

After the Rapture

An End Times Guide to Survival

Dr. David Jeremiah

DESCRIPTION

This seven-day prayer guide is based on Dr. David Jeremiah's book *After the Rapture*. One day soon, everyone, everywhere will be wondering, What on earth just happened? The coming Rapture will be an amazing fulfillment of biblical prophecy—one that has been eagerly awaited by Bible-believing Christians since Jesus' ascension into heaven.

A Word from David Jeremiah:

The world is on the precipice of a plunge into a time of unparalleled trouble. Jesus spoke of this terminal generation two millennia ago when He said, "Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened" (Matthew 24:33–34 NIV).

What's happening around you is undoubtedly traumatizing and deeply disturbing. No matter how ominous things look, God is still in control and holds the future in His hands. God is the Director and Producer of the final drama.

At the end of each the following seven days, I'm going to give a brief prayer for you to pray with me. I understand that you may never have prayed before or that this may seem strange to you. You may be unsure. But I am confident that as you continue to recite these prayers, you will grow more comfortable praying, and even look forward to it. Be assured that God loves you and cares for you. You can pray to God anytime, and there are no special words required to speak to Him. Pour out your heart to Him, knowing that He hears you and is eager to strengthen and sustain you in the darkest days you may face.

Day 1

What on Earth Just Happened?

Bible Verse:

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV).

What Is the Rapture?

According to the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, the word rapture means “an expression or manifestation of ecstasy or passion” and “being carried away by overwhelming emotion.” But according to the Bible, the Rapture is the event in which all who have put their trust in Jesus Christ are suddenly caught up from the earth and taken into heaven by Him. The English word rapture is a translation of the Greek word *harpazo*. It occurs fourteen times in the New Testament, and it means “to carry off by force,” “to seize,” or “to carry away.”

Scripture tells us:

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality (1 Corinthians 15:51–53).

THE RETURN

The Rapture began with the coming of Jesus Christ from heaven. Jesus Himself came to get His people just as He promised. He came with a commanding shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God. These sounds were inaudible to those living on earth, yet they served as a clarion call to gather all believers to meet the Lord in the air. When Jesus returned at the Rapture, He remained hidden. He did not come all the way to earth but remained in the air as His followers were caught up “in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

THE RESURRECTION

Next, the bodies of those dead believers who had accepted Jesus Christ as Savior were resurrected, reconstituted, and rejoined with their perfected spirits that Jesus brought with Him from heaven. Scripture refers to those who died as “those who are asleep” (v. 15). Those who were sleeping in Jesus were not left out of the Rapture. In fact, they had a prominent place when Jesus came in the skies: “We who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. . . . The dead in Christ will rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:15–16). The bodies of deceased believers were the first to hear the call from heaven, rise, and meet Jesus in the air.



CALL OUT

Let the truth of bodily resurrection bring you comfort in the difficult days ahead. If you will put your trust in Jesus as your Savior, accepting His sacrifice for your sins, even if you die in the trying times that lie ahead, your spirit will immediately be transported into the Lord's presence. Your body will simply fall asleep, waiting for the resurrection of your glorified body at the final return of Jesus. Whatever happens, remember that death is not the end; rather, it is just a temporary separation of the soul from the body.

THE REMOVAL

A split second after the resurrection of the bodies of deceased believers, Christians who were alive when Jesus came were caught up to meet Jesus in the air—all in the blink of an eye. They were instantly, totally transformed—inside and out. Their spirits were perfected, and they were given new immortal, imperishable, incorruptible bodies fit for heaven. Scripture calls this change “the redemption of our body” (Romans 8:23). In his letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul described it as the moment when the Lord Jesus Christ will “transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body” (Philippians 3:21). The apostle John said it this way: “We know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2).

THE REUNION

The Rapture set up a delightful series of meetings or reunions. The Bible says, “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

The ultimate consequence of this reunion with the Lord is that there will be no subsequent parting. For those who were raptured, their union and communion with Jesus, with one another, and with their deceased family members and friends is uninterrupted and eternal. This glorious fact alone shows us why the word rapture is an altogether appropriate term for this event.

Paul wrote that we should comfort one another with reminders that, for Christians, what we call death is nothing more than a temporary sleep before we are called into our uninterrupted relationship with Christ forever. The same is true for you today and in the days ahead no matter what happens. So don't despair. Don't lose hope. You can be ready for the physical return of Christ to earth by coming to Him and standing strong against the surging darkness in the days ahead.



Prayer Guide:

- Thank God for providing a hope and future for you in eternity.
- As the world spins out of control, ask the Lord to remind you that He is still in control.
- Ask Jesus to help you keep your eyes fixed on Him, your Savior and Protector.
- Ask the Lord to provide opportunities to share His gift of salvation with family and friends.
- Think of those you may know who have walked away from their faith. Speak their name to Jesus and ask for guidance.

My Prayer for You:

Father, Your children are lost and searching for answers. They are so confused. Nothing seems to make sense anymore. The world seems to be shaking under their feet. They recognize now, like never before, that they need You, that they don't control the world or their lives—You do. Thank You for Your patience and love. And for giving us Your Word, the Bible, to guide them through these tumultuous times. Give them hope in Your promises, peace in Your presence, and rest in Your power. Don't let their despair swallow them. Please open their eyes to understand what's happening and soften their hearts to receive all You have for them. Amen.



Day 2 What's Next?

Bible Verse:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6 NIV).

The Time of Tribulation

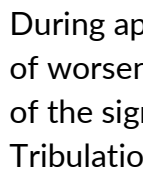
The Tribulation is a brief, brutal seven-year period immediately after the Rapture. It is filled with unprecedented horrors, upheavals, persecutions, natural disasters, massive death tolls, and political turmoil, lasting until Christ's physical return to earth. Simply stated, the Tribulation is a time of blistering judgment and withering destruction as God pours out His judgment on rebellious humanity. As harsh as this sounds, all who accept the authority of the Bible believe in the reality of the Tribulation, and as time marches on, you will see these events unfold before your eyes. There will be no way to deny or diminish what is happening.

The Progress of the Tribulation

The nation of Israel has always been God's clock or timepiece, revealing where we are on God's prophetic calendar. The Jewish people, who were expelled from their ancient homeland for almost two thousand years beginning in the year A.D. 70, have been back in their land as a modern nation since 1948. That event, predicted often in the Old Testament, was a key signal that the end of the age was approaching. For decades world leaders have worked to forge a lasting peace in the Middle East. The Antichrist will finally make it happen.

At some point after the Rapture, the seven-year covenant is negotiated by the coming Antichrist, ushering in a false, counterfeit, temporary peace for the Middle East—a peace that will briefly include the entire world (1 Thessalonians 5:1–3).

So, for a brief time after the Rapture, in the early days of the Tribulation, after the initial chaos settles, things appear to be looking up. But don't be deceived; this is merely the calm before the storm. Speaking of this time, the apostle Paul prophesied, “For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape” (1 Thessalonians 5:3). The brief period of peace comes crashing down and gives way to the time of tribulation, also known as the “day of the Lord.”



During approximately the first three-and-a-half years of the Tribulation, there will be a surge of worsening conditions, the anger of God against those who reject Him, and the unfolding of the signs of Christ's return to earth. During the last three-and-a-half years of the Tribulation, the "lawless one"—the Antichrist—will be empowered to sit at the center of the Tribulation's evil as he personifies Satan. I must tell you the truth: this is a time of the greatest suffering and persecution the world has ever seen.

Jesus described the judgments in the Tribulation as the beginning of birth pains. Like birth pains, the contractions will get closer together and more intense as the Tribulation unfolds. No one can ever accuse Jesus of sugarcoating His forecast. He warned, "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21). It will be the worst days the earth has ever faced—by far.

The Surprise of the Tribulation

In his first letter to the church in Thessalonica, the apostle Paul described the event that will signal the beginning of the Tribulation period (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18). The next natural question for Paul's readers would have been, When will this happen? Paul anticipated the question and began chapter 5 with these words: "But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night" (vv. 1–2). No thief sends a letter announcing that he will arrive tomorrow at 2 a.m. We were not given the ETA of the Rapture and the Tribulation is following immediately in its wake.

The Severity of the Tribulation

Jesus told us that the Tribulation will be a time of terror and horror without precedent: "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:21–22).

The central chapters of Revelation give us a vivid description of the horrors of the Tribulation period—great wars, rampant slaughter will bloody the earth, hail, fire, famine, earthquakes, and plagues are just some of the things to come in the Tribulation.

To make matters even worse, a maniacal despot known as the Antichrist will rise to power. He will demand total allegiance to his satanically inspired program, and those who resist will be barred from buying or selling food or any other product. His lust for power will not cease until the entire civilized world chokes in his tyrannical grasp (Revelation 13:1–18).

The hour hand on God's time clock is wound up and spinning. You are being swept along the path of history by a swift wind at your back. Your ability to weather the storm will come from your relationship with Jesus Christ and understanding of the Word of God.



Prayer Guide:

- Thank God that we don't need to worry or fear what is to come. He is our Defender.
- Ask the Lord to show you in His Word what is to come and how to respond.
- Ask Jesus to help you trust in His strength.
- Seek the peace that comes from reading and meditating on God's Word.
- Ask the Lord to lead you to someone who needs to hear His message. It may be a lost individual you don't know or someone whose faith is failing. They both need to hear about the Lord.

My Prayer for You:

Father, Your children are scared. They see the storm clouds gathering. Ominous events are beginning to unfold all around, and there's no sign it will get better, just worse and worse. They've never seen anything like this. It's worse than anyone could have ever imagined. In the Bible you've revealed information about the Tribulation and why it's necessary, but Your children are still frightened and unsettled. They need You. They need Your insight and guidance. They need Your presence. Give them the strength to trust You even when things seem out of control. Cover them with Your blanket of peace. Help them to trust You no matter what happens. Help them know how to allow Jesus to be the foundation of their lives. Please help them stand. Amen.



Day 3

How Bad Will It Get?

Bible Verse:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19–20).

The Judgments of the Tribulation

Revelation tells of three sets of seven divine judgments that are unleashed on planet Earth in devastating succession. These three series of seven judgments are identified as seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls of wrath. There is no way to understand the Tribulation without making our way through these three sets of judgment.

Judgment 1: Seven Shocking Seals

In Revelation 4-5[BD1] , Jesus Christ approaches the throne of God and takes a scroll from the right hand of God the Father. As each of the seals of the scroll is broken, the scroll is unrolled to reveal multiple phases of God’s wrath to be poured upon this wicked earth. When the scroll is finally and fully opened in Revelation 19, Jesus will return to earth, take control of the planet, and establish His global reign. He will take back planet Earth. He will receive the nations as His inheritance.

Let me encourage you to surrender your life to Jesus if you never have. He is Lord of all. Every morning when you get up, fall down before Jesus and worship Him. Then, make all your decisions and live all your life in light of His lordship.

Here’s a brief snapshot of the seals. First, the white horse gallops onto the world scene carrying the man of deception, the coming world dictator; second, the red horse claws the air, abolishing any semblance of peace on earth; third, the black horse appears, creating hunger and economic disaster; fourth, the pale horse spreads a deadly plague along its path. The fifth seal reveals the martyred believers who are killed during the Tribulation, and the sixth seal unleashes a devastating earthquake and cosmic signs. The seventh seal contains the next series of judgments — the seven trumpets.



Judgment 2: Seven Terrible Trumpets

The first trumpet sounds: hail and fire, mixed with blood, pour out of the sky, burning a third of the trees and a third of all the green grass. Wildlife dies. Death emits its acrid odors. The earth is experiencing an ecological upheaval that makes toxic dumps seem like playgrounds.

The second trumpet hurls “something like a great mountain” (Revelation 8:8) into the sea and turns a third of the sea to blood, killing a third of all life in the seas and oceans and destroying a third of the ships.

When the third angel sounds his trumpet, a torch-like star falls from the sky, turning a third of the water into bitter-tasting liquid, which poisons all who drink it. The fresh water supply becomes as putrid as a gutter. When the fourth angel sounds his trumpet, the earth becomes darkened. The sun, moon, and stars lose a third of their light. This fits Luke’s prophecy in chapter 21, verse 25: “There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars.” As the fifth angel sounds his trumpet, a spiritual plague of demonic proportions breaks out upon the whole earth, fueled by the work of millions of demon creatures who are released from the abyss, the bottomless pit (Revelation 9:1–12).

Swarming over the land, as a result of the sixth trumpet, is an army of two hundred million mounted troops who kill one-third of the earth’s remaining inhabitants.

Judgment 3: Seven Brutal Bowls

Seven angels are the messengers who receive direct orders from God Himself. He tells the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth” (Revelation 16:1 NIV).

When the first angel is commanded to pour out his bowl, “ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image” (Revelation 16:2 NIV).

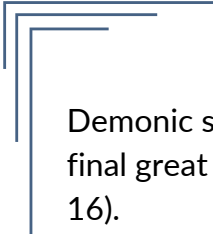
Loathsome skin diseases are significant because they are outward signs of inward corruption.

“The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died. The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood” (Revelation 16:3–4 NIV).

The bowl of the fourth angel gives the sun power to scorch people with fire. People will be seared by the intense heat, and many will die with curses on their burning tongues.

With bowl five, God centers His judgment upon the place of Satan himself. This plague brings darkness, and as people gnaw their tongues with pain from the sores and the heat, they continue to curse God and refuse to repent.

“The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East” (Revelation 16:12 NIV).



Demonic spirits are dispatched to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the world's final great death struggle in the land of Israel at a place called Armageddon (Revelation 16:14-16).

Armageddon will be different from any war man has experienced in history. Supernatural events that our finite minds cannot comprehend will be taking place. Yet, earth's final death struggle will swallow up the land of Israel.

As the seventh bowl of judgment is tipped, it is followed by thunders, lightnings, and the worst earthquake ever experienced; hailstones weighing about one hundred pounds and all the great cities fall under judgment at that time.

There will be no doubt that the end has come. This is the final destruction of every religious, political, and educational institution that man has built apart from God. It is the collapse of all mankind's hopes and dreams for earthly power.

Whatever happens, "never lose faith in the end of the story." If you have come to Jesus Christ for salvation, the end of your story is better than anything you can ever imagine.



Prayer Guide:

- Thank Jesus for providing a way for believers to avoid experiencing the Tribulation.
- Ask the Lord to create an urgency in you to tell others about eternity.
- Share your desire to talk with others and ask for the words He would have you say.
- Ask Jesus for boldness and opportunity to share His story with the lost.

My Prayer for You:

Here is a prayer written by the Hebrew prophet Isaiah around 700 B.C., to pray as you feel trapped during the Tribulation as the vice continues to tighten.

*Oh, that You would rend the heavens!
That You would come down!
That the mountains might shake at Your presence –
As fire burns brushwood,
As fire causes water to boil –
To make Your name known to Your adversaries,
That the nations may tremble at Your presence!
When You did awesome things for which we did not look,
You came down,
The mountains shook at Your presence.
For since the beginning of the world
Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear,
Nor has the eye seen any God besides You,
Who acts for the one who waits for Him.
You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness,
Who remembers You in Your ways.
You are indeed angry, for we have sinned—
In these ways we continue;
And we need to be saved.*

Isaiah 64:1–5



Day 4

Who Is the Antichrist?

Bible Verse:

“Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken” (Psalm 62:2 NIV).

The Profile of the Antichrist

In chapter 12 of Revelation, we read of the dragon, or Satan, being permanently thrown out of heaven in a great, cosmic war in the End Times. Then in chapter 13 we discover that the dragon comes to earth to begin his program by embodying his agent, the Antichrist. When we link this chapter with verses from Daniel, we get a good profile of this leader by looking at how he comes to power from several different viewpoints. Each of these angles—the political, the national, the spiritual, and the providential — give us a good picture of what he is like.

He Begins Politically Inconspicuous

Daniel 7 tells us that the Antichrist does not make a big splash when he arrives on the political scene. He does not enter with a fanfare, announcing, “I am here! I will now take over!” Instead, he squeezes his way in, little by little, beginning as one among many minor political leaders. In prophetic imagery he is the little horn who grows to be the big horn. He attracts little attention as he methodically begins to grasp more and more power. John the apostle emphasized this fact when he wrote that this ominous personality arises from among the mass of ordinary people. “Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name” (Revelation 13:1).

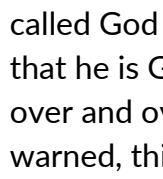
He Emerges from a Gentile Nation

From what nation does the coming world ruler emerge? Often, we hear that he must come from the Jewish nation. Since he will make a covenant with the nation of Israel, many people reason that perhaps he is the Jew that Israel anticipates as her messiah. But the Bible gives us no evidence for determining that the Antichrist is a Jew.

All we know about his citizenship or national origin is that he rises from somewhere within the territory of the ancient Roman Empire.

He Is Spiritually Blasphemous

History began with the sin of man; it ends with the man of sin. Daniel said of this world leader, “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law” (Daniel 7:25). In his second letter to the Thessalonians, Paul described him as one “who opposes and exalts himself above all that is



called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2:4). As Paul wrote in Romans 1, and as the history of ancient Israel warns us over and over, it is a terrible thing to worship a creature instead of the Creator. Yet as Daniel warned, this man defies God and demands to be worshiped instead of Him. And his demand is met. As John wrote, “All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8).

As if declaring himself to be God gives him power over nature and human nature, this ruler attempts to change the moral and natural laws of the universe. The Antichrist’s extreme actions show hostility to everything related to God and characterize the new world leader. No doubt he would even change the length of a year if he can somehow gain control of the earth’s rotation!

He Is Limited Providentially

The Antichrist is a terrifying person. He is the epitome of evil, the ultimate negation of everything good, the avowed enemy and despiser of God. We must not forget that this satanic creature is not equal to God. He does not have absolute power or anything close to it. God has him on a chain. The Antichrist will be able to create terrible havoc and chaos, but ultimately God is still God, and no enemy of His will go beyond the boundaries He sets. No matter how bad things get or how invincible the Antichrist may appear, take comfort in the control of God, even as things seem to be spinning out of control.

He Has an Intimidating Presence

The Antichrist is likened to four ferocious beasts: a lion, a bear, a leopard, and the ten-horned beast (Daniel 7). This is meant to show us the intimidating presence of this satanic creature. He combines in his person all of the threatening characteristics of the kingdoms that have gone before him.

It’s no wonder people follow this man and even fall down and worship him. Political campaigns throughout history show how quickly people gravitate to charisma and power. Give them a fine-looking candidate with a golden voice, a powerful presence, and the ability to enthrall people with vague rhetoric about an undefined better future, and people follow like sheep as the media bleats the candidate’s praises. Completely overlooked is the substance of the man’s program. The presence and charisma of the Antichrist is star power on steroids, making his continuing rise to power inevitable. He appears to be unstoppable.

One of the most comforting truths for you to understand right now is the providence of God. Rest assured there is an invisible hand—the hand of God—ruling and overruling, seeing and overseeing everything that is happening. Take comfort in knowing that no matter what you see, there is a hand you cannot see that is guiding and controlling everything.



Day 5 Is It Too Late?

Bible Verse:

“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does” (Psalm 145:13 NIV).

How Will You Hear the Gospel?

Hope has been aptly called oxygen for the soul. Thankfully, the Bible is an oxygen-breathing Book. It exhales hope that you can be saved and forgiven after the Rapture. The book of Revelation reveals that there is a great revival in the Great Tribulation. Even in the darkest time of human history, Jesus is still seeking and saving those who are lost. That’s the best news you could ever imagine.

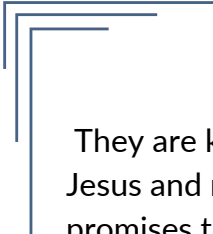
The Preaching of the 144,000

While the unprecedented cruelty of the Antichrist increases, God does not forget about humanity. In the depths of the Tribulation horrors, the world is witnessing the greatest spiritual awakening ever to occur on planet Earth. Our loving and creative God continually surprises us with the methods He devises to reach people in their darkest hours. During this time, one instrument through which His care rises is the agency of 144,000 specially chosen Jewish evangelists.

Twelve thousand witnesses will be called out of each of the twelve tribes of Israel, bringing their total to 144,000 (Revelation 7:4–8). The consistent use of the number twelve in connection with Israel climaxes in the sealing of 144,000 individuals – twelve times twelve – chosen from the nation of Israel for a special ministry during the darkest period in earth’s history.

The powerful preaching of this Jewish army of evangelists is inspiring others with tremendous courage. After all, only twelve Jews (Jesus’ twelve disciples) turned the first century upside down. You are now seeing what twelve thousand times twelve can do!

Why are the 144,000 sealed by God? As we see the judgments of the Tribulation period becoming more and more severe and the hatred of the Antichrist and his followers increasing, doesn’t it make sense that God would protect His own until their work is finished? Just as the three Hebrew children were kept alive in the fire, so these sealed Jews are protected throughout the last seven years before the return of Christ. God sends them for a powerful task: these Jews preach the gospel in such a way that multitudes believe.



They are kept from harm during the Tribulation so that they might be alive until the return of Jesus and reign with Him in His coming kingdom on the earth, thus fulfilling God's covenant promises to the Jewish people. The salvation of these 144,000 and their ministry to the world is a strong dose of hope that God has not forgotten you.

An unprecedented revival breaks out after the Rapture, when the 144,000 Jewish witnesses evangelize the world during the Tribulation period. The calamitous events of this period are shaking millions out of their complacency, shattering their resistance to the message of the 144,000 as they blanket the world with the gospel.

The astonishing success of their final campaign fulfills this prophecy of Jesus: "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

The Proclamation of Angels

A second means God will use to announce the good news of the gospel to the lost world during the Tribulation is angels. That's right — angels. The mercy and love of God is so vast that He commissions angels to proclaim the message of His saving grace. He makes sure everyone has the opportunity to hear the good news. Even the Antichrist's stranglehold on the world is not able to prevent the gospel message from going forth. God will bypass his tyranny and announce it from the heavens.

The everlasting gospel of fear of God and faith in Jesus is broadcast to the entire world not by radio, television, or podcast but by angelic preachers. That's astounding, and it's a window into the heart of God. Try as he will, the Antichrist will not be able to thwart the spread of the gospel. God will make sure everyone on earth during the Tribulation hears the good news and has a chance to respond.

Even now, in the darkest time of history, Jesus is still seeking and saving all the lost who will turn to Him. If you feel lost, call out to Him. He will show you the way.



The Presence of Bible and Biblical Materials

God, in His mercy, is making sure that people everywhere on earth have an opportunity to hear the good news of the gospel of grace — through preachers, angels, and Christian materials and Bibles available all over the world. Locate Christian books and materials that are consistent with the teachings of Scripture. Use whatever technology is available to access solid sermons and teachings about the End Times.

Additionally, when you turn to Jesus, you can become another key link in the sharing of the good news of Jesus with others. Share this book with someone you know. You will certainly face strong opposition and deadly persecution, but don't let that deter you from extending the offer of eternal life to all who will listen to you. Your reward in heaven will be great.

I want you to find life and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. But not just for yourself and your family. I want you to come to Jesus and then go tell others who He is and what He has done for you. If you receive Jesus, you are now an ambassador of Jesus Christ. Reach out to those you know who are still without hope. Time is running out. Witness with a profound sense of urgency. Make sure you bring as many other people to heaven with you as possible. Your job is not to save others; you can't save anyone, but you can point them to the One who can save.

Prayer Guide:

- Our Heavenly Father's promises and His Word never fail, His mercy is new every morning. Thank Him.
- Ask the Lord to protect you from those things that will tempt you and harm your testimony with others.
- Ask Jesus to fill you with hope, grace, and mercy in every situation.
- Ask the Lord to increase your boldness to share Him with people you don't know—those who are lost and those who need to renew their faith in Jesus.

My Prayer for You:

Father, You are abundant in lovingkindness and grace. Your mercies endure forever. They are new every morning, even in the darkest days. Even though Your children are tempted every day to give up hope and give in to despair, reassure their hearts by Your great power. If they are forced to give their lives for Jesus, give them a special measure of Your comfort, grace, and strength. Fill them with the hope of heaven. Give them opportunities and boldness to share the good news of Jesus with others who need Him. Amen.



Day 6

What Are We Waiting For?

Bible Verse:

“So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him” (Matthew 24:44 NIV).

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

The return of Jesus is what you are waiting for, and it will be the greatest moment in history. Nothing else is even close. No words can adequately capture the splendor and brilliance of that moment when Jesus physically descends from heaven to earth. All your hopes will be realized.

The Second Coming of Christ is a central theme throughout much of the Bible, and it is one of the best-attested promises in all of Scripture. You can rest in the sure conviction that just as Jesus came to earth the first time, and just as He came to rapture His followers to heaven before the Tribulation, so He will return at the conclusion of the Great Tribulation.


The Anticipation of Christ

The prophets foretold the Second Coming of Christ. Zechariah pinpoints the geographic location where Christ will return: “In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives” (14:4). Like Armageddon, the Mount of Olives is an explicitly identifiable place, just east of Jerusalem, that retains its ancient name even today. The prophet’s specificity gives us confidence that his prophecy is true and accurate. But while Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives, the Bible is clear that every person on earth will see Him descend to earth (Revelation 1:7).

Jesus Himself announced His Second Coming speaking from the Mount of Olives two days before He died on the cross. He affirmed His Second Coming to His disciples in dramatic and cataclysmic terms:

“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.... Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:27, 29–30).

The angels announced that Jesus would return. Immediately following Christ’s ascension into heaven at the end of His earthly ministry, two angels appeared to the stunned disciples



and spoke words of comfort to them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11). The next verse tells us, “They returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet” (v. 12). Did you catch that? Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives (a small mountain just east of Jerusalem). According to the angels, Christ will return to that very same spot—the Mount of Olives. The words of the angels conveyed both comfort for the disciples’ present loss of Jesus and confirmation of His future return.

John the apostle foretold Jesus’ Second Coming. The prophecies of Christ’s return are like bookends to the book of Revelation. In the first chapter John wrote: “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him” (Revelation 1:7). And in the last pages of the last chapter—indeed, almost the last words of the New Testament—our Lord emphatically affirms His Second Coming: “He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20)

Obviously, you have every reason to anticipate the return of Christ. The Bible affirms it throughout as a certainty, describing it in specific terms and with ample corroboration.

The Authority of Christ

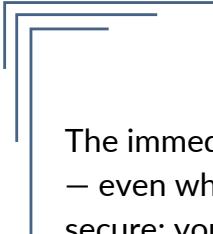
When the Lord returns to earth at the end of the Tribulation, the men and nations who have defied Him will no more be able to stand against Him than a spiderweb could stand against an eagle. His victory will be assured, and His authority undisputed. Here is how John described the finality of His judgment and the firmness of His rule: “And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: King of kings and Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:15–16).

This grand title, King of kings and Lord of lords, identifies our Lord at His second coming. It speaks of His unassailable authority. At this name every king on earth will bow, and every lord will kneel.

The Application of Christ’s Second Coming

The prophets, the angels, and the apostle John all echoed the words of promise from Jesus Himself that He will return to earth at the end of the Tribulation. God’s Word further amplifies the promise by giving you clues in prophecy to help you identify the signs that His return is close at hand—signs you are seeing right now all around you (Matthew 24:1–31).

[BD1]This is in all caps in NKJV. Does HC have a rule for this?



The immediacy of prophetic events shows the need to live each moment in Christlike readiness – even when the days grow dark and the nights long. Be encouraged! Be anticipating! You are secure; you belong to Christ if you have received Him as your Savior.

Jesus came the first time to become your Savior, and He's coming the second time to be your King.

Prayer Guide:

- The King is coming, thank Him!
- Ask the Lord to show you areas in which you need to increase your faithfulness.
- Ask the Father to help you remain watchful and ready to share Jesus with the lost world.

My Prayer for You:

Father, knowing without any doubt that Jesus is coming back fills Your children with hope and joy. Thank You. Help them learn how to offer You their deepest praise and gratitude. Without the promise of the Second Coming, they would have no hope at all. Their lives would be shattered and meaningless. The horizon would hold nothing but the deepest despair. The return of Jesus changes everything for them. Keep them faithful to You even if it means giving their lives. Fill Your children with Your peace that passes all understanding as they watch, wait, and witness for Jesus. Even so, come Lord Jesus!



Day 7

How Will It All End?

Bible Verse:

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end” (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The Eternal Future

The good news I have for you is that when Jesus comes back to earth there will be a better tomorrow – the best tomorrow – for all of God’s people.

While we can never fully envision or wrap our minds around the eternal future God has in store for His children, the time after the Second Coming of Jesus unfolds in sequence under three main banners, or captions, that will bring the best tomorrow possible.

The Millennium

The reclamation of planet Earth begins with the golden age of Christ’s reign. We often refer to this period of time by a certain title – the Millennium and it is a literal period of a thousand years, which is scheduled for the future and will begin when Jesus comes again at the end of history to set up His earthly kingdom.

During those ten centuries of righteousness, Christ will rule on earth from His capital in Jerusalem. To add to the excitement, John told us that the followers of Christ will receive rewards and will reign with Him.

Scripture tells us the words we want to hear from the Lord when we get to heaven: “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord” (Matthew 25:23). These words will be part of our millennial experience. In the Millennium we will be ruling the earth with Jesus. He will be our King and we will serve Him, not as a punishment but as a reward.

Imagine the wonder of helping Jesus rule and reign on earth for a thousand golden years! Live today in light of that promise from Scripture.



The New Heavens and New Earth

People long for a more perfect world. We hear it in the dreams of poets. We read it in literature. We see it in the paintings of famous artists whose works fill the walls of great museums throughout the world. It's as if we instinctively understand that our paradise in the garden of Eden was the normal state of affairs for humanity, but we lost it after Adam and Eve sinned against God. Now we yearn for its restoration. We want it back. We intuitively know things should be different than they are. We were made for a more perfect world. Jesus taught us to pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).


God will draw the curtains on human history, and the entire universe will undergo a purifying conflagration. All evidence of disease will be burned up. All evidence of disobedience will melt away. All the remnants and results of sin, sorrow, and suffering will be destroyed. Out of the smoldering ruins, God will recreate all physical reality, and He will bring forth a fresh universe—the new heavens and new earth.

Look at the way John began this final section of Scripture: "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:1-2).

We can't fully conceive what this will be like. But use your God-given imagination and place these God-given words into your heart. Picture them. See the current ages drawing to a close, the universe collapsing like an old house in flames, a new earth emerging from the carnage, and a new city glistening and descending and ready to lead us into eternity with Jesus on the throne. It is our heavenly home — the place where Christ rules forever.

The New Jerusalem

The apostle John not only told us of the creation of the new heavens and the new earth, but also that the great city of New Jerusalem will descend from the sky and become the capital city of God's eternal kingdom. It's important to realize that the city of New Jerusalem is not really heaven, per se. It is the capital city of heaven. The Bible delights in telling us about this place, which is also called the Celestial City or Mount Zion. The final two chapters of the Bible use the word city eleven times to describe our eternal home, and I don't believe it's a figure of speech. It is an actual physical place—a real city. Since our resurrected bodies will be physical bodies, real and tangible, they will need a real place and an actual home—a physical city. History began in a garden and ends in a city.



Revelation 21:1-5 implies that the holy city was designed, built, and ready-made for the new earth. John did not see the New Jerusalem created; he said he saw the city already built and coming down out of the highest heaven. In other words the New Jerusalem is an actual, physical city presently located within the third heaven. Jesus referred to New Jerusalem in Revelation 3:12 as the “city of My God.” Here in Revelation 21, John saw this city descending to the new earth. This city of New Jerusalem is the place Jesus is preparing for us.

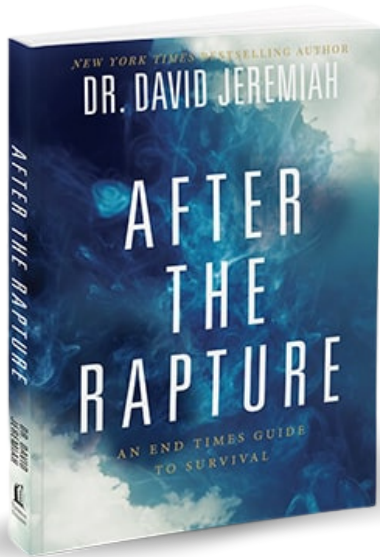
When Jesus returns to earth, the world, which reeled under the weight of the Tribulation, will be put back together by Him. This means that your world will be put together by Him. So regardless of what happens—no matter how depressing or difficult things might be right now—life in Christ has a happy ending for those who have received Him as Savior. For every believer the best is yet to come.

Prayer Guide:

- Thank God for sending His Son to die on the cross so that you could spend eternity in heaven.
- As things spiral around you, ask the Lord to keep your mind set on the new heavens and new earth.
- Ask Jesus to give you patience, peace, and perserverance in the waiting.
- If you have not accepted Christ, tell Him your desire to do so and ask for help.
- Ask the Savior to send people your way who need to know Him.

My Prayer for You:

Father, thank You for the hope of a better tomorrow through Jesus Christ. As the world around Your children falls apart, thank You for Your promise that it will be made new upon Your return. As they await and anticipate Christ’s coming to make all things new, give them Your eyes to look beyond what is seen—to see beyond the temporal to the eternal. Cover Your children with Your strength, insight, direction, and blessing until all things are made new.



After the Rapture presents the perfect primer for you on this critical prophetic event, the ideal witnessing tool for unsaved loved ones, and a resource of biblical direction for those seeking answers in the future. Inside this paperback volume you'll find:

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