

EP23: Revelation Introduction P3

In our last podcast we addressed the fact that the term **Tribulation** is not the same as the term the **Great Tribulation**. In fact, the entire **Codex** never mentions a 7-year tribulation period; rather, two time periods each of which comprise 3.5-years. **2 distinct periods of time**. It would be acceptable to label the entire timespan generically as the “Tribulation”, but we must be cautious to not create confusion and fiction upon fictions caused by using generic terms.

The first time period of 3.5-years is separate and distinct in purpose and implication than the second time period of 3.5-years. For in the second 3.5-years there occurs the famed **Great Tribulation** which does not occur until **AFTER** an event called the *Abomination of Desolation*, which occurs during the middle, right between the two 3.5-year periods of time.¹

From within the midst of a terrible persecution of God’s people during the bridge period of 3.5 months, there will be a sign, the *Abomination of Desolation*. Then there will come a “*Great Tribulation, a time such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.*”² The Great Tribulation is *literally* incomparable to anything the world has ever seen or ever will see. It is this definition that makes the time of Great Tribulation” a *defined term*—since, by definition, there can be only one such time.

Great Tribulation & Wrath

Since the term the “Tribulation” (the two 3.5-year periods) does not equal the “Great Tribulation”, then to what is the time of *wrath* referring. This is critical to understand since we know that the Lord’s bondservants are not appointed to wrath, and they are rescued from the wrath to come.³ Understanding the timing of wrath is tantamount.

This one is simple and easy; one just must look at the **Codex** which specifically says that the day of **Yahweh** (day of the Lord), the day of **Yahweh’s** sacrifice, the great day of **Yahweh** (all synonymous with the “Great Tribulation”), **is the day of the Lord’s (Yahweh’s) wrath**.⁴ Therefore, the Great Tribulation is the same as the wrath to come, they are synonymous terms. This is in reference to the *wrath* to which true believers are not appointed and from which they are rescued.

This time of *wrath* is clearly demarcated by angels who literally pour out 7-bowls containing plagues and the **wrath** (or anger) of God.⁵ These bowls of wrath occur after the 7-seals are opened, after the 7-trumpets are blown, and after the Church is removed from this world in the event known as the rapture (remember, true believers are not appointed to wrath, therefore, they are not appointed to the Great Tribulation). This would place the *wrath* clearly at some point within in the second of the 3.5-year periods.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION AND THE DAY OF THE LORD’S WRATH ARE SYNONYMOUS.

¹ **Matthew 24:15-22; Mark 13:14-21.** See also **Daniel 11:31-39**

² **Matthew 24:21; Mark 13:19**

³ **1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9**

⁴ **Zephaniah 1:15**

⁵ **Revelation 15:1; 16:1-12, 17-21**

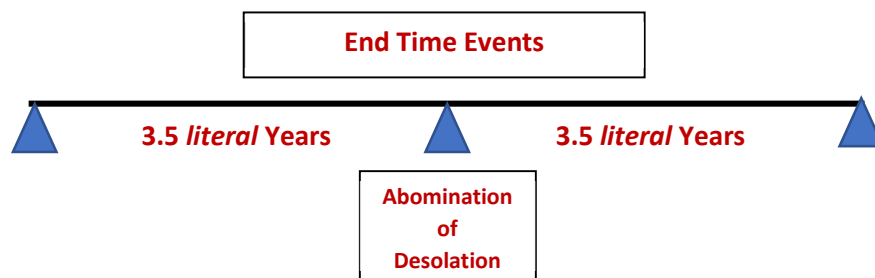
Timing of the Great Tribulation—the Day of Wrath

To determine with accuracy the timing of this unparalleled event, we must go back to its key marker, the *Abomination of Desolation*. According to Jesus, the “Great Tribulation” cannot occur before the *Abomination of Desolation*.⁶ It is a subsequent event that follows the *Abomination of Desolation*.

So, what do we know about the *Abomination of Desolation*? Some key facts about the Beast (the demonic spirit that will possess the man we know as the Antichrist) and **Yahweh’s** 2 witnesses helps us pin the *Abomination of Desolation* to a time near the middle, between the two 3.5-year periods, give or take some days.

There is a simple illustration in the transcript that can be downloaded at threshermediagroup.com.

Illustration



Key Facts about the Beast and the 2 Witnesses

- The Beast is given power to act for 42 months (3.5 *literal* years).⁷
- The Beast is remarkably busy during the second of the two 3.5-year periods. He is found gathering the armies of the nations to war against Christ at His return.⁸ Thus, we can determine that his rule does not occur in the first 3.5-year period.
- In fact, the Beast is not eliminated from the scene until Jesus returns and tosses him into the Lake of Fire.⁹
- The Beast persecutes and slaughters the 2 witnesses which **Yahweh** sends to testify of Christ, so the Beast and the 2 witnesses can only coexist on the earth for a short period of time due to the time in which the witnesses are authorized to act.¹⁰

⁶ *Matthew 24:21; Mark 13:19*

⁷ *Revelation 13:5*

⁸ *Revelation 16:13-14, 19:19*

⁹ *Revelation 19:20*

¹⁰ *Revelation 11:3-13*

- The 2 witnesses are given authority to prophecy for 1,260 days (3.5-years).
- When they finish their testimony, the Beast will make war with them and overcome them and kill them during a period of 3.5 months.
- They will lie dead for 3.5 days, and then suddenly be raptured and raised from the dead.
- The Beast will succeed but only until the time of wrath (Great Tribulation) is completed.¹¹
- The ruler (the man of lawlessness—the Antichrist—who will ultimately be possessed by the Beast) will make a treaty with the people for a period of 7-years, but after half this time (3.5-years) he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration—the *Abomination of Desolation*.¹²
- From the time that the *Abomination of Desolation* is set up, there will be **1,290 days**, which creates an overlap with the 2 witnesses' authority to testify by 30-days.¹³
- How *blessed* is he who keeps waiting and attains to the **1, 335 days**!¹⁴ This creates a 3.5-month period between the *Abomination of Desolation* and the event known as the rapture. During this 3.5-months the witnesses' testimony is completed and they are overcome and killed by the Beast.
- The 3.5-month overlap is not equal over the two 3.5-year periods. But it starts in the last 30 days of the first 3.5-year period and extends 75 days into the second 3.5-year period, for a total of 105 days or 3.5 months based on a 360 day a year Jewish calendar.
- The “**day of the Lord**” (synonymous with Great Tribulation) will not come unless the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, *so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God* (the ultimate *Abomination of Desolation*).¹⁵

Therefore, given these facts, and counting backwards 42 months from the return of Christ (the time in which the Beast is permitted to act), we must conclude that the *Abomination of Desolation* occurs 30 days before the midway mark. This would place the time of **wrath** after the first **1,335 days** (The Lord says blessed are those who survive through 1,335 days). Hence the time of **wrath** is after both the *Abomination of Desolation* and the rapture of the church.

¹¹ **Daniel 11:36-38**

¹² **Daniel 9:26-27**

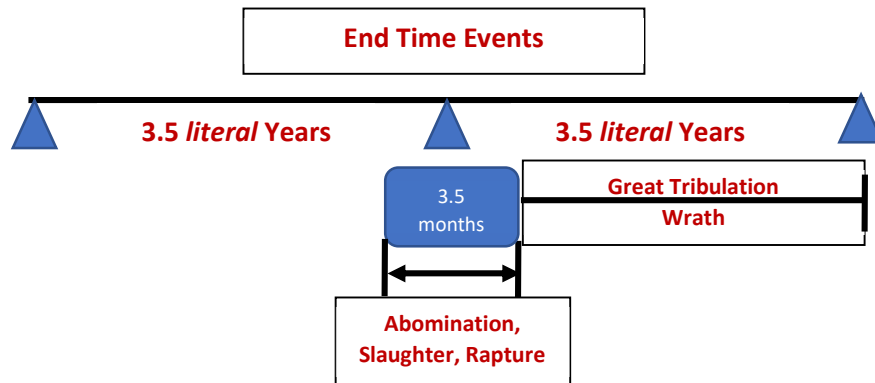
¹³ **Daniel 12:11**

¹⁴ **Daniel 12:12.** Note, in **Revelation**, the ones who are considered “*blessed*” are true believers depicted in the **7-references** (indicating a complete revelation of those who are “*blessed*”). Blessed are those who hear the words of the prophecy and heed them (**1:3, 22:7**); blessed are those who die in the Lord...so that they may rest from their labors (**14:13**); blessed are those who stay awake and keeps his clothes, so he will not walk around naked (**16:15**); blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb (**19:9**); blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection (**20:6**); and blessed are those who wash their robes so they may have the right to the tree of life (**22:7**).

¹⁵ **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4**

Illustration

I have placed an illustration in the transcript, which you can download at threshermediagroup.com to help you visualize this time sequence.



Yes, we did all that work just to verify the timing of the *Abomination of Desolation* so that we can clearly state with confidence that the Day of the Lord, the Great Tribulation, the time of *wrath* does not occur until sometime in the last 3.5-year period after both the *Abomination of Desolation* and the rapture, as true believers are not appointed to this unparalleled time of wrath.

Why Does it Matter?

The Rapture Myths

Circling back around to the driver of much of the **End Times fiction**, the issue of the timing of the rapture, we can be 100% confident that the rapture will occur before the Great Tribulation, before the time of God's *wrath*. But there is not a single passage in the **Codex** that says it will occur before the first of the two 3.5-year time periods. In fact, the **Code** will be noticeably clear in narrowing our focus of the timing of the rapture to the blowing of the 7th trumpet, to the time when the 2 witnesses are slaughtered, to those 3.5 months which overlaps the two 3.5 years.

WE CAN DECLARE WITH 100% CONFIDENCE THAT THE RAPTURE WILL OCCUR BEFORE THE GREAT TRIBULATION (BEFORE THE TIME OF WRATH), BUT AFTER THE REVEALING OF THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS AT THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

Fiction Alert

FICTION ALERT

This truth about the rapture is crucial since the majority of those in the religion of Christianity (at least Western Christianity) has been promised that they will not go through “the Tribulation,” which is errantly ascribe to the entire **End Times**. This lie is simply a non-biblical **fiction** promoted by teachers’ who are driven by *instinctual religious wisdom*, licentiousness, and sensuality (see **Jude**). Tragically, many will fall away into apostasy when they realize they were lied to and are now not ready to endure, for they no longer have oil in their lamps to keep them lit.¹⁶

Moreover, we must never forget that **before** this “man of lawlessness” (the son of Destruction—literally the son of the Beast) is revealed, there will be a great apostasy—a great falling away.¹⁷ And one cannot fall away unless one first belongs.

Overview / Layout

As we discussed, there is kind of a sequential layout to **Revelation** with some throw backs in time here and there. Below highlights each section and provides an overview of what we can expect to learn and discover.

1. Jesus is unveiled and introduced to John as He prepares John to receive all that he will hear and see. **Chapter 1**.
2. Jesus dictates letters to 7-churches and appraises them and exhorts them to now and continually be believing. **Chapters 2-3**.
3. John is taken up into the heavenly realms where he sees the throne of God and all the heavenly hosts. **Chapter 4**.
4. John sees a book with 7-seals and watches the Lamb of God open the first 6-seals which introduces certain spiritual and physical events on the earth and in the heavenlies that are not tied to the “tribulation”. **Chapter 5-6**.
5. John is given a short break where he is shown a *spiritual* list of the tribes of Israel and immediately sees a myriad of people, from every tribe, tongue, and nation—people who have dug deep in their souls and are even now choosing to come out of the great tribulation. These people are all worshiping **Yahweh**. **Chapter 7**.
6. John sees the breaking of the 7th seal which leads to a group of 7-angels who hold 7-trumpets, and the first 6 angels blow their horns. This unleashes tremendous destruction to the earth, the skies, and to the heavens. An army of demons is released from the Abyss and their leader is the Beast, destruction himself—the Destroyer. A huge demonic army comes from the east and plagues kill many people; it is a terrible time for humanity. **Chapters 8-9**.
7. John hears a proclamation that he cannot write down or repeat, but he is also told that there will be no more delay, for with the blowing of the 7th trumpet, the mystery of God is finished. **Chapter 10**.
8. We are introduced to the 2 witnesses who are given authority to prophecy for 1,260 days, and when they have finished their testimony, the Beast makes war with them, overcomes them,

¹⁶ **Matthew 25:1-13**

¹⁷ **2 Thessalonians 2:3**

and kills them. But 3.5 days later they rise to heaven in the sight of all who dwell on the earth. The 7th trumpet is blown, and it is proclaimed that the kingdom of the world now belongs to Christ, and He has begun to reign, His wrath now comes, the resurrected believers go through their heavenly judgment and receive their rewards, and He starts to destroy those who destroy the earth. **Chapter 11.**

9. We get a throwback in time to an image of Israel right before she “births” the Messiah. We are given images of Satan waring against Israel, against the Child, and against all true believers. But twice, Israel is given safety and shelter, once for 1,260 days and once for time, times, and half a time. We are also told about a war in heaven which the angels win, and Satan and his minions are cast down out of the heavenly realms to the earth and they are furious. “*Woe to the earth and the sea for Satan knows he has only a very short time remaining.*” **Chapter 12.**
10. We see the emergence of the Beast, after he was released from the Abyss and has gained his worldly power and support. The Beast is empowered to make war with the saints, all true believers. We also are introduced to his cohort, the False Prophet, that forces those who make their abode in this world to worship the Beast or face certain death. This prophet sets up a likeness of the Beast which comes to life and speaks and causes the world to be amazed. Many people take (and have taken) upon their being the name of the Beast or the number of his name: **666. Chapter 13.**
11. We are given a vision (not sequential in time) of those who are the Called, Chosen, and Faithful of God, they follow the Lamb wherever He goes, even down the pathway of sacrifice and death. An angel flies through the sky and tells all the inhabitants of the earth to fear **Yahweh**. Another angel follows and declares that Babylon (**Code** for the religious systems of belief) has fallen. Then doom is pronounced on the worshipers of the Beast. And finally, we see one like the son of man descend from heaven with a shout of an angel and he harvests all the true believers from the earth (the rapture), and another angel declares that all who remain will be harvested and thrown into the great winepress of the wrath of God. **Chapter 14.**
12. The 7-angels who have 7-plagues are called forward because in them the *wrath* of God is finished. At the same time in Heaven, the true believers walk through their judgment and sing a beautiful song of worship, the song of Moses. The focus returns to the 7-angels who are given 7-bowls filled with the wrath of God to pour out on the earth. **Chapter 15.**
13. The first 6-bowls of God’s wrath are poured out on the earth, and it is ghastly and terrifying. The 6th angel pours his bowl on the great river Euphrates and dries it up so a way for the kings of the light of the rising sun is prepared. Then comes Armageddon, where the Beast, the False Prophet, and many demons gather the armies of the world together to wage war for the great day of the Lord Almighty. And then the 7th bowl is poured out and there is a great earthquake, and 100-pound hailstones pummel the earth. **Chapter 16.**
14. Babylon, the “woman who rides the Beast”, is revealed in a non-sequential vision. We are given some details about the kingdom of the Beast and how its authority operates. Although the Beast uses this woman (religion) in his ascent to power, the Beast will turn against the woman and destroy her, burn her up with fire. **Chapter 17.**
15. We are given a broad description of the global trade of Babylon (religion) and of all those who

will be impacted by her destruction. It is a time of great mourning for the religious merchants of the earth. **Chapter 18.**

16. The heavens rejoice at the destruction of Babylon. Then comes the glorious marriage supper of the Lamb, and His bride has made herself ready as she is clothed in the righteous acts of the saints. After the wedding, Jesus returns to the earth. It is His glorious Second Coming (a honeymoon off sorts with His bride). He conquers all, and the Beast, the False Prophet, and all those who took the mark of the Beast are thrown into the Lake of Fire while the rest of their demonic hoards are destroyed or punished. **Chapter 19.**
17. Satan is bound and thrown into the Abyss for 1,000 years. Those who did not receive the mark of the Beast come to life and will reign with Christ for 1,000 years. After that time, Satan is released, and he gathers the nations (led by the spiritual hosts Gog and Magog) together for war. When they come near the people of God, fire comes down from heaven and destroys them all. Satan is thrown into the Lake of Fire to be tormented day and night forever. Next is the great White Throne Judgment, where the dead (not including those who belong to the Bride of Christ) are judged according to their deeds. Death and Hades and all whose name are not found in the Lamb's book of life are thrown into the Lake of Fire. **Chapter 20.**
18. A new heaven and earth are unveiled as well as the New Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ, and the tabernacle of God is with men. He wipes away tears, and there is no more death, sorrow, crying or pain, for the first things have all passed away. Then we are given a very elaborate description of the Bride of Christ imaged as a city, the New Jerusalem. But there is no temple in this city for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple, and nothing unclean comes into this temple. **Chapter 21.**
19. We are showed the river of life and a fruit bearing tree next to the river's banks, the leaves of which are used for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse. All the bondservants of God will see His face and have His name written on their foreheads. Jesus then proclaims that He now chooses to now come quickly and *blessed* are those who heed the words of the prophecy in this book. John introduces himself and then we get to the final close where Jesus gives a warning and a promise. The Spirit and the Bride say come. **Chapter 22.**

I find it interesting that this overview broke down to 19 segments, because in Biblical numerology, it is generally understood that the number 19 is a symbol of God's divine order in judgment, and that is exactly what this entire book is about. 9 is the number of judgment and 10 is God's perfect multiplier for testing.¹⁸ In that regard, let us remember the following:

JUDE AND REVELATION TARGETS THOSE WITHIN THE VISIBLE CHURCH WITH A MESSAGE WHICH SEPARATES THOSE WHO STAND ONLY ON THE GOODNESS OF GOD FROM THOSE WHO ARE TRYING VERY HARD TO BE GOOD FOR GOD.

¹⁸ Apostate Israel was ruled by 19 kings before the kingdom was conquered by Assyria.

FOR THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PERSON WHO IS LIVING FOR GOD AND ONE WHO IS WILLING TO LET GOD LIVE IN-AND-THROUGH THEM. THIS IS A DIFFERENCE WHICH PLAYS OUT IN LIFE AND DEATH—IN THOSE WHO ARE NOW CHOOSING TO BE COMING OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION AND THOSE WHO WILL CHOOSE TO ENDURE WRATH.

We will stop here and pick up next week in *Revelation* Chapter 1.