

# Getting a Birdseye View of Endtimes - I

Rich Jacobs, M.D. (email: [rdjacobs@cox.net](mailto:rdjacobs@cox.net))

## Introduction

Getting the “big picture” of what might be happening during the end times helps many people better understand *Revelation*. God has revealed so much about end times to us in the Bible, that we are easily overwhelmed by all the information. Trying to sort it all out feels like putting together a 10,000 piece puzzle without the box lid! Our goal today is to start to put that puzzle together to find the big picture by beginning with some of the “edge pieces” found in scripture.

## Round One; The 70th Week - the Big Picture (10 minutes)

Many students of end times believe **Daniel 9:27** describes the last seven (7) years of time. A common understanding of these last seven (7) years, when considering many other Bible verses, suggests the following sequence of events.

(A) A leader, who later turns out to be the Antichrist, brokers a peace treaty between Israel and her enemies. Israel feels safe, (**1 Thessalonians 5:1-3**) so she rebuilds her temple in Jerusalem and resumes sacrificial worship.

(B) About three and a half (3 <sup>1/2</sup>) years later, Antichrist breaks the treaty, invades Israel (**Daniel 9:27**), and makes Jerusalem his capital. Godly Jews and Christians discover the “peacemaker” is really the Antichrist, when he chooses to live in the rebuilt temple, claiming he is the Messiah, God incarnate (**2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4**). He orders everyone to worship him as God.

(C) Now claiming to be God, the Antichrist is an “abomination” to all true believers. Rejecting his claims of divinity, faithful Christians and Jews refuse to worship him, although many others are deceived. (**2 Thessalonians 2:3-12**)

(D) Angered by his rejection, Antichrist begins a campaign of persecution and martyrdom of Christians and godly Jews. (**Revelation 6:9-11; 7:9-17**) This intense persecution is called “the Great Tribulation”. (*NOTE: the last seven (7) years is NOT the Great Tribulation, it only contains the Great Tribulation.*)

(E) Supernatural wonders, such as darkening of the sun, a blood-red moon, falling stars, and catastrophic earthquakes are the sign that Jesus is coming when they announce the Lord’s return. (**Revelation 6:12-17**)

(F) The Great Tribulation ends when Christ returns to the earth, with all his angels (**Matthew 24:31**), to rescue His suffering Church (**1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9; Romans 5:9**). The rapture of Christians ends their Great Tribulation and is preceded by the resurrection of the righteous dead (**1 Thessalonians 4:14-17**).

(G) With the Church now delivered, God’s wrath brings judgement to the world, similar to His judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah (**Revelation 8-11**) and to His plagues of Egypt (**Exodus 7-12**).

(H) During this time of divine wrath, a godly, but as yet, non-christian, remnant of Israel makes its escape to the desert and remains in hiding from Antichrist and his allies (**Zechariah 14**).

(I) In desperate straights, the remnant of Israel begins a time of intense prayer and scripture search. In time, they realize they’ve rejected Christ; they repent from their unbelief (**Zechariah 12:10; Isaiah 10:20-23**). Three (3) days later, Jesus appears to

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them, they embrace Him, and all Israel is save (**Hosea 5:15-6:3; Romans 11:25-27**).

(J) Israel's salvation paves the way for the final showdown between the Lord and Antichrist. The wrath ends with a massive battle at Armageddon and Antichrist looses (**Revelation 16:12-16**). Antichrist, the false prophet, and Satan are banished to Hades. (**Revelation 16:16-21**)

(K) Christ begins His earthly reign with the redeemed remnant of Israel and the resurrected-raptured Church. (**Zechariah 14:9; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 19:5-9; 20:6**)

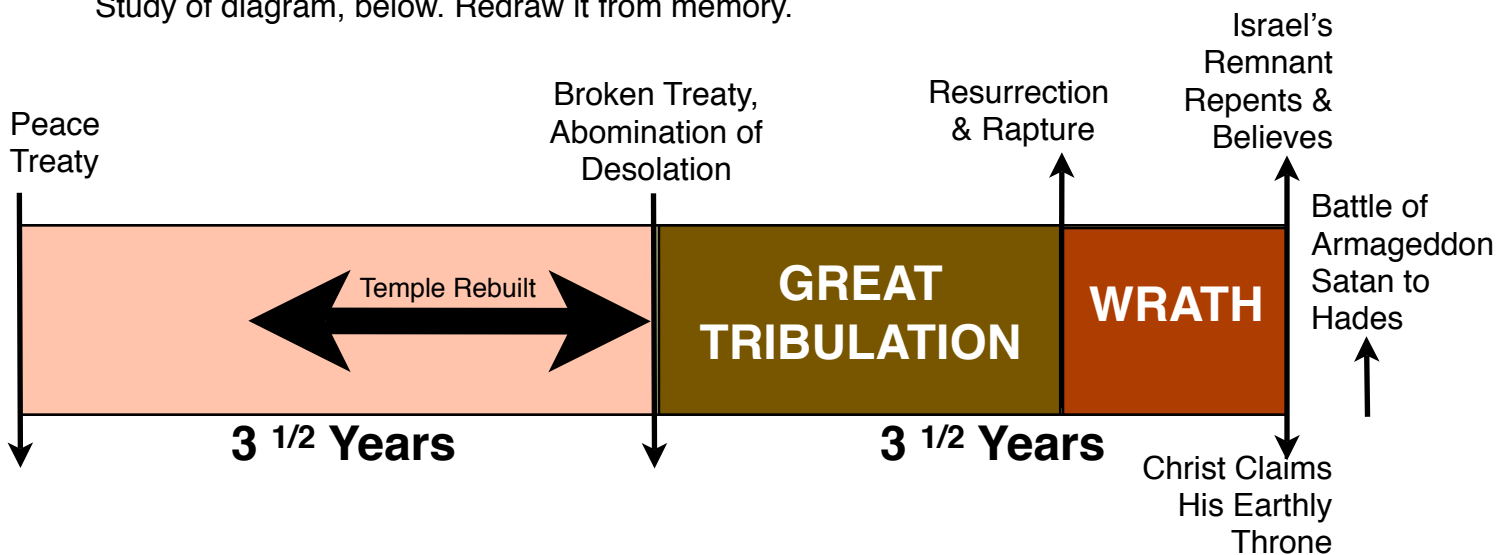
*Discovery Project One: (20 minutes)*

Read **Matthew 24:3-31**. Work through the following exercises.

1. Read "E", above. Which verse(s) in **Matthew 24:3-31**, describes the heavenly signs that will *immediately precede* Christ returns for His Church ("His elect")?
2. Read "C" and "D", above. Compare this verse to **Revelation 6:9-11**. Do you see the similarities? What more have you learned about this event?
3. From your reading of **Matthew 24:29-31**, do you think the resurrection and rapture occurs before or after the "Great Tribulation"? Why?
4. What other reasons to do you have for thinking Christians will, or will not, have to endure the Great Tribulation? Explain? (*Hint: Read **John 16:33***)
5. Read **Revelation 7:9-16**. Who do you think is being described in these passages? How did they get there?
6. Compare **Matthew 24:15** to **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4**. Do you think these two verses are describing the same event? If so, why? In not, why not?

*Round Two: The Sequence of the 70th Week (20 minutes)*

Study of diagram, below. Redraw it from memory.



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*Group Discover Two: (10 minutes)*

*Discovery Project Two: (10 minutes)*

Paragraphs “A” through “K”, above, list some of the important events in the order in which scriptures seems to suggest they will take place. Using them as a guide, place the following hypothetical news tweets in the chronological order in which they might take place by numbering them “1” through “6”.

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**Extra! Extra! Great World Leader’s Army Conquers Israel! Jerusalem Falls After Extensive Bombardment. Rebel Jews Flee to Desert!**

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**Breaking News! Hail and Fire Mixed with Blood Falls on Earth. One-third of Earth, Trees, and Grass Burned Up! Great Leader Blames Jews for Disaster! Vows Their Destruction!**

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**PEACE AT LAST! Great World Leader Negotiates Treaty Between Israel and Muslim Nations! Peace Guaranteed by NATO and U.S.! Israel to Rebuild Temple on Mount! PEACE AT LAST!**

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**Sun Black, Red Moon, Earthquakes - Richter Scale 10+ Around the World. Great Leader Blames Christians. Vows to Hunt Them Down. Christians Mysteriously Escape!**

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**PRAISE THE LORD. JESUS REIGNS IN JERUSALEM. ANTICHRIST AND SATAN DEFEATED. SAINTS RULE WITH CHRIST!!!**

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**Extra! Jewish Rebel Army Amasses Against Great Leader at Megiddo. Final Showdown Hoped to End Terrible Plagues! Great Leader Curses New Charismatic Jewish Commander!**

*Homework: Read paragraphs “A” through “K”, above again, but this time, look up each of the scripture verses mentioned in the paragraphs. Try to redraw the diagram, shown above, from memory.*

## **Answers to Discovery Projects:**

*Discovery Project Two: Order of headlines, from top to bottom is as follows: 2, 4, 1, 3, 6, 5.*

*Discovery Project One: 1. Mt 24:29, 30. 2. Both scriptures describe the Great Tribulation, showing martyrdom of the saints. 3. The resurrection & rapture occurs after the Great Tribulation. 4. Enduring tribulation is part of the testimony of the saints to a lost world. Christians have endured tribulation for millennia, as did Christ Himself. In fact, Jesus promises us tribulation because of our faith. 5. It shows the church, now in Heaven, as they were just resurrected and raptured by Christ. 6. Both describe Antichrist claiming to be God after he conquers Jerusalem.*