

## *Our Destiny*

### *Those that persevere will be saved*

*Unbelievers can make reasonable predictions about future events based on patterns of past occurrences, but in the nature of human experience it is clear that human beings of themselves cannot know the future. Therefore, unbelievers can have no certain knowledge of any future event. But Christians who believe the Bible are in a different situation. Although we cannot know everything about the future, God knows everything about the future and he as in Scripture told us about the major events yet to come in the history of the universe. About these events occurring we can have absolute confidence because God is never wrong and never lies. -Grudem*

- I. We don't know when the rapture will be. Therefore, we must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with the increased depravity and persecution that will come as the birth pangs escalate toward the tribulation. We could witness any or all of the pre-tribulation events, up to and including the Gog and Magog war before the church is removed prior to the tribulation. Know that you are being equipped to handle these times.

Ezekiel 4:4-8; 37:1-14; 38  
 Jeremiah 29:10  
 Leviticus 26:14-26  
 2 Timothy 3:1-5  
 Romans 1:18-20,24-25  
 Genesis 6:5,11-12  
 Matthew 24:4, 6-7, 9-14, 32-34, 37-39  
 Psalm 83; 90

Ezekiel was commanded to lay on his left side for 390 days for Israel's (the Northern Kingdom) sins. He was then commanded to lay on his right side for 40 days for Judah's (the Southern Kingdom) sins (Ez. 4:4-8). Judah was exiled by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon for 70 years (Je. 29:10). This leaves 360 years of punishment, which is increased seven-fold (Lv. 26:14-26).

These are 360-day biblical years, not solar years.  
 The remaining 2,520 years of punishment = 2,483.78 solar years

<b>Prophetic Activity</b>	<b>Iteration 1</b>	<b>Iteration 2</b>
Initial Punishment	Judah was exiled in 606 BC	The temple was destroyed in 587 BC
1 <sup>st</sup> 70 Years of Punishment	Cyrus decreed that the Jews could return in 537 BC	Cyrus decreed the Jews could have control of the temple in 518 BC
Remaining 360 Years of Punishment, increased 7-fold (2,520 years)	Israel is restored as a nation in 1948	Israel regained Jerusalem and the Temple Mount in 1967

- II. We have been saying for 2000 years that Jesus' return is imminent. Many have become disillusioned and have stopped watching for His return. We need to remember that God's definition of imminent is not the same as our definition. We have been commanded to watch and we must always be prepared for His return so that we are not caught off guard. However, we're not blind. Jesus said that there would be signs present letting us know that His return is imminent.

Matthew 24:26

Revelation 3:10-11

Mark 13:33-37

Luke 21:34-36

Romans 5:9

2 Peter 2:5-9

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:9

**Harpazó (ἁρπάζω):** to seize, catch up, snatch away (*rapturo* in Latin)

- III. Our eternal destiny begins with our rapture. We have been made holy through Christ's sacrifice, allowing us to commune directly with God and be in His presence. We will be transformed into our glorified bodies, given access to the throne room of God, and receive rewards for how we have lived our lives for Him.

Hebrews 9:22; 10:8-10

1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 6:9-11; 15:51-54

Ephesians 2:8,10

Romans 3:20; 14:11-12

Philippians 3:20-21

Job 19:25-27

Luke 24:37-43

1 John 3:2

2 Corinthians 5:10