



Post Tribulation Resurrection & Rapture: End-Times Timeline According to Jesus

Theological Conference 2021 – Tracy Z



The events that lead up to Jesus' return are like puzzle pieces and they must all be on the table so we can intelligently put the end-times timeline together and see the big picture. Jesus put the edge pieces together in Matthew 24 and it is our job to flip the rest of the pieces and finish putting the puzzle together so we will not be deceived.

Many people, Christians included, questioned if COVID was a "sign" of the "end of the world." Many people still think we are in the final years, or even the last, last days

before Christ's return. Unfortunately, many misunderstand what is happening and what will happen,

This world will not end, just this age. Then there will be a beginning of a new age, one in which there will be a righteous king on the throne, and God's rule will cover the Earth and be over all the nations.



**What are the signs of your coming and
when all this will happen?**

The disciples asked Jesus, “What are the signs of your coming (*parousia*) and when all this will happen?” Daniel asked the same question, “When will this happen?”

We all want to know when Jesus is coming to conquer evil and set up God’s rule on the Earth! I hope to help answer this age-old question, as well as the question many ask today, “Could Jesus come tomorrow?”

Please make note that I am NOT setting specific dates.

*We will not know the exact day or hour, but with that said, Jesus emphatically stated that he was telling us various signs so that we could know so that we would **not be deceived.***

Many confuse the “birth pains” with the Great Tribulation because those things will most likely continue throughout the distress of those days, just in greater intensity. **We must take care to not be deceived by the birth pains!**

Many people have been deceived by the story, “Left Behind.” The “Left Behind” books and movies should be LEFT BEHIND!

The term that Jesus will come like a “thief in the night” is misused and deceives many. Those who quote 1 Thessalonians 5:2 neglect to read down to verse 4.

“Now on the topic of times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. For you know quite well that the day of the Lord will come in the same way as a thief in the night. Now when

they are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction comes on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will surely not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the darkness for the day to overtake you like a thief would. For you all are sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness. So, then we must not sleep as the rest, but must stay alert and sober." (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6)



Jesus is Coming!

Both pre-and post-tribulation sides agree that Jesus is returning; the question is if his return and the resurrection happen before or after the Great Tribulation. I hope to share why it matters to know which one it will be, according to Jesus.

I propose and would like to show you with Scripture, that according to Jesus' own words, he will not and

could not come tomorrow. (Now this doesn't mean you can live how you want because you think you have time to get right with God or quit sinning. You don't know if you will live beyond tomorrow so you must live like he could come at any moment.)

I would also like to make it clear that in and of itself, understanding these end time events, especially pre- or post-tribulation resurrection, are not "salvation issues." But, with that said, they could BECOME salvation issues for those who will be living through the events at that time if they are not prepared.



Birth Pains

Jesus' first response to the disciple's question was to address the birth pains. Birth pains, are the contractions a woman has before giving birth. They can start quite a while before the baby is actually born, but as the birth gets closer, the contractions get closer together and more painful, and eventually they are so strong that they help push the baby out. This was a great analogy and example Jesus used to describe the last days and the end

of this age prior to his coming.

The signs Jesus shared (wars, earthquakes, and famines) would continue and increase as his coming got closer, but he said, “Don’t be afraid and don’t be deceived when you see these things happening more and more!”

Since that day, there have been more earthquakes, wars and famines. With each day, the last days of this present evil age are winding down.

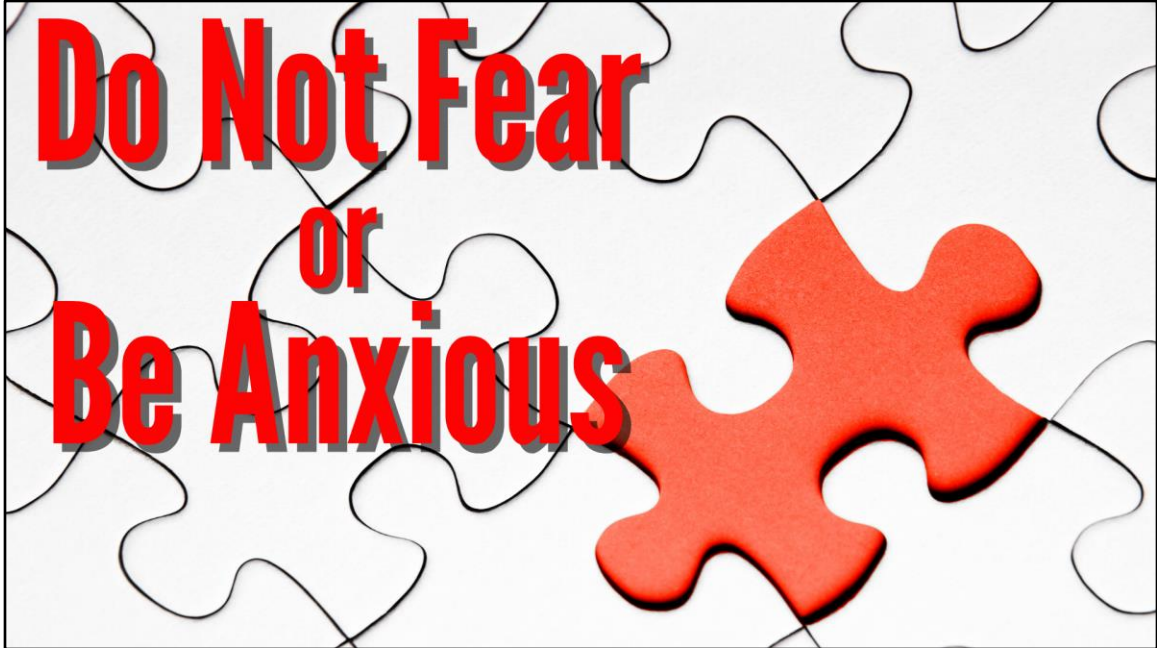
The “last days” began at the time of Jesus. Acts 2:17 tells us that, “In the last days ***it will be, God says, that I will pour out my Spirit on all people.***”

1 Corinthians 10:11-12 says, “These things happened to them as examples and were written for our instruction, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So let the one who thinks he is standing be careful that he does not fall.”

2 Peter 3:3-4, 17 says, “Above all, understand this: In the

last days blatant scoffers will come, being propelled by their own evil urges and saying, “Where is his promised return? Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard that you do not get led astray by the error of these unprincipled men and fall from your firm grasp on the truth.”

God’s spirit has been poured out on all Christians. The apostles saw such signs as Jesus warned about, as do we today. And there certainly have been and are scoffers. But these are only the birth pains. All of this will increase in intensity before the **specific signs** happen that Jesus told us to watch for.



Don't Be Afraid or Deceived

As we see and experience these things, we Christians should think and act different than those in the world. We shouldn't fear or be anxious. We have been told ahead of time what to expect, so why do we think it is so odd the world is going the way it is?! We have been prepared and warned about what will happen so that his coming would not be like a thief in the night.

So, my question is, “Why not now?! Why not in our lifetime?!” Eventually there will be a last generation before Jesus returns. Too many Christians today seem to be trying to avoid this, perhaps without even knowing what they are doing!

We must prepare ourselves and the next generation so they can be prepared, or pass it on if Jesus should tarry. If not, as Jesus asked, will there be any faith left on the Earth when he finally returns?

There will be much worse times than we are now experiencing in the West. We must face the reality that the Great Tribulation might be around the corner and we may have to endure it.



False Teachings

We also must be prepared to differentiate God's Messiah from the Antichrist. Jesus warned Christians of those who would be teaching false teachings in the church. Many evangelical churches either falsely teach that the Kingdom is just within us, that it is actually here now, or that we Christians are to bring about the Kingdom ourselves, that is, we are to be *building His Kingdom now*, as one evangelical song's lyrics say.

Jesus did not teach any of this! We were given the job to *proclaim this coming Kingdom and help prepare people for it*. The only “building” is reconciling people to God and them becoming Kingdom citizens and followers of Messiah, but even in this, we are told to work out our salvation. There is no such thing in the Bible as “once saved, always saved.” (OSAS)! You can lose your salvation if you fall away, that is why we are warned to stand firm, There is no “Kingdom now”, other than the world’s kingdoms and Satan’s dominion on the Earth.

Satan is waylaying the work of Jesus’ disciples and his commandment to Christians by getting them caught up in things they were not given to do.

We must be busy with what Jesus commanded his followers to do: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19) **Too many professing Christians are busying themselves with things of this world and trying to “build his Kingdom” now, rather than warning people of the coming**

Tribulation and ultimately, the coming of God's Messiah..

Another deception is that many Christians seem to think is a priority, is that they need to “fight” or even “infiltrate” the government and try to make everything right today. Political peace today, will not last and it will not bring about the change all desire. **There will not be true peace and right governing until the Prince of Peace arrives and the righteous King takes his seat on his throne in Jerusalem.**

Political things are preparing and will continue to **prepare the nations to receive and accept the Antichrist** when he comes on the scene. We are told to remain faithful, not to fight it or try to change or postpone it. When God's timing is right, Antichrist will rise up and bring on the Great Tribulation.

This life now is not “life that is truly life,” nor will it ever be. (Although, it may seem to many in the West that life isn't too bad, I don't think though if you told someone in North Korea or Haiti that the Kingdom is here now, that

they would agree.)



Abomination of Desolation

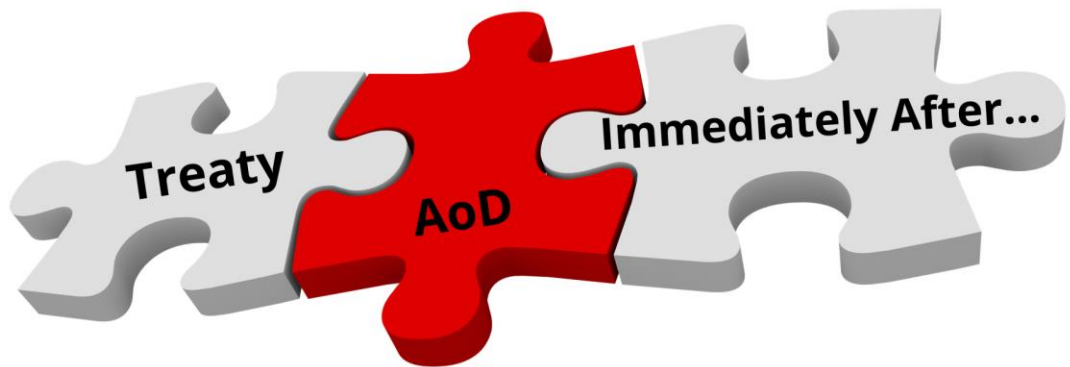
So, back to Jesus' concrete and specific answer to the question at hand. When Jesus was asked that important question, he shared a few markers and then referred his hearers back to the prophet Daniel.

Daniel gives us a time frame and helps us to begin connecting the dots and putting the puzzle pieces together. **Jesus referenced and set the marker that**

Daniel referred to as well, the Abomination of Desolation, so that we could begin to put the end-time timeline together (Daniel 12:11, 9:20-27, 11:29-39)

According to Jesus and the rest of Scripture, there are certain things that must happen before Jesus returns? Again, why does this matter? So that we will NOT to be deceived!

!



Immediately after what?

Those who believe in the pre-tribulation resurrection (rapture) and trinitarians are setting themselves up to be deceived by these future events. Imagine if you thought you would be taken away and not experience the tribulation in those days, and then all of a sudden you find yourself in the midst of the Great Tribulation. You would be devastated because you thought you'd be "raptured," but instead you were left behind! Or, if you are a trinitarian and think that Jesus is God, you won't have a problem of

Antichrist calling himself "god," even if you are waiting

for Jesus to return.

We must remember that we have to piece together all the puzzle pieces given to us throughout the Bible to get the best understanding we can of these events. **It is a good idea to start with Jesus, follow his words back to Daniel, and then look at Thessalonians, Corinthians and the Revelation.** Once we get all these puzzle pieces on the table, we can start putting the puzzle together.



Immediately After

Since the time of Jesus, the birth pains have started. Eventually the Antichrist and False Prophet will be revealed, the abomination of desolation will take place, and then the Great Tribulation. What Jesus said after this are key pieces to the puzzle. He said that “**IMMEDIATELY AFTER**” the **distress in those days**, and “as lightning flashes.” This all is **PRIOR** to his return and it makes the point that **his return will be visible**, like lightning that is visible in the sky. There is no secret coming or secret

“rapture.”

In Matthew 24 Jesus laid out a simple outline of the order of events before he returns (which means, before the church is “raptured”). There is the Abomination, the Great Tribulation, and then, IMMEDIATELY AFTER that distress in those days, he will visibly return and send his angels to resurrect the saints and gather them to meet him in the air (rapture).

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 is a longer summary of these events and lays out what must happen prior to the Day of the Lord, the return of Jesus, and when we are “gathered to him” (resurrected & raptured). The Man of Sin (Antichrist) will be revealed, which we see is when the Abomination takes place and he sets himself up in God’s temple. Only after this event does Christ arrive to gather the church.

This passage is mentioned again for the purpose of informing us so that we will not be deceived! **Avoiding deception in these very last days seems to be an important point that Jesus and the other authors wanted to know.** If it was important back then, it should be of even greater importance for us now as the days get

closer.

Another point to consider is that in Revelation 13:7 it tells us that the Beast is permitted to go to war against the saints and conquer them. This too lets us know that the saints, not just physical Israel, are the ones that Antichrist is attacking during the Great tribulation. Verse 13 also tells us that this tribulation requires steadfast endurance and faith from the saints. If they were “raptured,” this would not be stated in such a way.

In addition, we are told in Matthew 24:22 that for the sake of the elect the days will be cut short because if they were not, nobody would be saved.

We know in the New Testament that the saints and the elect refer to the united church, the tree with the grafted branches of both Jews and Gentiles. Romans 2:28-29 says that “a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision something that is outward in the flesh, but someone is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart by the spirit and not by the letter.”

A side point of clarification since I was questioned once about using the term “Great Tribulation.” Please make note of the following verses, all referring to this last 3 ½ years prior to Christ’s return. It can be referred to as the great tribulation, great suffering, or great distress, depending on the translation (Revelation 7:14, Matthew 24:21, Luke 21:23).

Matt. 24:31

1 Cor. 15:52

1) Sends angels out at the last trumpet to gather the elect

2) *Dead in Christ will rise first*

3) *Those alive will be changed from mortal to immortal*

Rev. 11:15

4) *Meet Jesus in the air ("rapture")*

1 Thess. 4:15-17

Resurrection

So, resurrection of the saints comes immediately after the Great Tribulation. (Matthew 24:31, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, 1 Corinthians 15:52, Revelation 11:15 – last trumpet)

Jesus will:

- Send angels out at the last trumpet to gather the elect

- The dead in Christ will rise first
- Those alive will be changed from mortal to immortal
- And we will all meet Jesus in the air (“rapture”)

We have three things happening basically simultaneously – the parousia or coming of Messiah, the resurrection of the saints, and the “rapture” or catching up of the saints in the air to *meet* Jesus.



Many people are confused about when the “rapture” takes place because they think about it separately from the actual return of Christ and the first resurrection. Jesus comes only once and there is only one first resurrection. Also, those who have been martyred during the great tribulation will be a part of the first resurrection, so how could that resurrection take place *before* the Tribulation? **There is no two-fold first resurrection.** Again, Jesus comes once and there is only one first resurrection at that time. The second resurrection occurs after the 1000-year reign of Messiah

and is for the “rest of the dead.”

*Then I saw thrones and seated on them were those who had been given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been **beheaded because of the testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. These had not worshiped the beast or his image and had refused to receive his mark on their forehead or hand. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.** (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were finished.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who takes part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4-6)*

What an exciting time! As Jesus is coming on the clouds, he sends his angels out to gather the elect. They resurrect the dead saints and change those who are alive, all receiving immortality at this time. As this happens, they are caught up in the air to meet Jesus. This is the “rapture.”

Let's take a brief look at these three words, Jesus "coming," "resurrection," and the "catching up, snatching away," or as most say, the "rapture." Yes, they basically all happen simultaneously, but they are three separate words and three separate events.

The following information is taken from Biblehub.com.

Jesus' coming is what triggers the resurrection and rapture. Parousia is what we are waiting for, his coming. The word denotes a coming or arrival of the owner who alone can deal with a situation. It is a technical term referencing a royal visit.

(Parousia = **a coming** Matthew 24:3, 27, 37, 39, 1 Corinthians 16:17

3952 *parousía* (from *parōn*, "be present, arrive to enter into a situation") – properly, *coming*, especially the *arrival of the owner who alone can deal with a situation* (this sounds like Jesus!) (cf. *LS*). [3952](#) (*parousía*) is a "technical term with reference to *the visit* of a king or some other official,

'a royal visit' " (Souter) – "hence, in the NT, specifically of the *Advent* or *Parousia* of Christ" (A-S).

[[3952](https://biblehub.com/greek/3952.htm) (*parousía*) is "used in the east as a technical expression for the *royal visit of a king, or emperor*. The word means literally 'the being beside,' thus, 'the personal presence' " (K. Wuest, 3, *Bypaths*, 33).] (<https://biblehub.com/greek/3952.htm>.)

Then the resurrection happens and the believers who are still alive at Jesus' coming will be changed and will all be made immortal. (Anastasis is the Greek word for Resurrection = a standing up, a resurrection, a raising up, rising (<https://biblehub.com/greek/386.htm>))

Then basically, at that same time they will be caught up in the sky to meet Jesus as he returns to the earth, they are "raptured". The Greek word is *harpázō* and it means to "seize by force; *snatch* up, suddenly and decisively." **The "rapture" happens as the dead are raised and those alive are changed**, but it is a separate event. Jesus was resurrected and given immortality, but he was not "raptured." (He was taken up 40 days after and those who were watching were told he would return in the same way, just as they saw him go (Acts 1:11), another

great verse showing that his coming will be visible.)

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 is where the word “rapture” is used for this event. “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly **caught up** (*harpázō*) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”

(*harpázō* = rapture) **726** *harpázō* – **(to) seize by force; snatch up, suddenly and decisively** – like someone seizing bounty (spoil, a prize); to take by an *open display* of force (i.e. *not* covertly or secretly). (<https://biblehub.com/greek/726.htm>)

Elsewhere the word “rapture” is used to describe how the Spirit caught up Philip near Gaza and brought him to Caesarea (Acts 8:39) and to describe Paul’s experience of being caught up into the third heaven (2 Cor. 12:2-4).

According to Jesus’ own words in Matthew 24, the

order of these end-time events is straightforward. After the Great Tribulation Jesus:

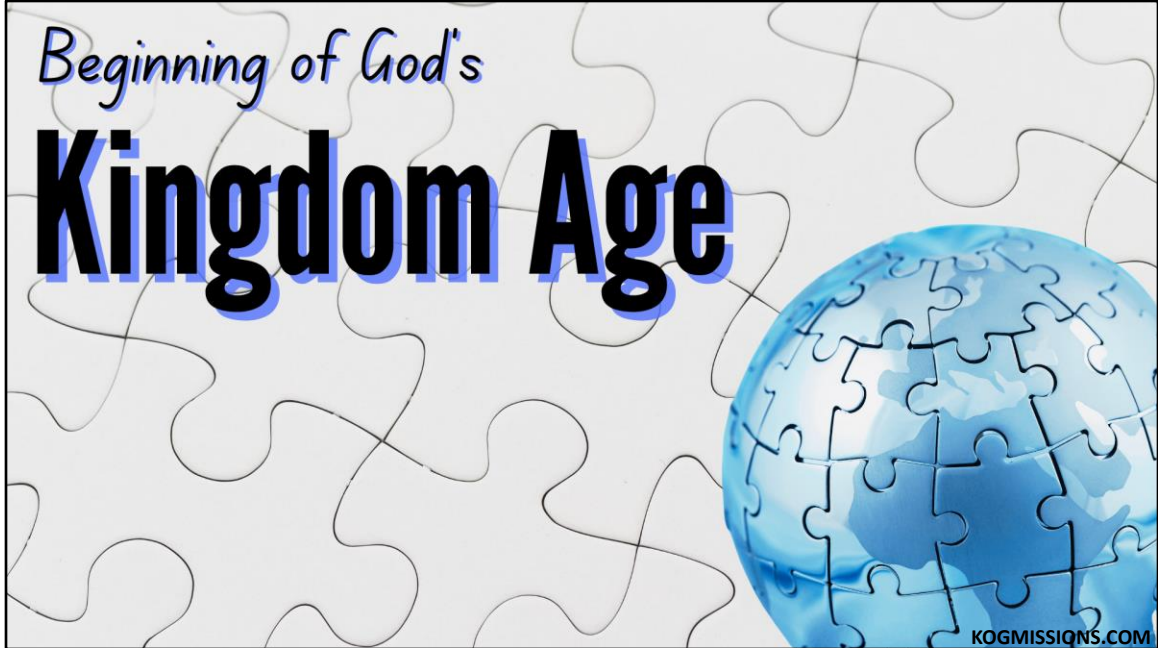
- Sends angels out at the last trumpet to gather the elect
- The dead in Christ rise first
- Then those alive will be changed from mortal to immortal
- And then all immortal believers will meet Jesus in the air (“rapture”)

Afterwards, they will continue with him back down to the Earth.



End of This Age

Since Jesus is coming back to the Earth as he said he would, we too will return to the Earth with him after we meet him as he descends. There are other end times events taking place that we are not covering in this presentation, but basically at this time **this evil age comes to an end and God's righteous rule over every nation on the Earth begins!**



Beginning of God's Kingdom Age

ONLY when Jesus returns and the saints are resurrected will God's Kingdom age begin. Only then will Christians, along with Jesus, take over and rule the nations. This is when we will help govern, but not before!

This is real life and not a fantasy! It is not some Sci-fi book or fairy tale. **The question is, are you ready and how are you preparing for these events?**

What happens when people see a hurricane brewing? They warn others to take precautions and make plans. If this happens often where you live, the children are probably prepped and educated on what can happen and what to do, like when I was a kid and we had tornado drills in school.

If you heard the news that a hurricane was coming and knew your neighbor hadn't heard, would you not feel compelled to tell them and warn them? If you know, you then you have a responsibility to tell them! **And we know, brothers and sisters; Jesus' coming should not be as a "thief in the night."**

Why have the Jehovah's Witness and Mormon organizations grown over the last decades? Because they take their faith seriously and want others to know and benefit. If they can proclaim false, and often crazy, teachings to the world, why would we not share this simple Kingdom hope?!

Many people pray for Jesus to come, but are they prepared for this glorious day?

He is coming and it will be a dreadful 3 ½ years prior to his coming. We must be prepared to stand firm and as Revelation 13:10 says, “If anyone is meant for captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed by the sword, then by the sword he must be killed. **This requires steadfast endurance and faith from the saints.**

If anyone has an ear, he had better listen! (Revelation 10:9)

Come Lord Jesus! Maranatha!

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