomed because the Bible states that once God gives Israel back the land promised to her, it will always remain in her possession.
        - “I will cause people, My people Israel, to walk on you; they will possess you, and you will be their inheritance. You will no longer deprive them of their children.” (Ezekiel 36:12)
- The IDF will be a great army.
  - “So I prophesied as He commanded me; the breath entered them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army.” (Ezekiel 37:10)

- “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...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.” (Zechariah 12:6,8)
- Israel has had to rely on their military to ensure their survival.
  - Despite Israel being such a small country and surrounded by vastly larger enemies, Israel has fought many wars against superior forces and has won all of them.
    - This includes the 1948 War of Independence, the 1967 Six-Day War, the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the 1986 and 2006 Lebanon Wars, and the 2008 Gaza War, along with many other smaller skirmishes.
- Recent events also indicate that the time horizon is short for the remaining prophetic events to occur.
  - U.S. influence in the Middle East may be eliminated.
    - The rapture would most certainly reduce or eliminate U.S. influence.
    - God may raise up a U.S. president that is not supportive of Israel.
      - “He changes the times and seasons; He removes kings and establishes kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.” (Daniel 2:21)
  - There appears to be increased interest by Russia to exert control over oil fields in the region.

- Seizing spoil and plunder is a major factor in Russian involvement in the Gog and Magog war.
  - “You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of open villages; I will come against a tranquil people who are living securely, all of them living without walls and without bars or gates—in order to seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against ruins now inhabited and against a people gathered from the nations, who have been acquiring cattle and possessions and who live at the center of the world.’” (Ezekiel 38:11-12)
- Prophetic events are starting to be seen.
  - Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) just recently signed a peace agreement normalizing relations between the two countries.
    - This is the third country to sign such a deal after Egypt and Jordan, with the last agreement being signed by Jordan in 1994.
    - President Trump has hinted that additional Arab states may soon sign similar agreements.
    - This may end up causing further instability with Turkey and Iran because of their backing of the Palestinians and their belief that these peace agreements harm the Palestinian push for an independent state.
      - This increased instability would then lead to the prophesied Arab-Israeli war.

### **The State of the World**

- There are several signs regarding the people, technology, environment and government leading up to Christ’s return.



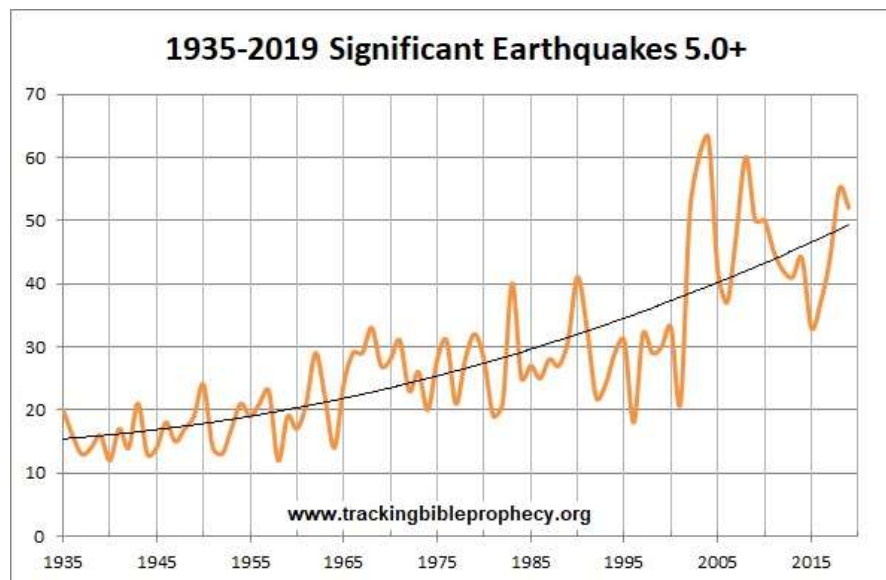
- With the general disregard for unborn human life and the recent rioting, looting, and gaslighting of history by Marxist and anarchist groups like Black Lives Matter and Antifa, it is impossible to deny that the state of the people match the prophetic last generation.
  - Paul's second letter to Timothy provides a scathing description of the attitude of people during this time.
    - “But know this: Difficult times will come in the last days. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people! For among them are those who worm their way into households and capture idle women burdened down with sins, led along by a variety of passions, always learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (2 Timothy 3:1-7)
    - It is clear from this description that this generation is self-centered and wants nothing to do with God.
    - Even though they may profess faith, they are at best hypocrites and at worst professing a false faith or occult practices.
    - Though they may be well educated, they have no understanding of truth.
  - Many false messiahs will come to deceive the world.
    - “At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” (Matthew 24:23-24)

- Many will deny the second coming of Christ.
  - “Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, ‘Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.’” (2 Peter 3:3-4)
- From a U.S. perspective, this moral decline will have far reaching effects.
  - The impacts caused by the chaos created will affect both believers and nonbelievers alike.
  - It will bring judgment on the country as a whole, removing the U.S. as a superpower.
    - This may be one reason why the U.S. is unable or unwilling to support Israel in the Gog and Magog war.
      - “Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all her villages will say to you, ‘Have you come to plunder? Have you gathered your hordes to loot, to carry off silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods and to seize much plunder?’” (Ezekiel 38:13).
- The next sign that this is the last generation is that, for the first time, the technology necessary to fulfill certain prophecies in Revelation currently exist.
  - This is the first generation to have nuclear weapons which allow mankind to destroy the world.

- “The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. 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)
- Computers are powerful enough now to track all financial transactions and Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) can be used to create the mark of the beast that controls the ability to buy and sell in a global cashless economy.
  - “It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.” (Revelation 13:16-17)
- The global Internet as well as cable and satellite news will allow everyone to see the two witnesses martyred, resurrected, and raptured live.
  - “For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.” (Revelation 11:9)
  - This rapture will be visible for all to see, similar to when Christ ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives.
    - “After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.” (Acts 1:9)
  - This will be unlike the rapture of the church which is in the blink of an eye.
    - “...in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:52)

- The gospel is being spread throughout the world in every language through online and electronic versions of the Bible as well as through global broadcasts of Christian programs via the Internet.
  - “Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.” (Revelation 14:6)
  - This will be an ever-increasing method for spreading the gospel as the world gets closer to the tribulation period.
  - Significant events, such as the resurrection of Christ, lead people to seek information about prophecy. (Acts 2:14-42; 8:26-40; 13:27-31; 17:2-3,10-12; 18:5; 26:22-27)
  - The rapture of the church will present another significant opportunity to spread the gospel and the best way to find that information will be through the Internet.
    - However, while many will read the gospel and come to know Christ as their savior, many more will still be deceived and turn away from Christ.
    - Because of this generation’s reliance on technology, they will put their faith in science rather than Christ.
    - Demons potentially posing as extraterrestrials will further promote this belief.
      - There are many reports in today’s news that is already promoting the idea that extraterrestrials exist, including the declassification of UFO sightings by the U.S. military.
- There will be major environmental changes, such as famines and earthquakes.

- The signs of these birth pains as described by Jesus in the Olivet discourse are clearly visible.
  - “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.” (Matthew 24:7)
- Data from the U.S. National Centers for Environmental Information shows that earthquakes are on the rise.



- Another prime example of these birth pains is the recent COVID-19 virus scare.
  - The fear of this virus is causing people to panic and hoard supplies, as well as causing markets to tumble.
- One final sign that this is the last generation is the establishment of a one-world government.
  - With the moral decline causing countries such as the United States to lose influence in the world, the Antichrist is able to fill this power void by establishing a worldwide government. (Daniel 2:31-45; 7:1-48; Revelation 13:1-3; 17:9-10)
- Many people wonder how the Antichrist will establish his one-world government and persuade Israel to sign a peace deal.

- Without faith in God, fear will grip the world due to some global disaster and people will mistakenly flock to anyone that provides a message of hope that can calm the panic and stop the chaos.
- The Antichrist will masterfully exploit that fear to his advantage and there will be no question about taking the mark of the beast if it means having safety, stability, and necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter.
  - Instead of providing salvation, faith in the Antichrist will only ensure that the war and pestilence that people fear are inflicted upon them.
- God has promised to protect believers if people would only have faith in Him.
  - “He Himself will deliver you from the hunter’s net, from the destructive plague. He will cover you with His feathers; you will take refuge under His wings. His faithfulness will be a protective shield. You will not fear the terror of the night, the arrow that flies by day, the plague that stalks in darkness, or the pestilence that ravages at noon. Though a thousand fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, the pestilence will not reach you. You will only see it with your eyes and witness the punishment of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord—my refuge, the Most High—your dwelling place, no harm will come to you; no plague will come near your tent. For He will give His angels orders concerning you, to protect you in all your ways. They will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the young lion and the serpent.”  
(Psalm 91:3-13)

- This promise of protection includes the birth pains prior to the rapture of the church as well as the judgments during the tribulation period for those that come to know Him after the rapture.
- God can also be trusted to fulfill those promises unlike the Antichrist.
  - “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” (Genesis 28:15)
  - “God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?” (Numbers 23:19)
  - “Not one of all the Lord’s good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.” (Joshua 21:45)
  - “The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.” (1 Thessalonians 5:24)
  - “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.” (Hebrews 10:23)

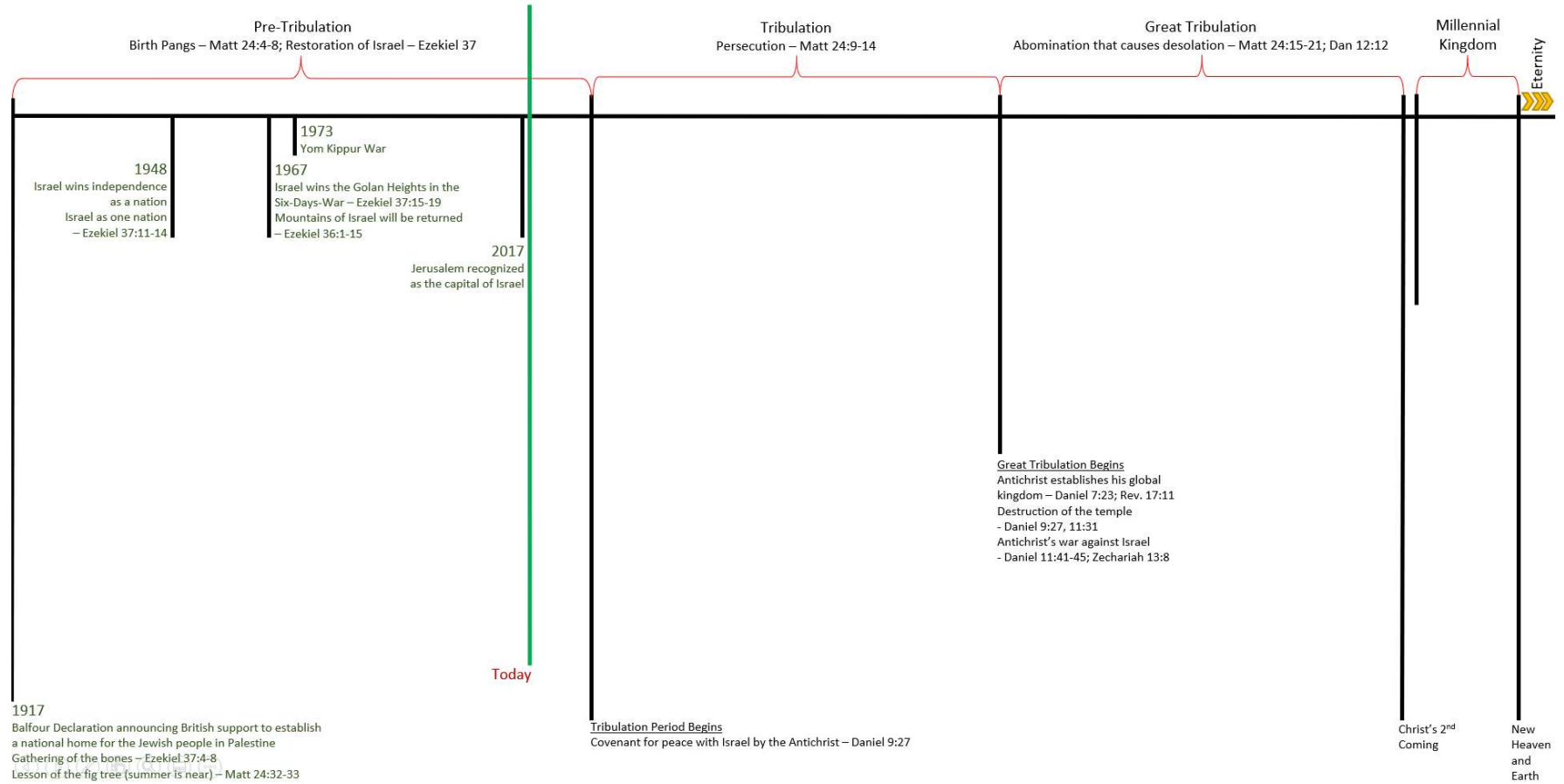


Figure 1: Timeline of Events During the Last Generation



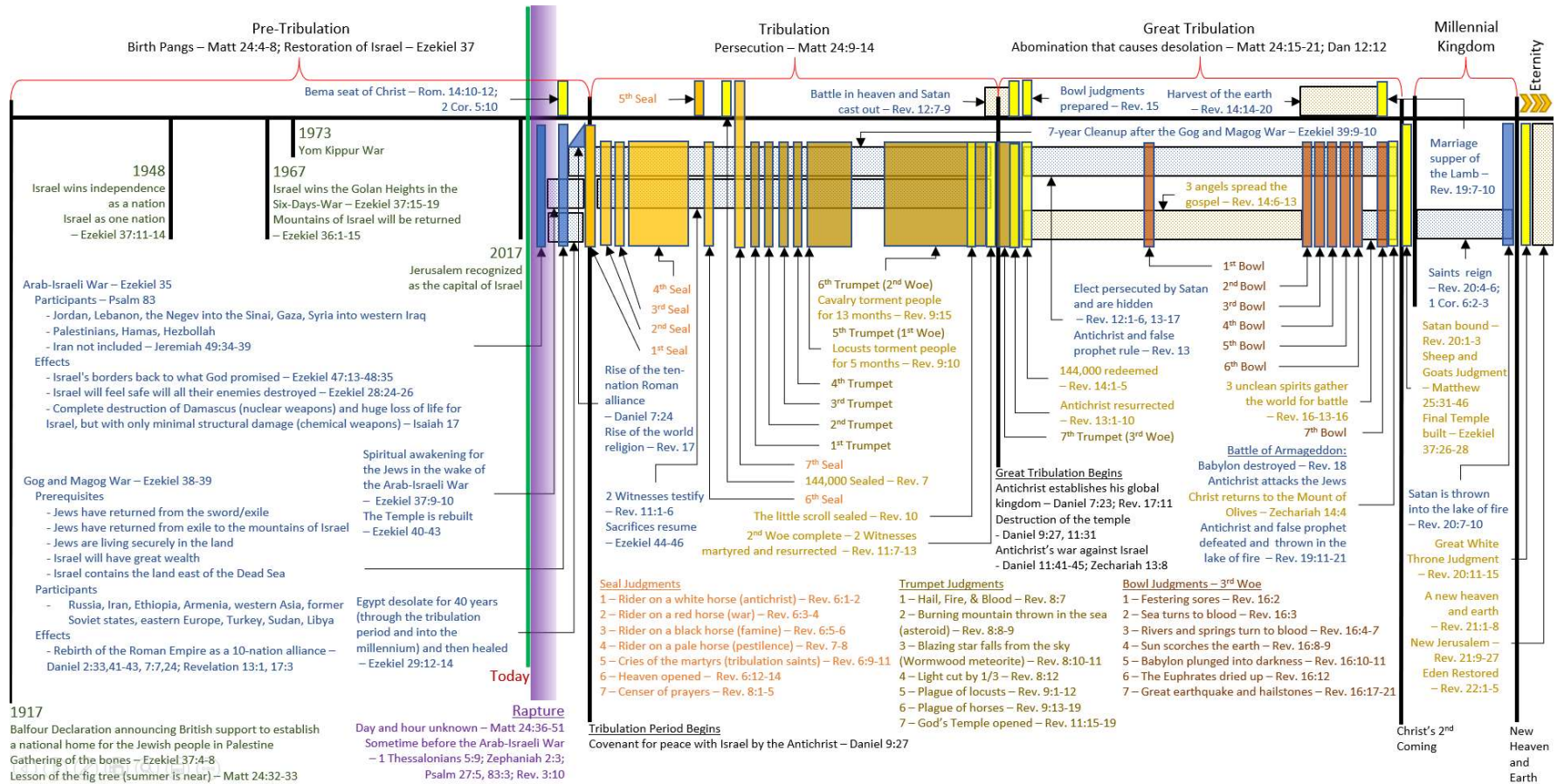


Figure 2: Timeline of End-Times Events