

PART FIVE

The Tribulation Events

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Chapter Sixteen

Order of Events

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty’”

Revelation 1:8

Before the Tribulation, because many individuals would not accept the humiliation and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, Ruler of All The Universe, as payment for their sins, they must go through the Tribulation.

The Tribulation judgements, for those going through it, climax the agony of mankind. If when going through it they don't repent, they must die not once, but twice, in payment of their own sins.¹ But even through the Tribulation, God wants people to see their need for His leadership and to repent.

Judgements come in the form of man's inhumanity to man; plagues, and destruction. Finally, Jesus Christ, Lord of All the Universe, and His Saints return to earth in power and great glory, and physically take the earth away from Antichrist and Satan.

The Time frame

The time reference, which I believe God has revealed, is shown across the top of the Tribulation Chart, Appendix B. The long vertical line starting at the top within the space marked "20XX", represents the beginning of the prophetic seven year tribulation period. As we have previously discussed, 20XX may turn out to be 2009.

The Rapture of Christ's church and the appearance of a potent world leader, who negotiates a seven year mideast peace treaty, marks that significant year. In the three years follow-

ing the treaty signing, the new potent world leader becomes world dictator (Antichrist).

At the middle of the Tribulation, after 3-1/2 years, the Antichrist attacks Israel, stops the sacrifices (abolition of sacrifices) in their temple and begins to oppress all who do not swear allegiance to him. The long vertical line under the space marked "20YY" depicts this significant point in Tribulation history. The Bible book of Daniel says there will be 1290 days from the abolition of sacrifices to the Abomination of Desolation.²

The Abomination of Desolation refers to when Antichrist declares himself god and sits in the Most Holy Place of the Jewish Temple. It is an act of desecration so vile the temple cannot be used for worship until cleansed by Jesus Christ at His coming.

Daniel 12 also states there will be 1335 days from the abolition of sacrifices to a "blessed day". I suggest the "blessed day" is the day of the Second Coming. Titus 2:13 equates a "blessed hope" with the Second Coming. Certainly, the Second Coming is a blessed day! The Tribulation ends in 20ZZ with the second coming of Jesus Christ.

You will notice on the chart the time scale changes the year before "20ZZ". There seems to be many activities going on near the Tribulation end. So for clarity, I expanded the chart scale. To the left of the "scale change" line, one inch equals six months but to the right of the line, one inch equals one month.

1. The Second Death is one which people may suffer in the lake of fire after judgement (Rev.20:11-15).

2. Daniel 12:11

The Tribulation Order

This section of the chart shows the order in which the Tribulation events occur. In the center of the left margin, by the big arrow, the order-of-events line extends across the middle. There we see the words: seals, trumpets and vials. These represent three sets of God's judgements upon men and the earth.

Looking across, we see the seven seals opened in seven years; one seal each year. We notice the last year, the Seventh Seal, consists of seven trumpets.

Following along the chart, The first four trumpets occur in the first four months (estimated). The Fifth Trumpet is five months long.³ Given these estimates, the Sixth Trumpet would be about five weeks long, and the Seventh Trumpet six weeks long. Just as the Trumpets came from the Seventh Seal, the vials come out of the Seventh Trumpet.

The seventh and last vial rains 100 pound hailstones on the earth. Because men would not accept Jesus' death as payment for their sins, they must pay the price themselves. At the white throne judgement, they will be separated from God forever.

When we read of seals, trumpets and vials, in the book of Revelation, we can discern that the seals are evil, cruel deeds done man against his fellow man. Countries are invaded, war and famine follow. Many die from the cruel world dictator and his regime. But the trumpets are worse!

They are judgements against the earth as well as mankind. The cruelties, spilled blood, scorched earth, polluted waters provide the ultimate evidence that man can never govern himself in peace. Jesus, during the Millennium, will prove that He alone can rule with justice, righteousness and peace.

The Vial judgements are the worst of all. God uses them to destroy the remaining wicked people who shake their fist in God's face and curse Him.

The Seals, Trumpets and Vials form a framework or context to which we can relate the other scriptural passages on this topic. We know the interpretation is correct when all the passages fit together with no contradictions.

There is a second set of passages which fit

together. These passages, summed on the next page, offer skeletal information which any prophetic view must consider. And the prophetic scheme which these passages imply must also fit the Seals, Trumpets, and Vials outline.

A Closer Look at the Tribulation Order

For many years various writers have attempted to discover the order of tribulation events. As you remember, there are seven seals, seven trumpets and seven vials (bowls of wrath) mentioned in the book of Revelation. How do they relate to the seven years of time? Some have said all the seals are in the first 3-1/2 years, and all the trumpets and bowls in the last 3-1/2 years. Many have guessed but how can we know?

The Bible always interprets itself; that is the rule. For we have been given everything pertaining to life and godliness.⁴ I believe that the tribulation order of events is no exception. However, the answer is not obvious but is somewhat obscured in a "type" picture.

In the book of Joshua, Chapter Six, we read one of only two Biblical passages dealing with a series of sevens. There we view the incredible scene where the people march around the city of Jericho once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day. Next comes God's wrath through felling the walls and killing the people inside. This happens in one week of days with some rather eccentric marching orders.

Likewise in John's Revelation, we see seven seals, and from the seventh seal, emerge seven trumpets. From the seventh trumpet comes God's wrath by killing the people.

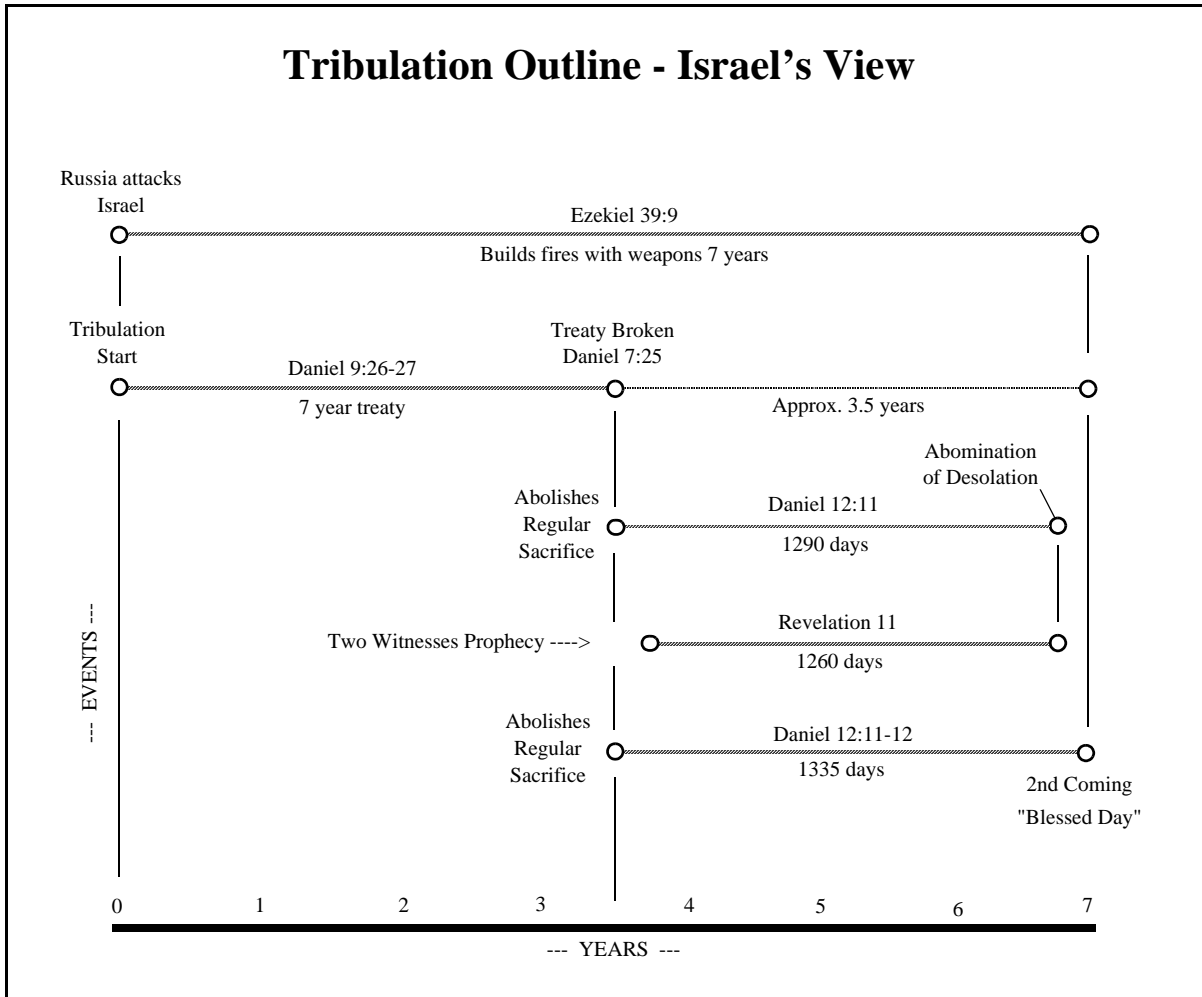
The two pictures come into better focus when we compare the two time periods. The Revelation passage reflects a seven year period also known as "Daniel's 70th week" (see Daniel 9:24-27). This is a period of one week of years; that is, seven years. Just as there are seven days in a normal week, in Daniel's figurative language, we discern that a "week" is seven years.⁵ Nearly all premillennial (2nd Coming occurs before the millennium) scholars agree that Daniel's 70th week refers to a future seven year period concluded by the second coming of Jesus.

3. Revelation 9:5

4. II Peter 1:3

5. "The Coming Prince, p.67.

Tribulation Outline - Israel's View



So it is commonly accepted that the Tribulation period is a "week of years" or seven years long.

By comparing the seven days of the actual week of the Jericho battle to the seven figurative days of Daniel's 70th Week, we observe that one of the Jericho battle days is liken to one day of Daniel's 70th Week. And we know one symbolic day of Daniel's 70th week is equal to one year of actual Tribulation time; therefore, one day of Joshua's week figuratively equals one year of Tribulation time. Thus we can say, one seal will be one year long, and the trumpets will all be in the seventh year.

Can you see the likeness of the two periods? These conclusions, taken by themselves, would seem speculative if it were not for the larger "type" picture of which the sets of seven are a small part.

Exodus to Jericho Like First to Second Coming

Whereas the type of Isaac is characterized by the promise of redemption, the type of the Exodus to Jericho is characterized by judgement. At the Exodus came judgement of Egypt; during the wilderness wanderings came judgement of unbelieving Israel, and after crossing Jordan came judgement of the Canaanites.

Historical events from the Exodus through the conquest of Jericho typify events occurring from the first coming to the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul, the Apostle, in I Corinthians 10:1-11, makes a comparison between events of the wilderness wanderings and events of Christ's life. Thus he establishes the validity of the type.

Verse _____ Synopsis

- vs. 1 Relates how the fathers were "under the cloud" and "passed through the sea".
- vs. 2 Compares baptism to being under the cloud and passing through the Red Sea.
- vs. 3 Compares the manna to the Word of God.
- vs. 4 Compares the rock fountain to Christ, "the Rock" from which "living water" flows.⁶
- vs. 5 God judged their unbelief.
- vs. 6 "Now these things happened as examples for us, ..." that we should not do evil.
- vs. 7-10 Outlines temptations to avoid.
- vs. 11 "These things" (events in the life of Israel) are an example for us, written for our instruction upon whom the *ends of the ages have come* (the period from the first to second coming).

There is no doubt that the wilderness wanderings to Jericho events typify the christian's spiritual life. As we just saw, baptism is compared to passing through the Red Sea. But baptism also compares to the

burial and resurrection of Jesus.⁷

Similarly, the sacrifice of the passover lamb typifies the cross where God judges sin. Thus, through the I Corinthians 10 passage, the Exodus/Canaan history *and* the 1st to 2nd coming of Jesus history have a connection. On this basis, we can compare the events of the two histories. But the Book of Hebrews also suggests a similar connection.

Chapters 3:7-4:10 compare the "rest" of Canaan to the "rest" of trusting God. Those verses also compare the "rest" of trusting God to Him resting on the seventh day of creation. They also allude that as long as "today" is a valid day of salvation then there is also a future rest for the people of God. This "rest" is consistent with the Millennium concept of peace and rest which we believe comes after the 2nd Coming.

Hebrews 3:17-18 defines Canaan as a place of rest.

"And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

"And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?"

Here, I see the promised land of Canaan as a place of rest for the obedient but the disobedient may not enter. Joshua and Caleb

6. John 4:14

7. Romans 6:3-5; I Peter 3:21

" TYPE " COMPARISONS

Figure Six

HISTORICAL	SPIRITUAL	PROPHETIC
Moses spiritually battles Pharaoh. Exodus 7-11	Conviction of sin and repentance in the believer.	Jesus spiritually battles Satan. Matthew 4
Passover lamb as atonement for sin. Exodus 12:21	Confession of sin; acceptance of Jesus as Savior.	The blood of Jesus as atonement for sin. I Corinthians 5:7
Israel crosses Red Sea. Exodus 14:22	Baptism. Romans 6:3-5, I Corinthians 10:2	Burial and Resurrection. I Peter 3:21

" TYPE " COMPARISON S (cont'd)

HISTORICAL	SPIRITUAL	PROPHETIC
Law given 50 days after Pass-over. Exodus 12:13 with Exodus 19:1, 16	Holy Spirit indwells the believer.	Holy Spirit given 50 days after the Cross (Penticost). Acts 2:1, Leviticus 23:16
Joshua and Caleb have faith to enter the land. Numbers 14:6-11	Acceptance of Jesus as Lord (boss) of our life.	Christ's true church lives by faith. Hebrews 10:38
Unbelieving Israel wanders 40 years and dies. Numbers 32:13	Spiritual death occurs if Jesus is not Lord (boss). Romans 8:6	Unbelieving Israel rejects Jesus 40 years; nation dies in 70 A.D. Luke 19:43-44
Joshua and Caleb cross to their inheritance. Joshua 1:1-5 Numbers 14:24	Christian enters believers rest. Hebrews 3:12-4:11	Raptured true Church receives rewards in Heaven. Ephesians 1:11-14
Joshua and Caleb cross Jordan about 2000 cubits behind the Ark. Joshua 3:4	Spiritual victory certainly follows the man of faith in due time.	Rapture of the Church follows about 2000 years behind Jesus. (See Chapter Four)
Joshua meets the Captain of the Lord's host and He leads the Jericho campaign. Joshua 5:13-15	The believer meets Jesus and by faith He leads us our whole life.	The Church meets Jesus in the air, and thus we will ever be with the Lord. I Thessalonians 4:17
Young nation of Israel crosses Jordan and witnesses God part the waters thereby showing God is with them. Joshua 3:13	A new believer is baptized and witnesses God do a miracle in response to faith; showing God is with the new believer.	Young nation of Israel sees CIS and Arab armies destroyed when they cross Jordan thereby showing God is with them. Ezekiel 38-39

entered but everyone else died, including Moses.

Then comes the comparison of the Canaan rest to the "rest" of trusting God in this christian life; verses 4:2 to 4:3a.

"For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

"For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, 'As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter my rest,'"

Thus, New Testament believers enter a spiritual rest just as Joshua and Caleb did. And

unbelievers now do not enter this spiritual rest just as unbelieving Israel did not enter Canaans rest.

Now, the following verses speak of the believers rest and Canaan's rest as similar to God's resting on the seventh day of creation.

4 "For He has thus said somewhere concerning the seventh day, 'And God rested on the seventh day from all His works';

5 "and again in this passage, 'They shall not enter my rest.'

6 "Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of dis-

" TYPE " COMPARISONS (cont'd)

HISTORICAL	SPIRITUAL	PROPHETIC
Memorial stones in Jordan river to commemorate miracle crossing. Josh.4:9	God's miracle in believers life is a memorial to being saved.	Israel rebuilds Temple to commemorate victory after CIS/Arab invasion.
12 Gilgal memorial stones a witness to sons. Joshua 4:21-24	The New believers changed life witnesses to all who see.	144,000 Jews witness to the world. Revelation 7, 14
Young Israel is set apart by circumcision. Joshua 5:4-8 with Genesis 17:1-14	Believers are set apart by works of faith. Romans 4:11	Young Israel discovers Jesus is really Messiah. Romans 11:25-27
Two spies witness to Rahab. Joshua 2:1-20	Spirit and water witness to the believer. I John 5:6-8	Two Tribulation witnesses preach. Revelaton 11
Israel marches around Jericho once a day for six days. Joshua 6:3	God disciplines us to produce purity. Hebrews 12:10, 11	God breaks one seal each year for six years.
Israel marches around seven times on 7th day; seven priests blow seven trumpet Joshua 6:4	God raises pressures of life to prove disciples and get new ones. Romans 12:2	Seven Trumpets occur in 7th year; God increases pressure on people to repent and persevere.
Jericho is destroyed by God via His people. Joshua 6:5	Satan's influence is destroyed in the world by God via His people.	Seven bowls poured out; unbelieving world is destroyed at Armageddon.
Rahab is saved. Hebrews 11:31	He who perseveres is saved.	Tribulation saints are resurrected. Revelation 20:4-6
The believing remnant of Israel takes possession of their inheritance.	The few persons of faith enters Heaven.	A remnant of Israel is saved out of the Great Tribulation.

obedience,

7 "He⁸ again fixes a certain day, 'Today,' saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, 'Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.'

10 "For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His."

Can we say then, the "rest" of trusting God is similar to, or a type of, God's resting on the seventh day of creation? The Canaan "rest", for Joshua and Caleb only, is also a type of

God resting on the seventh day of creation. I believe that on the strength of verses 3-10. And verses 8-9 say:

8 "For if Joshua had given them rest, He⁹ would not have spoken of another day after that.

9 "There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God." I know this means there is spiritual Sabbath rest for believers. But, can this be an allusion to the Millennial rest? If so, then Canaan's rest is like the creation rest day and the Millennium "rest" period.

The left column of the table below,

8. "He" refers to the Holy Spirit; Heb.3:7-11.

9. Ibid

compares events from the Exodus thru the Battle of Jericho, corresponding on the right, to events from the first to second coming of Jesus Christ. As mentioned in the First Corinthians passage, this type also applies to the spiritual part of the christian life. The center column shows how.

It seems wonderful to me how God has planned the events of one segment of history to copy the events of another. Can this be merely chance? The correlation between the Exodus history, the Christian life and the First to Second Coming period is no less than incredible! But there is more.

I also suggest the histories of the three dispensations mentioned in Chapter Three have elements in common. The common elements relate to the highlights of the history from the first to second coming of Jesus. In Chapter Three, we saw that three dispensations of Bible history relate to God's overall plan for mankind. Here, I want to point out that, as incredible as it sounds, the histories within each dispensation have elements in common.

In Chapter Three, the Dispensation Chart displays the three periods of Bible history and how events in each dispensation relate to one another. It also shows the Feasts which relate to the common events of the histories of the three periods.

The commonality between the periods relate to the events represented by each feast. They show what God designated as important. And that is the Death, Burial and Resurrection which we all know as most important in our Dispensation of Grace. That is not to say the other events are not important.

Another point of commonality is the lessons taught in each way God dealt with man. In the period of Promise, we notice the type of God dealing with the covenant peoples through the promises given to Abraham and the marriage of Isaac and Rebecca. The Church, as a "bride"¹⁰, both inherits gifts from Jesus and is an inheritance to Jesus per the promises. While at the same time, we see in the period of Law a type of the judgement of an unbelieving latter-day world where a remnant is saved out of the judgement. We contrast this with the period of Conscience where there is also judgement on an unbelieving world where a remnant is saved (Noah and his family). These types tell God's story. These

types show that what He did before, He will do again.

The fact that these dispensational events fit together so well attests to the validity of the message they convey: that God is perfect in all He does; and therefore, we can rely on the message found in the types. This is the basis for using types as a source of information. And, why I believe I know the Tribulation order.

10. Ephesians 5:25-32, Revelation 19:7-8

