

The End Times: The Second Coming And The Kingdom Of God

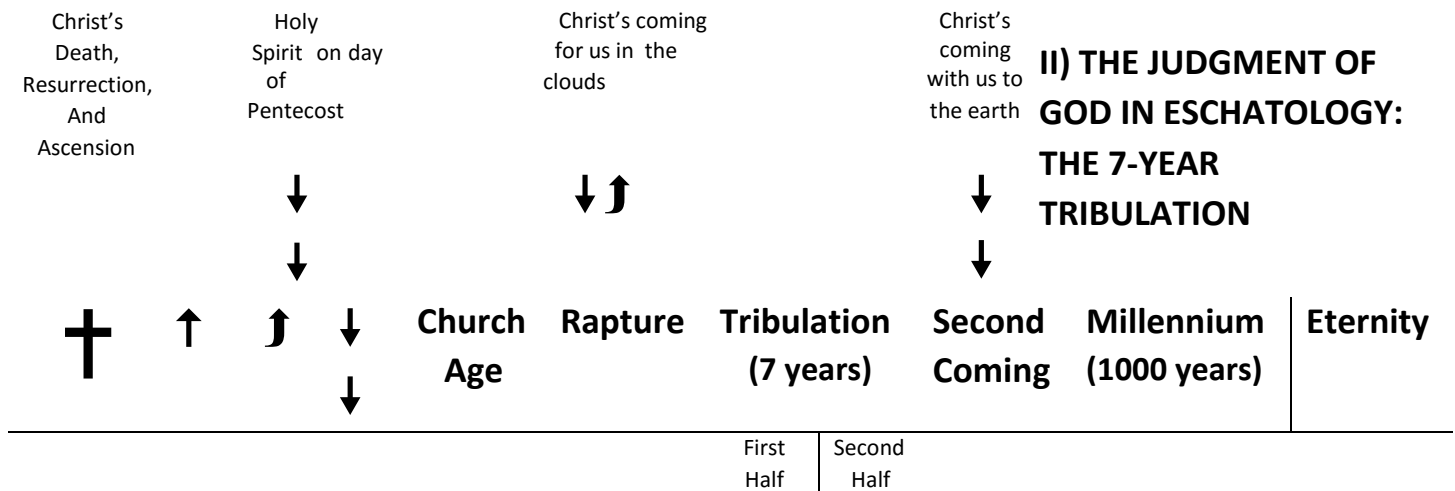
"Life Foundations: Christian Faith Essentials", Part 19

Pastor Vince DiPaola

THE BIG IDEA : THE WORLD, AS WE KNOW IT, ENDS WITH TWO EVENTS THAT WILL USHER IN ETERNITY: THE SECOND COMING AND THE KINGDOM OF

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." (Revelation 11:15b, NIV)

I) REVIEWING THE KEY EVENTS IN ESCHATOLOGY



1) The prediction of the Tribulation (aka "Daniel's 70 'weeks'").

"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him." (Daniel 9:24-27, NIV)

*1st 7 sevens (49 yrs) + 2nd 62 sevens (434 yrs) = 483 years covering from Nehemiah's decree (445 BC, see Neh.2:1ff) to Christ's ministry (32 AD).

*3rd 1 seven (7 yrs) = 7 year future tribulation era and the anti-Christ's reign (see Matt. 24:15-25).

2) The magnitude of the Tribulation.

"For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now— and never to be equaled again." (Matthew 24:21, NIV)

3) The nature of the Tribulation.

(see Revelation 6-19: the 7 seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments)

4) The chronology of the Tribulation.

(see chart)

III) THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST TO EARTH: THE SECOND COMING (O.T. & N.T.)

"A day of the LORD is coming, Jerusalem, when your possessions will be plundered and divided up within your very walls. I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day—a day known only to the LORD—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light. On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name. The whole land, from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem, will become like the Arabah. But Jerusalem will be raised up high from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses, and will remain in its place. It will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure." (Zechariah 14:1-11, NIV)

"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." (Revelation 19:14-15, NIV)

1) Christ returns to the Mount of Olives. (Zechariah 14:4)

2) Christ returns with Christians. (Zechariah 14:5, Revelation 19:14)

3) Christ defeats the armies of the world at Armageddon, judges them. (Zech.14:1-3, Rev.11:14-15)

4) Israel is regathered, a remnant converted, and the nation is delivered. (Zechariah 14:4-5, 8-11)

5) Christ and all believers enjoy the Marriage Supper then Christ rules and reigns. (Zech. 14:9)

IV) THE RULE AND REIGN OF JESUS CHRIST ON EARTH: THE MILLENNIUM

1) The three views of the rule and reign of Jesus Christ:

- a) The Premillennial view: Christ's Second coming is **BEFORE** the 1,000 years.
- b) The Postmillennial view: Christ's Second coming is **AFTER** the 1,000 years.
- c) The Amillennial view: There is **NO** 1,000 year reign of Christ. It will simply be spiritual.

2) The key passages supporting the Premillennial view:

"And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. 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 for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years." (Revelation 20:1-6, NIV)

(see Psalm 89, Isaiah 2:2-5, Isaiah 60-66, Jeremiah 3:14-18, 16:14-18, 23:3-8, 29:10-14, 31:35-40, 33:6-22, Ezekiel 36:16-38, Ezekiel 40-48, Daniel 2:31-44, 7:15-28, 9:24, Amos 9:11-15, Joel 2:26, Matthew 19:28, 23:39, Acts 1:6, 3:21, Romans 9-11, 1 Corinthians 15:24-25)

V) THE END OF THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF JESUS CHRIST: THE ETERNAL STATE

"When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth – Gog and Magog – to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books." (Revelation 20:7-12, NIV)

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or

crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ He said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars— their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.’” (Revelation 21:1-8, NIV)

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- 1) Satan is briefly released to deceive people who had experienced Christ’s rule.
- 2) Satan deceives some people into opposing Christ’s rule, but Christ defeats them.
- 3) Satan is thrown into the lake of fire and unbelievers face the Great White Throne judgment.
- 4) Christ hands the kingdom over to the Father and the new heaven and earth usher in eternity.

VI) OUR RESPONSE TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND ETERNITY

- 1) No matter how much God does for mankind, we possess a REBELLION that only grace can overcome.
- 2) While holy living does not earn heaven, it determines our REWARD in heaven.
“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:21, NIV)

SUMMARY THOUGHT: WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND HOW THE WORLD WILL

END SO WE CAN SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH OTHERS TODAY!

VIII) QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION IN GROUPS OR FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- 1) The Second Coming of Christ to earth is what wraps up the “great and terrible” day of the Lord, the Tribulation, suggesting that it has a positive and a negative aspect to it. In what sense is the Second Coming a negative? For who? In what sense is the Second Coming a positive? For who?
- 2) Explain, in your own words, the meaning of each of the three views on the Millennium. Why does the Pre-millennial view offer the best explanation of the biblical information on the subject? Explain how only the Pre-millennial view offers a distinct future for the nation of Israel.

- 3) Imagine being ruled by Christ directly in the Millennium. Then imagine how heartbreaking it will be to see Satan released and able to deceive some of the children born during the Millennium as Revelation 20 teaches. What does this reveal about human nature (see Romans 3:9-18)? Explain.
- 4) What are some things you learned about the Second Coming and the Millennium in this study? What will you do differently to be devoted to telling others about the Good News of Jesus Christ?

SEQUENCE OF END-TIME EVENTS

Church Raptured ↑	Judgment Seat of Christ		THE TRIBULATION			Return of Christ	MILLENNIUM		ETERNITY
	Events Commencing	Events of First Half	Events at Middle	Events of Second Half	Events Concluding	Events Following	Begin	End	

	Antichrist makes a peace treaty with Israel Israel returns to her land Temple built	Seven Seals 144,000 sealed & preach World evangelization by the 144,000	Russia & Egypt invade Israel Russia destroyed Egypt defeated Satan cast down Antichrist breaks covenant Israel scattered	Seven trumpets Antichrist revealed & reigns Antichrist's image set up False prophet promotes Antichrist Antichrist dies & rises 144,000 martyred 2 witnesses begin Mark of the beast Multitudes martyred Israel persecuted	Seven bowls 2 witnesses slain 2 witnesses resurrected Kings of South, North & East invade Israel Armies at Armageddon Jerusalem ravaged Jews flee Babylon destroyed Christ returns Armies destroyed Beast, false Prophet punished	Israel regathered A remnant of Israel converted National Israel delivered Israel judged Gentiles judged OT saints resurrected Marriage Supper	Christ reigns Satan bound	Satan released Satan rebels Satan cast into lake of fire Wicked resurrected Great White Throne judgment	New heavens & new earth New Jerusalem to earth Christ rules forever
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