

the book of

REVELATION

sermon series



Dr. Andy Woods

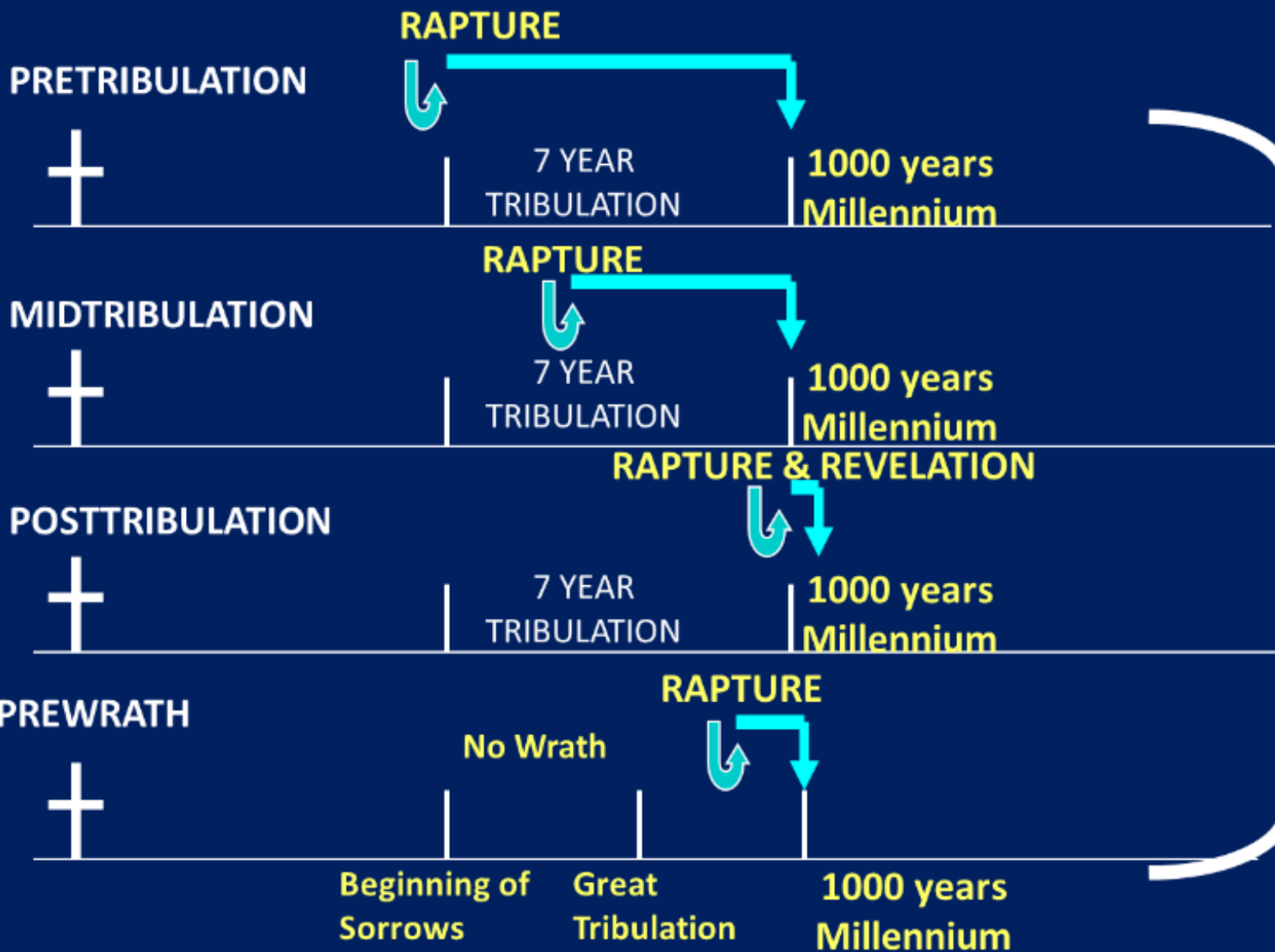
Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church
President – Chafer Theological Seminary

When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- Partial rapture theory



RAPTURE VIEW COMPARISON



Y-H-Z-R-E

Rick Joyner

The Harvest, 1989-1990, revised booklet page 121.

“The doctrine of the rapture was a great and effective use of the enemy to implant in the church a retreat mentality. Already this yoke has been cast off by the majority of the advancing church and it will soon be cast off by all.” (italics added)



Rick Wiles

<http://www.wnd.com/2015/08/is-everything-you-know-about-second-coming-wrong/> .

“I personally do not believe that by the year 2020, any credible person will be teaching the secret pre-trib. rapture doctrine. I think the events that are coming in the next five years will utterly destroy the doctrine.”



Revelation 3:10

“Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”



Does Revelation 3:10 Teach the Pre-Tribulation Rapture?

1. Are there easier ways to convey “protection through”?
2. Will God protect believers during the Tribulation?
3. What is the meaning of “keep you from”?
4. What is the meaning of “the hour”?
5. What is the meaning of the “whole world”?
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11. How does the Pre-Trib. View of Rev. 3:10 harmonize with the rest of the Book of Revelation?



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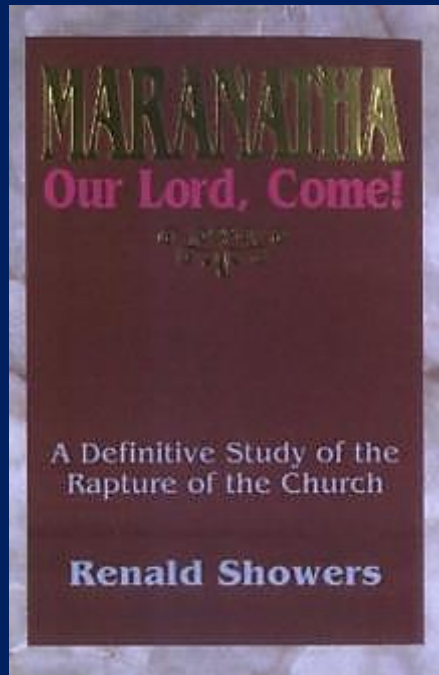
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Renald Showers

Renald Showers, *Maranatha Our Lord, Come!* (Bellmawr, NJ: Friends of Israel, 1995), 212.



“The idea of the saints being shielded from the testing while living within and through this time period also would have been expressed more clearly through the use of another preposition, either *en* (meaning "in") or *dia* (meaning "through") [thus, "I will keep you *in* or *through* the time period of testing] rather than *ek*.”

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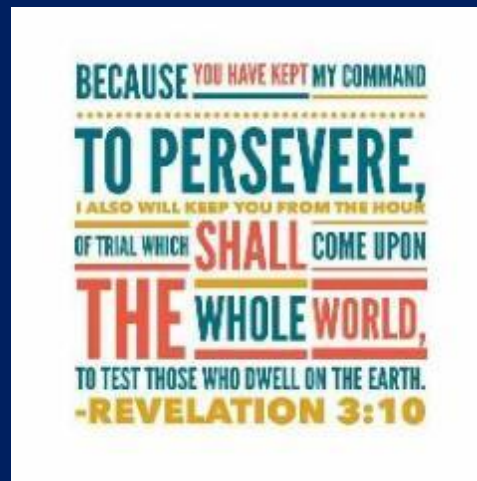
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2. Protection Through the Tribulation?

(Revelation 3:10)

- 1) Like the protection in Goshen (Exod. 8:22, 24; 9:4, 6; 11:4-7; Rev. 9:4; 16:2)
- 2) Effective ? Rev. 6:9-11; 7:13-14; 13:10, 15:20:4
- 3) Comfort? John 14:1; 1 Thess. 4:18; Titus 2:13



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Revelation 3:10

“Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from [ek] the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”





Charles Ryrie

Charles C. Ryrie, *What You Should Know About the Rapture*,
Current Christian Issues (Chicago: Moody, 1981), 114-15.

“Posttribulationists say that "from" (*ek*) refers to protection of the church within the Tribulation. Pretribulationists understand it to mean preservation by being absent from the time of tribulation. One is internal protection (while living through the Tribulation); the other is external protection (being in heaven during that time). Which meaning does "from" (*ek*) support? The answer is either, if the preposition is considered alone. But for the record, let it be said that *ek* does denote a position outside something without implying a prior position inside and then emergence from within. The pretribulationist understanding of *ek* is supported by a number of verses that have nothing to do with the rapture and therefore do not beg the question.”

Matthew 7:5

“You hypocrite, first take the log out of [ek] your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of [ek] your brother’s eye.”



Revelation 3:10

“Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep [tēreō] you from [ek] the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”



Acts 15:29

“that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep [*diatēreō*] yourselves free from [*ek*] such things, you will do well. Farewell.”



John 12:27

“Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save [sōzō] Me from [ek] this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”



Colossians 1:13

“For He rescued [*rhyomai*] us from [*ek*] the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.”



1 John 5:18

“We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.”



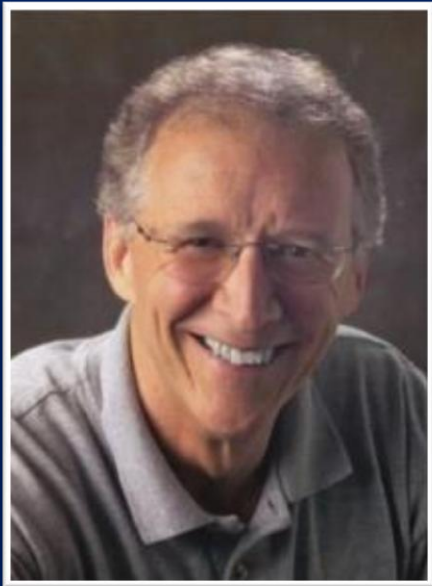
John 17:15

“I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep [*tēreō*] them from [*ek*] the evil one.”



John Piper

Lauren Leigh Noske, "Nine Reasons Why John Piper Disagrees with Nicolas' Cage's 'Left Behind' Movie's View of Rapture," The Gospel Herald, August 6, 2014; www.gospelherald.com. See also John Piper, "Definition and Observations Concerning the Second Coming of Christ," Desiring God Ministry, August 30, 1987; www.desiringgod.org.



“John Piper believes that the main Scripture which some believe supports the pre-tribulational rapture viewpoint (Revelation 3:10) does not necessarily mean that believers will be taken away from the earth, however; rather, it could mean that God will keep or protect His people from evil during the tribulation (see also John 17:15).”

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Revelation 3:10

“Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour [hōra] of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”



John 12:27

“Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour [hōra]’? But for this purpose I came to this hour [hōra]’.”

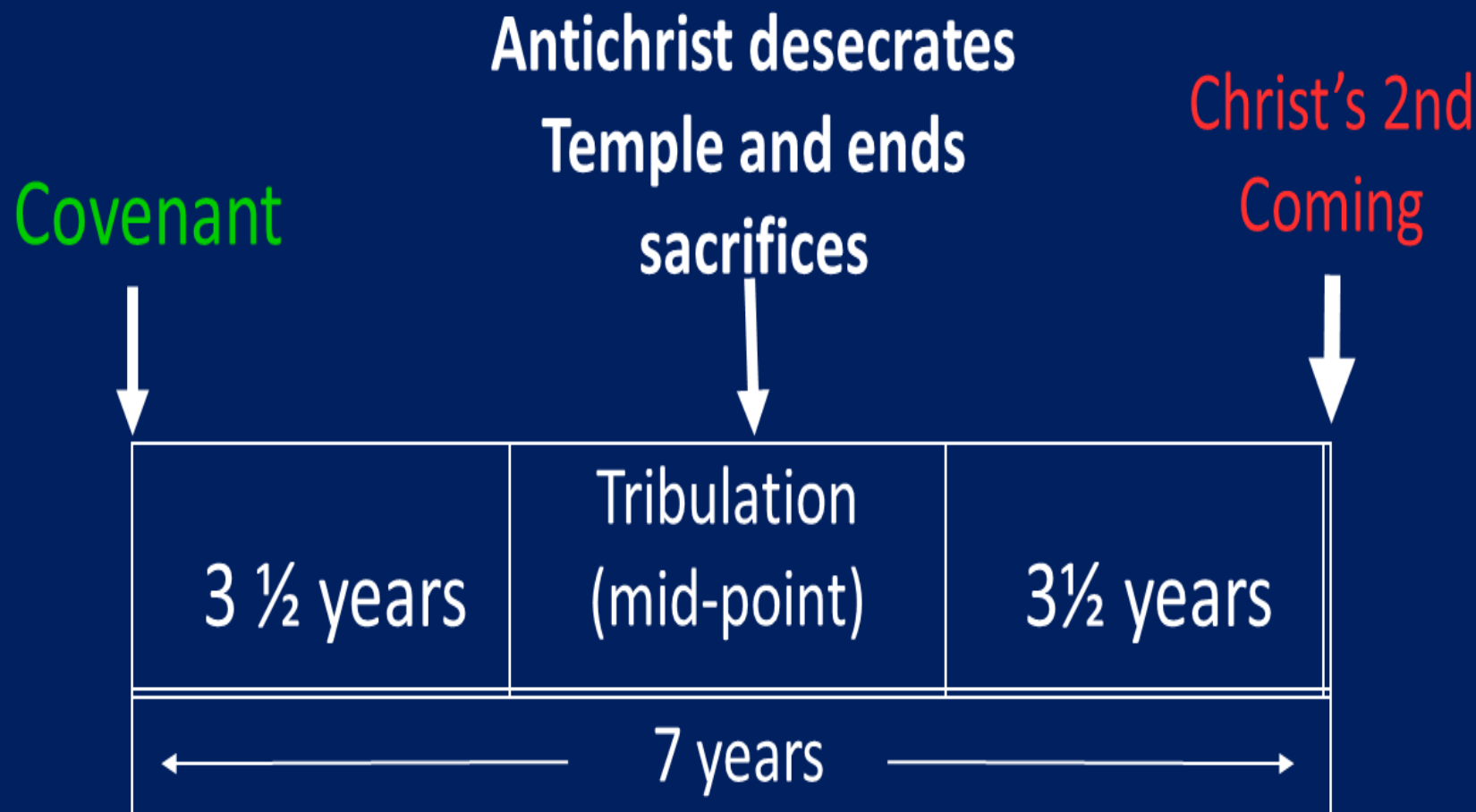


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DAN 9:27 OVERVIEW OF TRIBULATION PERIOD





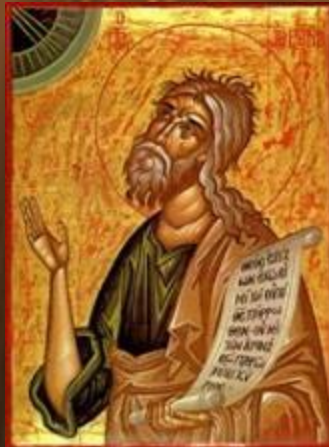
Charles Ryrie

Charles C. Ryrie, *What You Should Know About the Rapture*,
Current Christian Issues (Chicago: Moody, 1981), 116-17.

“However, the promise of Revelation 3:10 not only guarantees being kept from the trials of the Tribulation period but being kept from the time period of the Tribulation. The promise is not, I will keep you from the trials. It is I will keep you from the hour of the trials...But how clear and plain is the promise. "I...will keep you from the hour of testing." Not just from any persecution, but from the coming time that will affect the whole earth. (The only way to escape worldwide trouble is not to be on the earth.) And not just from the events, but from the time. And the only way to escape the time when the events take place is not to be in a place where time ticks on. The only place that meets those qualifications is heaven.”

Jeremiah 30:7 (LXX)

“Alas! for that day is great, There is none like it;
And it is the time of Jacob’s distress (Gen. 32:8;
35:10), But he will be saved [sōzō] from [apo] it.”



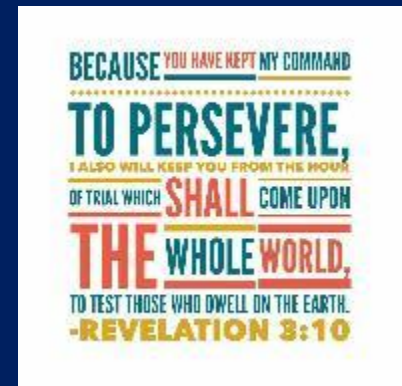
Zechariah 13:8-9

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.’ ”



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Revelation 3:10

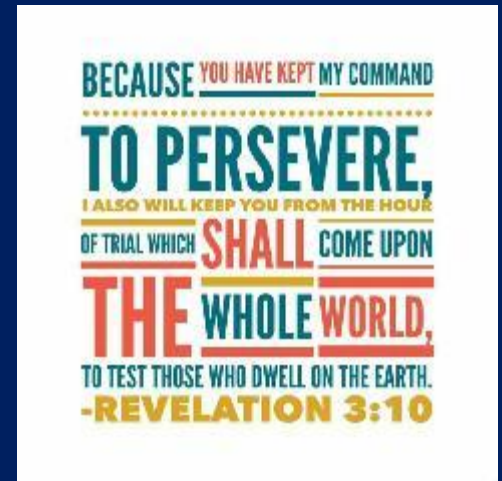
“Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole [holos] world [oikouménē], to test those who dwell on the earth.”



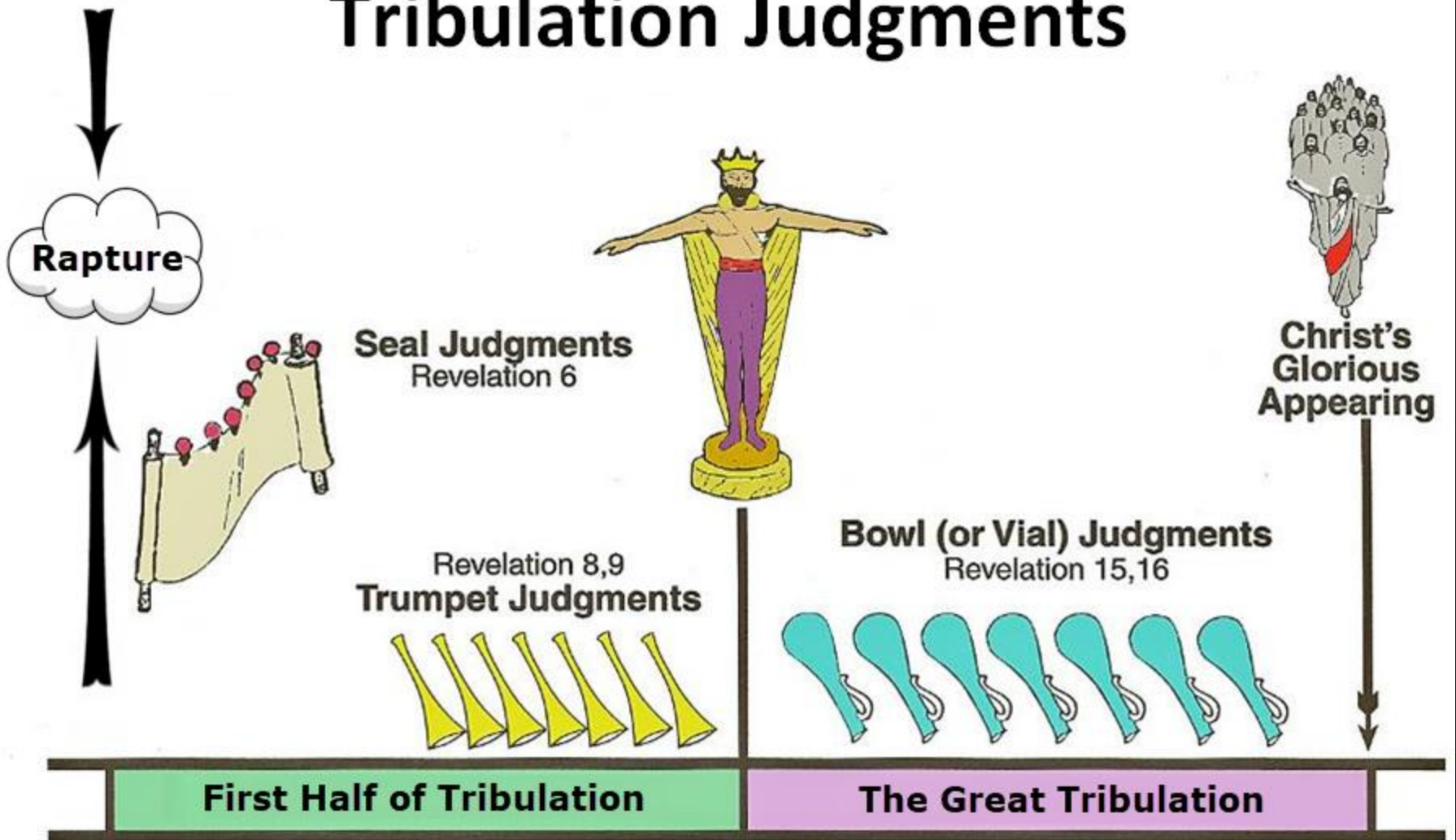
5. The Whole World?

(Revelation 3:10)

- 1) Oikouménē – known world? (Luke 2:1; Acts 11:28)
- 2) Oikouménē – entire world (Luke 4:5; Acts 17:31; Rev. 12:9)
- 3) Context favors the global definition
 - a. Adjective “whole” (*holos*)
 - b. Rev. 6–18



Tribulation Judgments



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Revelation 3:10

“Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing [*peirasmós*], that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test [*peirázō*] those who dwell on the earth.”



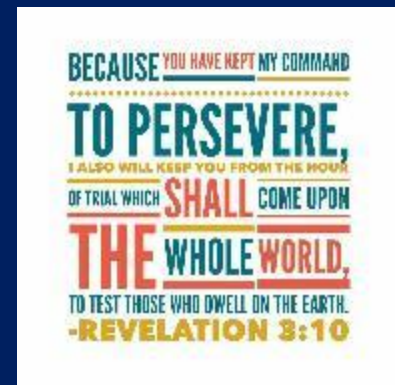
6. Test

(Revelation 3:10)

1) Peirasmós / peirázō

- a. To demonstrate the quality of something rather than to purify its contents
- b. A Test for the purpose of exposing someone's true character typically with the negative intent to demonstrate a failure

2) Examples (Jas. 1:13-14; Rev. 2:2)



Revelation 2:2

“I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the **test** [*peirázō*] those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false.”



James 1:13-14

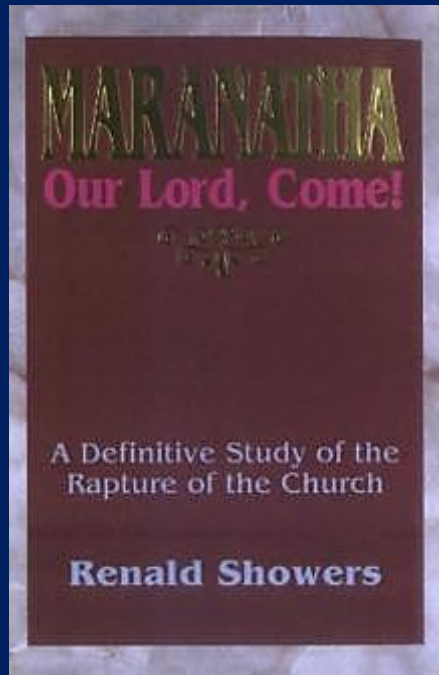
“¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted [peirázō], ‘I am being tempted [peirázō] by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt [peirázō] anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted [peirázō] when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.”





Renald Showers

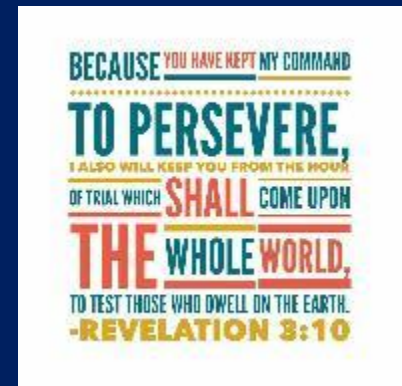
Renald Showers, *Maranatha Our Lord, Come!*
(Bellmawr, NJ: Friends of Israel, 1995), 215.



“Christ was declaring that the purpose of the future period of testing will be for God to test 'them that dwell on the earth' to demonstrate or expose the kind of people they are.”

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Revelation 3:10

“Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth [*katoikeō epi gē*].”



Revelation 13:8

“All who dwell on the earth [*katoikeō epi gē*] will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.”



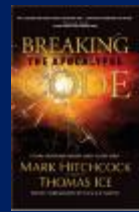
Revelation 17:8

“⁸The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth [*katoikeō epi gē*], whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come..”



Thomas Ice

Thomas Ice, "Kept From the Hour," online:
www.pre-trib.org, accessed 4 September 2014, 2.



“This phrase ‘earth dwellers’ is used eleven times in nine verses in Revelation (3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10 2xs; 13:8, 12, 14 2xs; 14:6; 17:8). As you examine each individual use, except 3:10, you will see that all refer to a special class of stubborn sinners who are set in their rebellion against the God of heaven. You will also find that the phrase is *only* used to refer to those during the tribulation period. Therefore, since the future hour spoken of in 3:10 is set in contrast with the present set of believers in the church age, and the future ‘earth dwellers’ will be active during the time period in which believers are said to be kept from, it is clear that John speaks of the time or hour of the tribulation. This is why 3:10 is a clear promise that Christ will keep believers from the time of the seven year tribulation.”

Pretribulationism is not Escapism

- Trials (John 16:33)
- Man's wrath (2 Tim. 3:12)
- Satan's wrath (Eph. 6:11-12)
- World's wrath (John 15:18-19)

Revelation 3:10

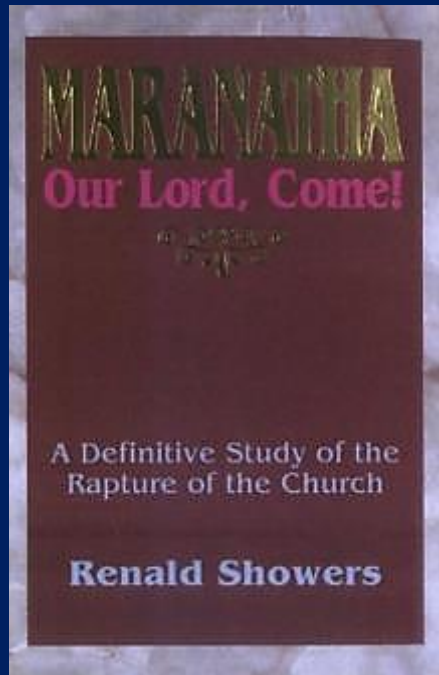
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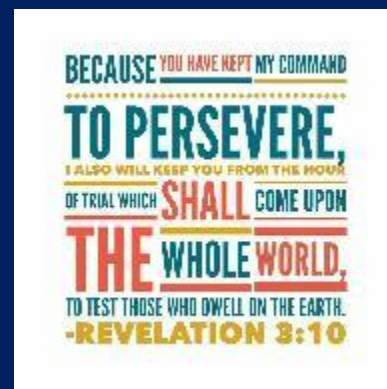
Renald Showers, *Maranatha Our Lord, Come!*
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“Christ based His promise on the fact that the church saints had already passed their test. In light of that, it appears that because they had already passed their test, Christ promised that He would not put them into the period that...will have the purpose of testing a very different group of people.”

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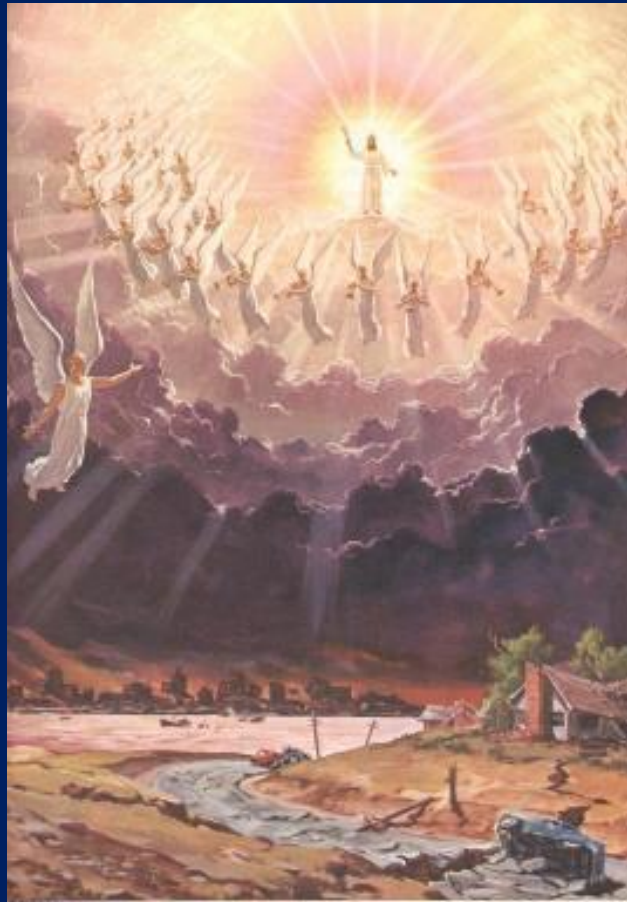
Revelation 3:10

“Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come [*mellō*] upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”



Imminency

Méllō: “and one who will share in the glory to be [mellō] revealed” (1 Pet 5:1)



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Revelation 3:11

“I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”



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Revelation 3:11

“I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.”



1 Corinthians 4:5

“Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men’s* hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”



2 Timothy 4:8

“In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”



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Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath

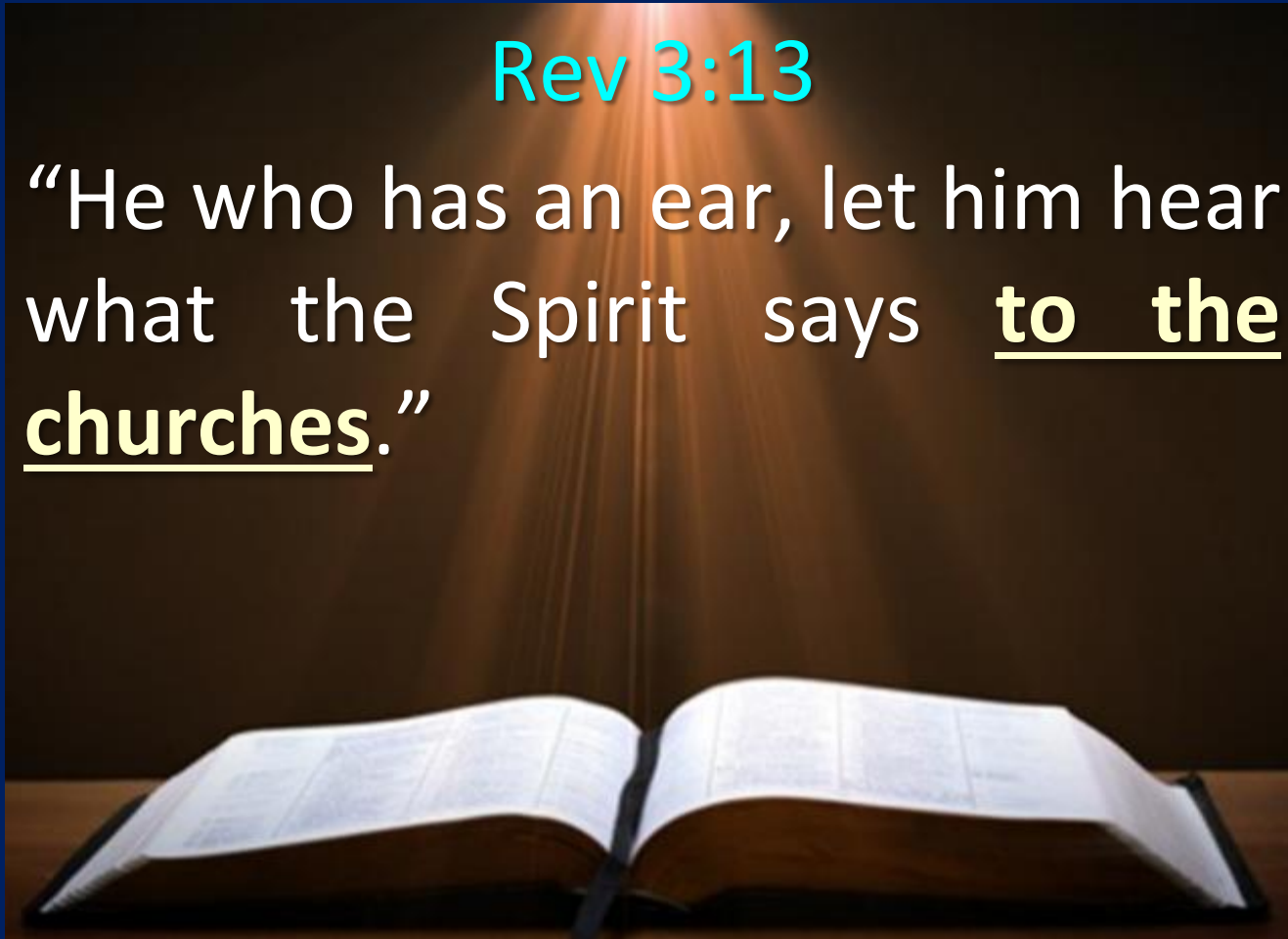
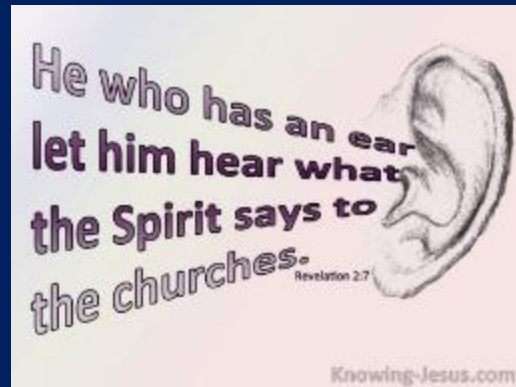
- The promise (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; 8:1; Rev 3:10)
- Tribulation = divine wrath (Rev 6:16-17; 11:18; 15:1, 7; 16:19)



Exhortation to Listen

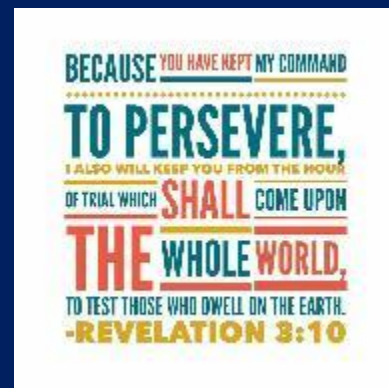
Rev 3:13

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”



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Revelation 1:19

“Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things [*meta tauta*].”



Revelation 1:19

- Seen (Chapter 1)
- Are (Chapters 2–3)
- After these things (Chapters 4–22)



Revelation 1:19

- Seen (Chapter 1)
- Are (Chapters 2–3)
- After these things (Chapters 4–22)



The Missing Church

- Rev 4-19
- Rev 13:9
- Revelation's Jewish nature



God's Work Through Israel

- Revelation 7 – 144,000 Jews
- Revelation 11 – Two Jewish witnesses
- Revelation 12 – Israel flees



Conclusion

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2

Exodus 9:6-So the LORD did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the sons of Israel, not one died.

Rev. 9:4-They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Rev. 16:2-So the first angel went and poured out his bowl [c]on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

Rev. 13:10-If anyone ^[g]*is destined* for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the ^[h]perseverance and the faith of the ^[i]saints.

Rev. 13:15-And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even ^[l]speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

John 14:1-**Do not let your heart be troubled;** ^[a]believe in God, believe also in Me.

1 Thess. 4:18-Therefore comfort one another with these words.

4

John 2:4-And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with us? My **hour** has not yet come.”

Rev. 17:12-The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for **one hour**.

Dan. 12:1-Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. **And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time**; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

1 Thess. 1:10-and to wait for His Son from ^[h]heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

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

Rom 5:9-Much more then, having now been justified ^[e]by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath *of God* through Him.

Rom. 8:1-Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

5

Luke 2:1-Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all ^[a]**the inhabited earth**.

Luke 4:5-And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of **the world** in a moment of time.

Acts 17:31-because He has fixed a day in which He will judge **the world** in righteousness ^[v]through a Man whom He

has appointed, having furnished proof to all men ^[w]by raising Him from the dead.

Rev. 12:9-And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole **world**; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

8

1 Pet. 5:1-Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory **that is to be revealed**.

10

1 Thess. 1:10-and to wait for His Son from ^[h]heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

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Rom 5:9-Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath *of God* through Him.

Rom. 8:1-Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:1-2-Therefore if you have been **raised** up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your mind** on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

11

Rev. 13:9-If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

Gal. 3:28- There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Eph. 2:14-For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and broke down the ^[1]barrier of the dividing wall.

Rev. 1:20-As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Rev. 4:5-Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Conclusion

Num. 6:24-26-The LORD bless you, and keep you;

²⁵ The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.