

ESCHATOLOGY: DOCTRINE OF LAST THINGS

PART 63

THE TRIBULATION, PART 2

After last week's lesson, I was asked a question about God's dealing with Israel under the stipulations of the New Covenant concerning sin because it seems to be different than His dealing with Gentiles will be in the Messianic Kingdom. I do not have a good answer except to say God can deal with each group as He sees fit. Secondly, we have to remember God's unique relationship with Israel. Yahweh created Israel to be a nation set apart and different from all other nations; therefore, it should not be surprising that He deals with them in different ways, at least in some respects, than he deals with Gentiles according to His will. The biblical covenants were made with Israel and are fulfilled in Israel. Gentiles enjoy the spiritual blessings of the covenants, but those covenants are completely fulfilled with the Israelites. During the Seventieth Week, Israel's transgressions and her iniquity will be rectified. This seems to refer to both personal sins and the sin nature, but how that will actually work is not explained. At the least, the text does indicate something will be different between the Jews and the Gentiles living in the Kingdom concerning sin. Apparently, the sin issue is being dealt with in some way among the Israelites that will differ from the way it will be dealt with among the Gentiles, believing and unbelieving, living in the Messianic Kingdom. This is something we will probably not completely understand until the time comes. We have to remember that, referring to the Israelites, "they will all know Me from the least of them to the greatest of them" (Jer. 31:34) which is a covenant promise that does not apply to the Gentiles. Gentiles will still sin culminating in a final rebellion at the end of the Kingdom (Rev. 20:7-9). That is why the Lord will rule the Messianic Kingdom with a rod of iron (Rev. 12:5). The Lord also said those of us in the body of Christ who will rule with Him in the Kingdom and wield His authority will do so with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:27).

People may object to this saying, "But God does not show partiality" (Acts 10:34) and that is true. God is always righteous in His dealing with every person and nation and He is just in the discipline and grace He bestows. That does not mean, however, that every person and every nation is dealt with in the same way or experiences the same outcome. Different circumstances demand different outcomes. God can deal with specific people and nations in different ways at different times and still be righteous, just, and holy. He can have a program with the Israelites and a program with the Gentiles. That is His prerogative and He will deal righteously and justly with both groups at the same time, but not necessarily in the same way with the same result.

Daniel 9:27 very briefly describes the final week, the Seventieth Week, of human history immediately prior to the beginning of the Messianic Kingdom. This is the period of time we know as the Tribulation.

Daniel 9:27 ²⁷“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

This is a broad reference to the covenant Antichrist will make with Israel that marks the beginning of the Tribulation. Within that week of seven years, Antichrist will break that covenant at the midpoint, commit abominations, and create desolate conditions in the Temple and in Israel at that time. Ultimately, the one who makes desolate will be completely destroyed. This is obviously a very bare bones description of the seven years of Tribulation. We have to look other places to get more details about the Tribulation and even then, we are still getting only a broad outline of the events that will take place.

Premillennial dispensationalists interpret this Scripture from the futurist viewpoint, that is, the events described in this verse have yet to take place and they will take place at some point in the future. Walvoord identified four views that oppose the futurist view.

1. The liberal view that the seventieth seven is fulfilled in events following the Maccabean persecution just as the preceding sixty-nine sevens were. These theologians claim Daniel's book is a forgery and predictive prophecy is not possible.
2. The view of Jewish scholars that the seventieth week is fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. This view spiritualizes the Scriptures rather than acknowledging them as literal truth.
3. The view that the seventieth week of Daniel is an indefinite period beginning with Christ but extending to the end, often held by amillenarians. This is also the result of a spiritualizing hermeneutic.
4. The view that the seventieth seven is seven literal years beginning with the public ministry of Christ and ending about three and a half years after His death. This view denies an interval between the sixty-ninth and seventieth weeks. [John F. Walvoord, *Daniel*, rev. ed., eds. Charles H. Dyer and Philip E. Rawley, 2012, 285]. It works like this. The last week of years started the day Jesus began His public ministry which lasted for three and one-half years. Once He was sacrificed, there was no longer a need for sacrifices and the Jewish religious system was rendered obsolete and done away. What about the second half of the week? They have no specific incident to identify as the end point of the seven weeks; therefore, they make it up. One commentator used the death of Stephen as the end point even though he admitted the date of Stephen's death was unknown. He simply assumed it was about three and one-half years after the cross. Stephen was rejected and condemned by the Jewish leadership in the Sanhedrin which included the High Priest whom this commentator apparently presumed to be the Antichrist. Stephen's death finished Daniel's Seventy Weeks. [Harold R. Eberle, *Systematic Theology for the New Apostolic Reformation: An Exposition in Father-Son Theology*, 653-656. NOTE: This book must not be used for serious Bible study. It is good for research and theological comparison purposes only.]

One obvious fallacy to this claim is the fact that Jewish sacrifices did not stop when Christ died on the cross. Those things didn't stop until A.D. 70 when the Temple was destroyed and the Israelites were scattered around the world.

The identity of the person referred to as "he" is debated. Non-futurists claim it is Christ Jesus, but futurists maintain it is the Antichrist. None of the unconditional covenants God made with Israel had a seven-year time limit on them as this one does. It is also impossible that Jesus would break a covenant; He cannot do that. His Word is solid and He cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Antichrist on the other hand is the henchman for the father of lies (John 8:44) and it would not be unreasonable to suppose is a liar to the core of his being. It is an essential part of his nature and he can do nothing less than lie.

Titus 1:2 ²in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

John 8:44 ⁴⁴"You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

In order for the Antichrist to put a stop to sacrifices and offerings, a Temple of some sort has to be present in Jerusalem by the midpoint of the Tribulation. This was most likely part of the covenant Antichrist made with Israel. Why would the Muslims agree to that? One theory is by that time they had been militarily defeated to the extent they could not object. They might also accept the Antichrist and the covenant he brokered with Israel on theological grounds. Islam is looking for a person to come known as the Mahdi or the Awaited Savior. It could be possible they would acknowledge the Antichrist as their Mahdi and follow his lead in making this peace treaty with Israel. Islam recognizes that this treaty the Mahdi will make with Israel will be a seven-year treaty. [Joel Richardson, *The Islamic Antichrist*, 20, 178.] This is just a theory, but something is going to happen to cause an Israel hating world to accept this peace treaty when it is made between Antichrist and Israel. Satan's primary method of operation is to twist the truth to make it sound biblical but it is a lie. The Islamic system is built around that deception. Isn't it likely that he would twist the biblical truths concerning the end times in order to deceive people into following him rather than God? The Islamic doctrine of the Mahdi is a deception designed to sound biblical but it is not.

What is the purpose of the Tribulation? I can think of four reasons for it:

1. To judge the Gentile nations for their rebellion against God and to separate the sheep (believers) from the goats (unbelievers).
2. To discipline the Israelites for their rebellion against God and to separate the rebels from the remnant.

3. To install the Davidic King on His throne in Jerusalem.
4. To inaugurate the Messianic Kingdom that will last for one-thousand years populating it with the Gentile sheep and the Israelite remnant.

Psalm 2 is a Psalm describing the inauguration of a Davidic King; however, it is also a Psalm that looks to the end of history and the installation of the final Davidic King, the Lord Jesus Christ on His throne ruling the world.

Psalm 2:1–12 ¹Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? ²The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ³“Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!” ⁴He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. ⁵Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, ⁶“But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.” ⁷“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸’Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. ⁹’You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’ ” ¹⁰Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. ¹¹Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling. ¹²Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

This Psalm is referred to three times in the New Testament (Heb. 1:5; Rev. 2:27, 12:5). It is definitely applicable to the Messianic King and His Kingdom, and it is not restricted to the Davidic kings ruling over all Israel and then over Judah prior to the Babylonian captivity. The Lord is obviously the ultimate Davidic King.

The Lord revealed the sheep and goats judgment in the Olivet Discourse which will be held in the valley of Jehoshaphat.

Matthew 25:31–34, 41, 45-46 ³¹“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. ³²“All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; ³³and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. ³⁴“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.... ⁴¹“Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;... ⁴⁵“Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ ⁴⁶“These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Joel 3:2 ²I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My

inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; And they have divided up My land.

This Scripture is referring to the Tribulation period when the Antichrist will be attempting to exterminate the Jewish people. The Gentiles who show their faith by assisting the Jewish people avoid persecution and death at the hands of Antichrist are the sheep who will enter the Kingdom. This is reminiscent of the "righteous Gentiles" who helped some Jewish people escape the death camps in Europe during World War II. At this future time, the danger will be much larger in scope; it will be worldwide. During the Tribulation, the Jews will not be safe any place on the planet and the believing Gentiles who help them escape death will themselves be in serious jeopardy of losing their own lives.

The eternal fire does not have to contain people for eternity. It was specifically made for the devil and his angels (Mt. 25:41). People can avoid that fate by placing their faith in Christ Jesus. It is a choice and no person need go there, but if they choose to go there, they are there for eternity.

Most of churchianity misinterprets this Scripture and views it as a mandate for social justice in this age, but that is not correct. This Scripture is strictly identifying a Tribulation issue. It is a good thing to feed the hungry and provide water to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, visit the sick and care for them, and help those who are in prison, but that is not the point of this Scripture. Those things can be supported using other Scriptures without abusing the context of these Scriptures. There is a larger biblical and theological issue at stake here. People who fail to understand this Scripture fail to understand God's Kingdom program in total as it relates to both Jew and Gentile. People who do not understand God's Kingdom program for history, do not understand the Bible.

The prophet Ezekiel identified the judgment wherein God will separate the rebels from the remnant among the Israelites. This judgment occurs after the nation has been gathered from around the world in unbelief. It is referring to the Tribulation judgments which are the culmination of the curses God imposed on the Israelites for their rebellion. Part of the discipline God imposed on the Jews was the *diaspora* which culminated in the holocaust. Leviticus 26:38-39 and Deuteronomy 28:63-68 particularly describe the persecution of the Jewish people during the *diaspora*.

Ezekiel 20:33–38 ³³"As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. ³⁴"I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; ³⁵and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. ³⁶"As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you," declares the Lord GOD. ³⁷"I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; ³⁸and I

will purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.

The worldwide dispersion of the Jews and the persecution they have suffered during that time have served to prepare the Jewish people to go back to their land in unbelief. World War I led the nations to prepare a land for the Jewish people and World War II prepared the Jewish people to go into the land. Fruchtenbaum commented on this Ezekiel Scripture: "God will first regather His people from all over the world where they have been scattered. That this gathering is not in faith, but in unbelief, is seen from the fact that this gathering is with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out.... This regathering in unbelief occurs after wrath has been poured out on the people. It is no accident that out of the fires of the Nazi Holocaust, the State of Israel was born. Once this gathering has taken place, God will enter into judgment with His people, namely the Tribulation judgments. By means of these judgments the rebels will be purged out. Then there will be a whole new nation, a regenerated nation, that will be able to enter the messianic land of Israel under King Messiah" [Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *Israelology: The Missing Link in Systematic Theology*, 717].

When will the Tribulation begin? At this point in history, only God knows the answer to that question. It will start at a definite point in time and that time begins when Antichrist enters into the seven-year covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:27). The only thing we know for sure is the Rapture of the Church will take place before the Tribulation can occur. How do we know that? The structure of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 5:1-11 reveals that the Rapture is first and only then does the Day of the Lord begin. The Rapture is deliverance from the Day of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 ¹⁰and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 ¹Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, ²that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy [ἀποστασία] comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

The word "apostasy" is interesting. Apostasy, ἀποστασία, means departure. This Scripture does not necessarily refer to a dwindling believing presence in the world; other Scriptures reveal that truth (1 Tim. 4; Gal. 1; 2 Tim. 3, 4). This is also nothing new; believers

can and do leave the faith. They are still saved, but they have become apostate. The history of God's relationship with the world is a history of mankind's rebellion, Jew and Gentile, against God and that happens within the body of Christ as well. This Scripture is referring to the departure of the church before the Day of the Lord which cannot begin until the Antichrist is revealed when he brokers the covenant with Israel. Since only born-again believers are raptured, once that takes place, no one of the faith is left on planet earth which is a total departure.

Dr. Olander put it this way:

The apostasy (total or complete).

1. The church raptured, i.e. the departure (1 Thess. 4:13-18).
2. The complete embodiment of the faith has departed (1 Thess. 5:1-11).
3. Faith in general has departed (not a believer left on the planet).
4. Concerning all the above—the apostasy (complete)! [David Olander, *The Greatness of the Rapture: Th Pre-Day of the Lord Rapture*, 120.]

The apostasy cannot refer to a less than complete departure of the faith in the world because that would still leave some believers on the earth. If there is even one believer alive on planet earth, the Antichrist cannot be revealed. The body of Christ, composed of all born again believers, is completely removed and taken into the presence of the Lord and only then will the man of lawlessness is revealed.

“Once the church has departed there is no ‘faith’ as an embodiment of biblical truth on earth.... Once the church leaves, the entire faith leaves with it. At that moment there is literally no faith on the planet. This has never happened since Adam’s departure (apostasy) from God. There is definitely a connection between the rapture (apostasy) and the departure of faith (apostasy). If the church were still on earth, He [Christ Jesus] find some faith.... In essence, the apostasy (2 Thess. 2:3) has never happened, and it will not happen until the rapture of the church. There will be a total or complete one hundred percent departure from the faith” [David Olander, *The Greatness of the Rapture: The Pre-Day of the Lord Rapture*, 120-121.]

The Tribulation will be a time of extreme judgment unleashed by God on an unbelieving world. People will realize it is God's judgment being imposed on them, but the majority of them will continue in their rebellion. Most people will not place their faith in God even when they know they are being judged for their failure to do so. Essentially, they try to ignore it and hide from it.

Revelation 6:15–16 ¹⁵Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

The world will not be completely destroyed as it was during the Flood, but if the Lord had not put a time limit on the duration of the judgment, it would have been.

Matthew 24:22 ²²“Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

Some theologians deny the Rapture of the church and claim that believers will be sovereignly protected from harm while going through the Tribulation. We have already noted that God's promise is that believers are not destined for wrath and will be rescued from the wrath that is to come. Is there biblical precedent for protecting God's people from His wrath when it is being poured out on unbelievers? Yes. The Israelites were protected from at least some of the plagues, if not all of them, that Yahweh inflicted on the Egyptians. The Bible clearly says the church will be removed before the Tribulation begins; therefore, there will be no one in the body of Christ who will need divine protection to survive the Tribulation. They already received divine protection by being removed from it. There will be people come to faith during the Tribulation, but they are not part of the church. They will be Tribulation believers, but they will not be part of the body of Christ, the church. We also know that many of them do not survive the Tribulation because they will be martyred by Antichrist (Rev. 7:9-17).

Even though the world will not be completely destroyed during the Tribulation, it will be close to it and billions of people will die. At this time, the world's population is estimated to be 7.6 billion. People who claim to be Christians are numbered at around 2 billion. Half of those or more are Roman Catholics who are not born again. Many of the remainder profess Christianity but are also not born again because they belong to a cult such as Mormonism or they have believed a false gospel of faith plus works. Millions of people have placed their faith in the false christ of the Word of Faith movement. The point is, the actual number of believers who will be raptured is quite small in comparison with the total world population. Life will continue on; churchianity will continue on and become part of a one world religion. How much disruption the world will experience at the Rapture is unknown. Many people will be glad to realize born-again Christians have left. We also do not know how this will be explained. We do know that once the Antichrist is revealed, a deluding influence will descend on the world, sent by God, that will help those so inclined to believe the falsehoods of the world system. In context, this delusion targets those who reject the Gospel of the Kingdom. They will be deluded in much the same way Pharaoh was deluded after refusing to let the people go and he subsequently continued to operate with a hardened heart. Perhaps part of the delusion includes an explanation of why millions of Christians have suddenly disappeared from earth. All I'm trying to suggest here is that the world system will come up with some way to explain the Rapture and they will make it sound like a good thing that all those Christians are gone. That explanation will be part of the Antichrist's program to convince people to follow Him and reject God.

2 Thessalonians 2:8–12 ⁸Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; ⁹*that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, ¹⁰and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. ¹¹For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, ¹²in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

The Antichrist and the False Prophet will be able to perform with power signs and false wonders. These will be real miracles. What makes them false is that they will be authenticating Satan and Antichrist rather than God. Only God, His message, and His messenger are authenticated by true signs, miracles, and wonders.

What will the Tribulation look like? We don't have a lot of information, but what we have is shocking in the extent of the destruction the earth and mankind will experience when it happens.

Jesus warned of false christs, worldwide wars, famines and earthquakes (Mt. 24:4-8). World Wars I and II were not truly worldwide wars, but the wars that occur during the Tribulation will truly be worldwide as the Antichrist seeks to dominate the planet and impose his satanic system of government, commerce, and religion on the world. In the final half of the Tribulation, known as the Great Tribulation, the Jews will experience another Holocaust as Antichrist tries to exterminate the Jews and prevent the return of Messiah (Mt. 24:9-13).

The gospel message that will be preached once again will be a reoffer of the Kingdom of God that was rejected when the Lord came at the First Advent.

Matthew 24:14 ¹⁴“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

At the midpoint of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will desecrate the Temple and believing Jews in Judah will be told to flee to safety.

Matthew 24:15–16 ¹⁵“Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet [Dan. 9:27, 11:31], standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

Revelation 12:6 ⁶Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

The believing Jews who flee Judah are thought by many people to go to Petra which is a naturally defensive valley fortress in the southern wilderness of Jordan. This will be a

place where Yahweh will provide food and water for the Remnant and protect them from Antichrist. A significant part of the Tribulation Remnant will flee to Petra, or Bozrah, where they will be supernaturally protected during the Great Tribulation.

Isaiah 33:16 ¹⁶He will dwell on the heights, His refuge will be the impregnable rock; His bread will be given *him*, His water will be sure.

We also know that Edom, modern Jordan, will be protected from the depredations of Antichrist and that includes Petra.

Daniel 11:41 ⁴¹“He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many *countries* will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon.

Micah identified the place of refuge as Bozrah which was the ancient name of the city now known as Petra.

Micah 2:12 ¹²“I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold [בִּצְרָה]; Like a flock in the midst of its pasture They will be noisy with men.

During the Tribulation, two-thirds of the world's Jewish population will be slain. These are the unbelieving Jewish people. The Remnant of Israel will be saved to enter the Kingdom and this group constitutes the “all Israel” that will be saved (Rom. 11:26).

Zechariah 13:7–9 ⁷“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, And against the man, My Associate,” Declares the LORD of hosts. “Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; And I will turn My hand against the little ones. ⁸“It will come about in all the land,” Declares the LORD, “That two parts in it will be cut off *and* perish; But the third will be left in it. ⁹“And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”

The judgements of the Tribulation are identified in the book of Revelation beginning with the seal judgments.

1. Rider on the white horse revealing the Antichrist.
2. Rider on the red horse revealing war.
3. Rider on the black horse revealing famine.
4. Rider on the pale green horse revealing Hades and death resulting from war, famine, pestilence, and the wild beasts of the earth with authority over one-fourth of the earth to kill and destroy.
5. Martyrdom for believers at the hands of the earth dwellers.
6. Cosmic disturbances, a black moon and blood red moon, meteors, and earthquakes that moved mountains and islands.

7. Announces the seven trumpet judgments.

The seven trumpet judgments follow the seal judgments.

1. Hail and fire mixed with blood poured on the earth. One-third of the earth burns up; one-third of the trees burn up; and all the grass burns up.
2. A large burning object falls from the heavens into the sea and one-third of the sea turns to blood. One-third of the sea life is killed and one-third of the seagoing ships are destroyed.
3. A great, fiery star, Wormwood, falls from heaven onto one-third of the rivers and springs poisoning them.
4. The sun, the moon, and the stars are darkened by one-third. Day and night are darkened by one-third.
5. A figure fell from heaven to open the pit and release locusts [demons] who were given the power to torment unbelievers for five months with painful scorpion like stings. People will want to die but will be unable to do so.
6. The Euphrates River dries up to allow a two-hundred-million strong army of demons from the East to move west towards Israel. One-third of mankind will be killed.
7. Announces the destruction of the world system and the establishment of the Kingdom.

The seven bowl judgments follow the trumpet judgements.

1. A painful, malignant sore torments people who worship the Antichrist.
2. The sea will be turned into blood and all living creatures in it will die.
3. The rivers and springs will be turned into blood.
4. The sun becomes super-heated and burns people with its heat.
5. The Antichrist's kingdom will become dark and people will in intense pain.
6. The Euphrates River will be dried up to make a way for the kings of the East.
7. Jerusalem is split into three parts by an earthquake and the cities of the nations fall. The Islands and the mountains will be no more. A hail storm with one-hundred-pound hailstones will fall on mankind.

Ultimately, the governmental or political, religious, and economic satanic world system will be destroyed during the Tribulation. At the end, Antichrist will be making one final push to destroy the Israelites. They will cry out to God and the Messiah will come back, slay the world's armed forces, and seize the Antichrist and False Prophet who will be committed to their eternal fate in the lake of fire.

Revelation 19:20–21 ²⁰And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. ²¹And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

