

FACING THE FUTURE

— A JOURNEY THROUGH BIBLE PROPHECY —



1. THE RAPTURE & THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

THE RAPTURE

- The Rapture is the next event on God's calendar. Nothing else needs to happen before the Rapture (which means 'snatching away') occurs.
- Just as He promised, Jesus Christ will leave Heaven and come to take those who believe in Him out of this world¹.
- In an instant, the bodies of all dead Christians will be raised and the bodies of all living Christians will be changed and they will all go to meet Christ in the air, to then be with Him forever².
- Those who go will be delivered away from the wrath of God which will subsequently be poured out on earth during the Tribulation³.
- However, those who are not believers will be left behind to face it. Those who have rejected the Gospel outright before the Rapture will not have further opportunity to be saved after the Rapture⁴.

THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

- Immediately after the Rapture, Christians will appear at the Judgement Seat of Christ. This will not involve punishment for their sins, but rather an assessment of their Christian service⁵.
- The Lord Jesus Christ Himself will reveal, review and reward all that they have done for God⁶.
- Rewards will include crowns⁷, which will then be cast at Christ's feet in worship⁸, and positions of responsibility in Christ's Millennial Kingdom.

Bible References:

¹ John 14:3. ² 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. ³ 1 Thessalonians 1:10.

⁴ 2 Thessalonians 2:11 & 2 Corinthians 6:2. ⁵ 2 Corinthians 5:10.

⁶ 1 Corinthians 3:12-15. ⁷ 2 Timothy 4:8, James 1:12, 1 Peter 5:4. ⁸ Revelation 4:10-11.

SESSION 1: QUESTIONS

1. Why should we be interested in what the Bible has to say about the future?

2. How can we be so sure Christ will come again?

3. If you knew that the rapture was going to take place this Friday at 7pm what would you do between now and then?

4. How can we be prepared for the rapture?

2. THE TRIBULATION & THE RETURN OF CHRIST TO EARTH

THE TRIBULATION

- Following the rapture a political leader will rise to prominence, promising to bring stability to a world in turmoil. He will appear to be a saviour, but will actually be the Antichrist¹.
- He will work alongside a religious leader, described as the False Prophet, to strike a peace deal in the Middle East². This will set the clock ticking on 7 years of unprecedented catastrophe on earth, when at least half of the world's population will die through natural disasters, disease and war³.
- Midway through the 7 years, the Antichrist will assert himself as a god in the Temple in Jerusalem⁴. People will be forced to receive the mark of the Beast (666) in order to buy and sell⁵.
- God will send 2 special witnesses and the Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached⁶. 144,000 Jews, along with many others, will be saved⁷.

THE RETURN OF CHRIST TO EARTH

- Events will focus increasingly on Jerusalem towards the end of the Tribulation. Eventually, the world's armies will converge on Israel⁸.
- At this point Christ will return to earth (the Mount of Olives initially) to rescue His people and defeat their enemies at the battle of Armageddon⁹.
- People who are still alive will be divided into two groups. Those who have believed will enter into Christ's Millennial Kingdom, and those who refused to believe will be sent to Hell¹⁰.
- The bodies of believers from Old Testament times, along with those of the martyrs from the Tribulation period, will be raised to life again¹¹.
- The Antichrist and False Prophet will be condemned to the Lake of Fire forever¹² and Satan will be consigned to the Bottomless Pit for 1,000 years¹³.

Bible References:

¹ Revelation 13:1-8. ² Daniel 9:27. ³ Revelation 6, 8, 9, 11, 16. ⁴ 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4.

⁵ Revelation 13:14-18. ⁶ Revelation 11:3-12. ⁷ Revelation 7.

⁸ Zechariah 14:2 & Revelation 16:12. ⁹ Revelation 16:16 & 19:11-21.

¹⁰ Matthew 25:31-46. ¹¹ Revelation 20:4-6. ¹² Revelation 19:20. ¹³ Revelation 20:1-3.

SESSION 2: QUESTIONS

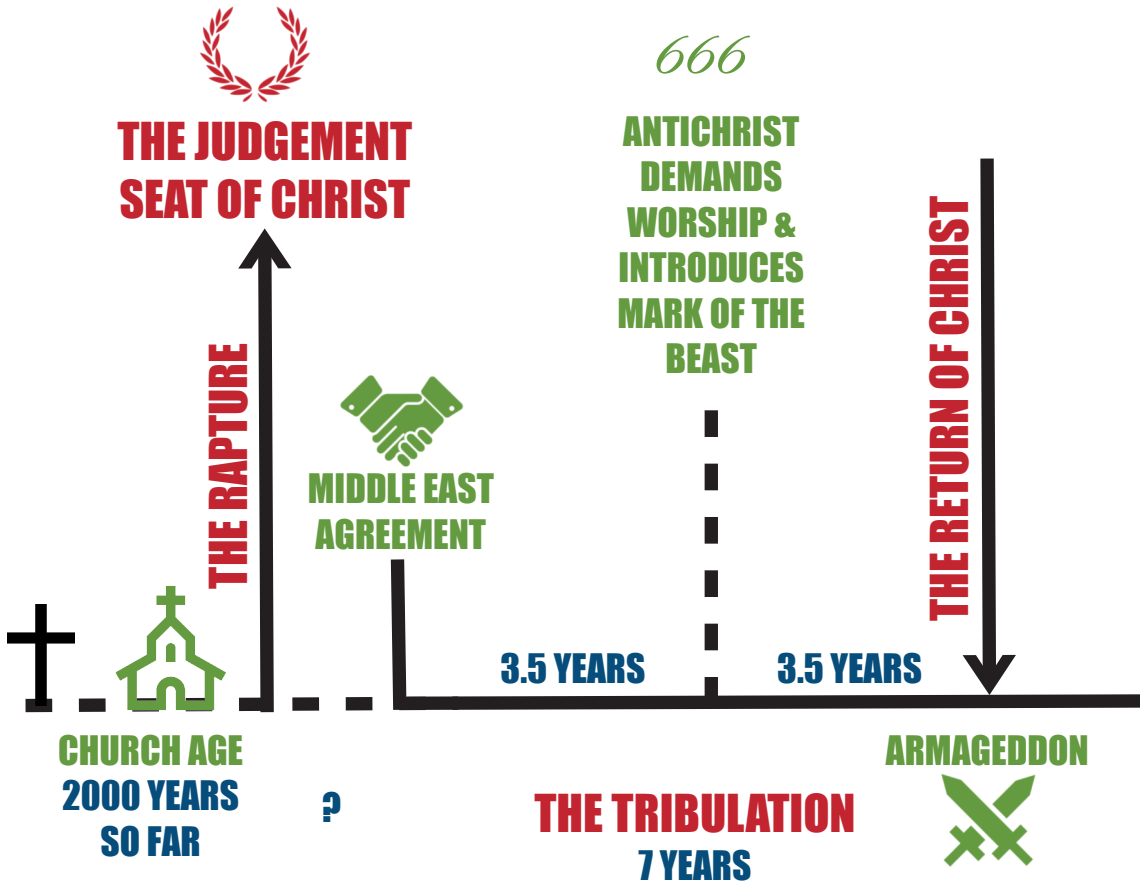
1. Why do you think the world at large will be deceived by the Antichrist?

2. What do you think it would be like to live through the tribulation?

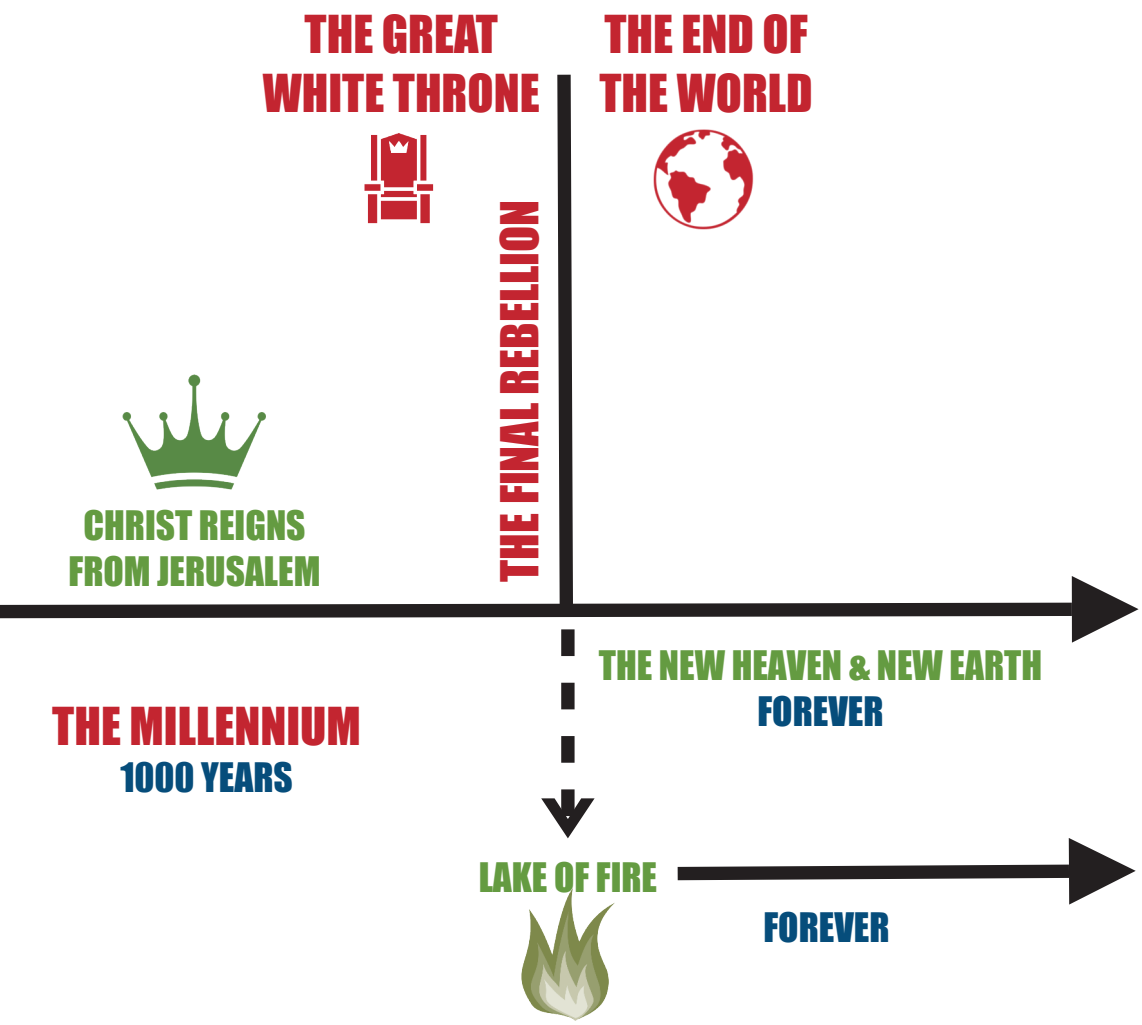
3. Many people will be saved during the tribulation. On what basis are people saved irrespective of the time period they live in?

4. How does Christ's second coming differ from His first coming to earth 2,000 years ago?

GOD'S PROGRAMME



OF PROPHECY



3. THE MILLENNIUM & THE FINAL REBELLION

THE MILLENNIUM

- Once Satan has been temporarily removed from influencing the world's population, the Lord Jesus Christ will establish His Kingdom, ruling for 1,000 years upon the earth¹.
- His administrative capital will be Jerusalem where the Temple will be rebuilt².
- Believers from the church age will be given positions of responsibility in the Millennial Kingdom³ and will reign with Christ⁴.
- The Jews will finally occupy the land which God promised to them through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob several thousand years ago⁵.
- In fulfilment of many Old Testament prophecies it will be a time of unparalleled peace and prosperity on earth⁶.
- There will be significant changes for animals⁷ and plants⁸, as well as to environmental conditions and world geography⁹.

THE FINAL REBELLION

- People who are born during the Millennium will still have a sinful nature and some of them will be inwardly opposed to Christ whilst outwardly complying with the rules of His Kingdom.
- At the end of the 1,000 years Satan will be released from the Bottomless Pit and will immediately assemble an army of rebels from across the earth to lead one final uprising against God¹⁰.
- The rebellion will be quickly dealt with. Fire will come down from Heaven, Christ's enemies will be defeated and Satan will then be cast into the Lake of Fire forever¹¹.

Bible References:

¹ Revelation 20:2-7. ² Isaiah 2:2-4, Ezekiel 40-43. ³ Luke 19:13-26 & Matthew 25:14-30.

⁴ 2 Timothy 2:12. ⁵ Genesis 15:18-21, 26:3, 28:13 & Exodus 23:31.

⁶ Isaiah 9:6-7 & 32:1,17-18. ⁷ Isaiah 11:6-9. ⁸ Isaiah 35:1.

⁹ Ezekiel 47:8-9 & Zechariah 14:4. ¹⁰ Revelation 20:7-8. ¹¹ Revelation 20:9-10.

SESSION 3: QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think world peace seems to be such an impossibility today?

2. What will be the key to world peace during the Millennium?

3. Even in the perfect conditions of the Millennium some people will still rebel against God. What does this tell us about mankind?

4. Why is it important for us to acknowledge and accept Christ's authority in our lives today?

4. THE END OF THE WORLD & THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

THE END OF THE WORLD

- At the command of God, the universe will undergo a dramatic transformation. The earth will dissolve in an intense heat and with a great noise¹. God will bring a new heaven and a new earth into being². This will include the 'New Jerusalem' which will come down from Heaven³.
- Believers from all ages of history will enjoy this state of paradise forever. They will enjoy God's presence, engage in God's worship, and be employed in God's service⁴. There will be no tears, death, sorrow, or pain⁵.

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

- Coinciding with the end of the world will be a solemn day of judgement for everyone who has ever died without God's forgiveness. Their bodies will be raised and sentencing will take place at the Great White Throne⁶. The Lord Jesus Christ will be the Judge⁷.
- Each individual will be judged according to their sins which God has recorded. All will be found guilty of breaking God's law⁸. The Book of Life (the register of those who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and been saved) will be checked and, because their names will not be found in it, they will be cast into the Lake of Fire⁹.
- The Lake of Fire is the permanent destination for those who have never received God's forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ. It is a place of eternal separation from God and endless pain and punishment for sin¹⁰.
- Three times over in the final chapter of the Bible, the Lord Jesus Christ states that He is coming very soon¹¹. The future events prophesied in the Bible are just around the corner and so we must prepare accordingly.

Bible References:

¹ 2 Peter 3:10-12. ² 2 Peter 3:13 & Revelation 21:1. ³ Revelation 21:2,10-27.

⁴ Revelation 21:3 & 22:3. ⁵ Revelation 21:4. ⁶ Revelation 20:11. ⁷ John 5:22 & Acts 17:31

⁸ Romans 3:23. ⁹ Revelation 20:12-15. ¹⁰ Revelation 20:10. ¹¹ Revelation 22:7, 12, 20.

SESSION 4: QUESTIONS

- 1. What do you think would be the best thing about being in Heaven?**
- 2. How would you feel about having all your sins brought up on Judgement Day? How can this be avoided?**
- 3. Read Revelation chapter 22, verses 7, 12 and 20, written 2,000 years ago. What is the significance of them?**
- 4. Have you found the study of future events comforting or concerning?**

FACING THE FUTURE

This booklet summarises the main events in God's programme for the future, as prophesied in the Bible.

In this fascinating journey into the future, amongst other things, you will encounter:

- The Rapture & the Judgement Seat of Christ
- The Tribulation & the Return of Christ to Earth
- The Millennium & the Final Rebellion
- The End of the World & the Great White Throne

Questions are also included to provoke thought and facilitate discussion on how these future events impact upon us today.

