

END TIME EVENTS

There is coming a time in the future when all true believers in Christ will be taken to heaven in an instant (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-54). When these millions disappear there will be many disasters and be much confusion on the earth. Amidst all this a man will arise who will become the leader of ten nations in Western Europe. He will toss out three nations of this powerful confederacy and replace them with three other nations in the area. This peacemaker is called "the antichrist" and many other names in the Bible.

His first move is to make a peace treaty with Israel, which will last for seven years. This period is known as "the tribulation." The purpose of this period is to test people, to see whether they will believe in Jesus Christ as their savior or in this human miracle-worker. If someone is already trusting in Christ to be his savior for his sins, there is no need for him to be tested in this way.

When the treaty is signed 144,000 Jews, who will be converted to Christianity during the tribulation, will begin to tell people in every nation that they should believe in Jesus, and not listen to this world leader.

The antichrist will be a genius who will conquer people with peace, safety, know-how, miracles, and other schemes. Soon after his rise to power war will break out between Russia and Israel. In Ezekiel 38 this battle is described as between Rosh and Israel; Rosh being the ancient name for Russia. The antichrist and his nations will come to the rescue and God will see to it that Russia is defeated. But this attack starts another world war, one in which men will kill one another with a great sword, probably nuclear bombs.

As a result one fourth of the world's population will die (Revelation 6:8) and one third of the earth will be burned up (Revelation 8:7). Terrible famine, disease, and a contaminated water supply will accompany this war. Animals will go wild and kill people too. Religious persecution of converted Christians will grow and grow until they are put to death for their beliefs (Revelation 6:9).

Who would kill people for receiving Christ as savior? A false religious system will become worldwide and even reign over the nations of the earth (Revelation 17). By this time the Jews will have built a new temple in Jerusalem, and two witnesses for God, Moses and Elijah, will begin to prophesy and warn people not to follow the antichrist. Sometime before the middle of the tribulation, which lasts for seven years, the antichrist is wounded to death by the sword (Zechariah 11:17). His fatal wound, however, will be healed and the whole earth will follow after him (Revelation 13:3).

All hell will literally be let loose on the earth. Demons will torment men for five months, and their sting will be so painful that men will seek to die (Rev. 9:1-11).

Satan will be thrown to the earth as well and will display great wrath (Revelation 12:9-12). He will motivate an army of two hundred million soldiers to kill one third of the remaining population (Revelation 9:13-19).

The risen antichrist will be in full power during the last three and one-half years. His ten European nations will destroy the false religious system, and his friend, called the false prophet, will demand that every human being worship him as god. This worship will involve receiving a mark on the right hand or on the forehead (Revelation 13:11-18). The world ruler will move to Jerusalem and break his peace treaty with Israel. He will be allowed to kill Moses and Elijah (Revelation 11:3-7), but they will rise from the dead while people are looking on, and they will go to heaven. In that hour there will be a great earthquake and seven thousand people will be killed.

This great witness of their resurrection will be supported by an angel which will fly over the earth, telling people of the good news of Jesus Christ (Revelation 14:6). Another angel will warn people not to take the mark on their right hand or forehead (Revelation 14:9-11).

The last part of the tribulation period will be extremely severe! Jesus said that unless those days would come to an end, no one would be alive (Matthew 24:21-22). Specific judgments during this period include: a malignant sore upon all unbelieving people; every living thing in the sea dies; rivers and spring waters become undrinkable; and the sun will burn men with fierce heat.

These judgments are followed by the battle of Armageddon, the final and most destructive war in history. The antichrist and false prophet deceive the kings of the whole world, and gather them together for the war (Revelation 16:13-14). When people from every nation of the world are present, the greatest earthquake in man's history will occur. Cities of the nations will fall. Every island will flee away, mountains are destroyed, and one hundred pound hailstones will fall from the sky.

All the nations turn their attention to Jerusalem. They begin to plunder the houses, ravish the women, and just as half the city is taken captive, heaven opens and Jesus returns to earth on a white horse (Revelation 19:11). True believers will be on white horses following Him. The sign of Jesus appears in the sky and every human eye will see Him coming on the clouds of heaven. Then the Lord will go forth and fight against the nations and overcome them. At the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord.

Jesus' feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which causes a great earthquake. He slays the antichrist, the false prophet, and binds Satan in a pit for 1,000 years. Jesus then judges everyone who remains alive. Those who rejected the testimony of God's 144,000 witnesses are cast into hell, while those who helped these Jews will be saved and enter the kingdom on earth (Matthew 25:31-46).

The kingdom is ready to begin now, lasting for 1,000 years. Jesus will reign on Mount Zion in Jerusalem where He will establish world peace. Men will no longer war and animals will become friendly toward one another. The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord and healing will come to all nations. The eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. The lame will also leap for joy. Jesus will heal the land as the wilderness and desert will blossom and have springs of water. The whole earth will be a Garden of Eden. People will build their own houses and eat their own food. If any problems or disputes arise, Jesus will solve them immediately with perfect justice (Isaiah 65:21-24).

Children will be born during the kingdom, given birth by those who survived the tribulation in their mortal bodies. They will live at least 100 years and be given a chance to accept Christ as Savior. Amazingly enough, even with near perfect conditions, millions will still reject Christ. When the 1,000 years are completed Satan is released and gathers together all the unbelievers to war against Jesus. All of them, including Satan, are consumed by fire; the people being taken to a great white throne and sentenced to everlasting punishment.

God creates a new heaven and a new earth, which is filled with His glory. A state of perfection will then be had by all true believers in Christ. There will be no more tears or death or mourning or crying or pain, because the first things have passed away (Revelation 21:3-4). God makes all things new and exciting and beautiful and wonderful forever and ever. Only one question remains, "Will you be there?"