

Short Form Doctrine of the Tribulation

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Mat 24:21-22

Introduction

1. Just how short shall the "Tribulation" be: seven years after the Rapture of the Church?

1.1 The seven years are divided into two periods of three and one-half years; often in Scripture you will find the three and one-half year periods described as: 42 months, 1260 days or a time, and times and a half-time. The certainty of certain events occurring in the Tribulation will be the subject of this doctrine. Welcome to events future.

2. In His Olivet Discourse, Jesus Christ, speaking to his disciples, prophesied concerning the Tribulation. The disciples wanted to know:

Mar 13:4 Tell us, when all this will take place? And what will be the sign that it is about to happen?"

3. The prophecy should not have come as a shock to the disciples; the Old Testament contained many references to this future time. Jer 30:4-7 speaks of a "time of Jacob's distress" and compares it to a "woman in child birth." Eze 20:34-38 speaks of the Tribulation as a time when Israel shall "pass under the rod." The Tribulation is also represented as God's melting pot, where Israel will be refined. Eze 22:19-22

4. In a vision the prophet Daniel was told of a seventy week period (literally seventy sevens) that God would give the Jews "to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness ... and to anoint the most holy place."

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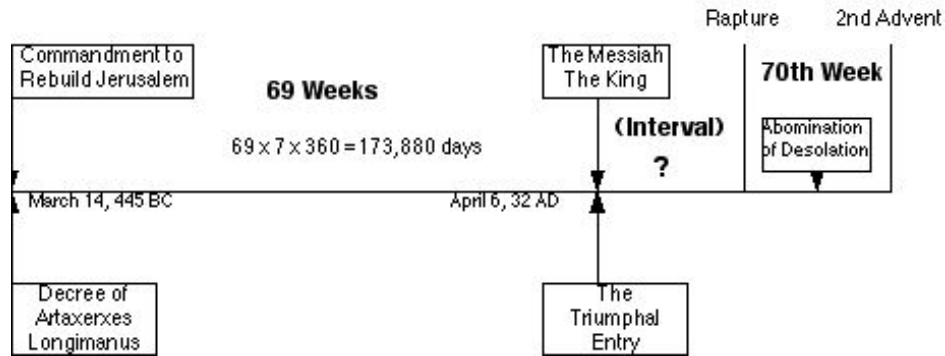
Dan 9:24 "Seventy 'sevens' (*490 years*) are decreed for your people (*Israel*) and your holy city (*Jerusalem*) to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy (*Christ at His Second Advent*).

Dan 9:25 "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (*1st of Nisan 445 B.C.*) until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, (*the 1st Palm Sunday*) there will be seven 'sevens,' (*49 years*) and sixty-two 'sevens' (*434 years thus 483 years*). It (*the city of Jerusalem*) will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

Dan 9:26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' (*the 434 years that follow the 49 years it took to rebuild the city*) the Anointed One (Christ) will be cut off (*the crucifixion*) and will have nothing. The people of the ruler (*the Romans in A.D. 70*) who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed (*the Church Age*).

Dan 9:27 He (*the Satan indwelt AntiChrist*) will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven' (*the Tribulation*). In the middle of the 'seven' (*three and one-half years into the Tribulation*) he (*the AntiChrist*) will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him (*the demise of the Satan indwelt AntiChrist*).

The Seventy Weeks of Daniel



Are You Ready?

1. We should not be overly concerned about the timing of the events of eschatology. When that day and hour may take place we cannot tell. What does matter however, will we be ready to meet Him whenever He comes?

1.1 In this the Church Age we are to pray for the Rapture and accept the fact that no man knows the hour or the day of that blessed event. Remember Paul's exhortation: "Comfort ye one another with these words." And what were those words?

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

2. As we earlier studied, Matthew provided far more details than did his fellow gospel writer Mark. Paul also in less detail explained events and imminence of the coming Tribulation.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Co 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Grace Before Judgement

1. Throughout the Tribulation the gospel will be proclaimed as never before in history. The world will be evangelized by three groups:

- By the 144,000 Jewish evangelists who are saved following the Rapture of the Church

Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel ...

- By the two witnesses, Moses and Elijah

Rev 11:3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

Rev 11:5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.

Rev 11:6 These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

- By angels

Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth -- to every nation, tribe, language and people.

Rev 14:7 He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

The Unholy Trinity

1. There are many passages that describe the maneuvers of the various kings of the Tribulation; this passage explains the evil force that motivates them. The "three unclean spirits" are demons to whom Satan delegates the responsibility of indwelling world rulers and their advisers in order to influence them to execute his will.

Rev 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.
Rev 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.



Dan 10:13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

Dan 10:14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

2. During the Church Age, Satan's power on earth is so restrained by the ministry of God the Holy Spirit that men often forget the power and existence of demons. However, during the Tribulation Satan will be free to wreak havoc without restraint.

2.1 The first member of this nefarious trio is the dragon, or Satan himself. In the Tribulation as in the Garden of Eden, Satan will direct worship away from God and toward himself. His obsession has ever been "to be like the Most High" and to be worshipped as God.

Isa 14:13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

2.1.1 While God has permitted Satan to become the "ruler of this world;" this has never satisfied his insatiable power lust to be like the Most High.

Joh 12:31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

Joh 12:32 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

2.1.2 When the devil took Christ whom he knew to be God to a high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of the world, he said, "All things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me."

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

Mat 4:9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

2.1.3 The culmination of Satan's attempts to be worshiped as God is revealed by the power he gives the "man of lawlessness." It is written that the king of the West, as Satan's man, "takes his seat in the temple of god, displaying himself as being god."

2.1.4 The seed of rebellion planted in the Garden will bear bitter fruit, for in the Tribulation both Satan and "the beast" are worshiped instead of God. The 13th chapter of the Book of the Revelation describe both the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

2.1.5 From the first pernicious innuendo of the Garden until this very hour, Satan denies that a just and righteous God has taken care of the sin problem. Sin is no longer an issue: "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus." The devil has succeeded in blinding men's minds "that they might not see the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Co 4:4 compare 2Co 3:14-16).

2Co 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2Co 3:14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away.

2Co 3:15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

2Co 3:16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

2.1.6 The simplicity of "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved" is obscured by endless systems of works and religion through which man seeks to be saved.

Acts 16:31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved -- you and your household."

Acts 16:32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.

3. The Beast Out of the **Sea**—The Antichrist

Expanded Translation

Rev 13:1 "The devil looked out on planet earth's swirling mass of humanity; he viewed the confusion of the Gentile world as opportunity. Then I saw the Antichrist arise out from the confused skein of the nations. There was a ten nation federation ruling Europe. It was from one of the smallest of the ten that the Antichrist rose to power. Soon he took over two other nations and then finally he became ruler over all ten. Each of the ten national leaders served as blasphemous heads of state in open opposition to God.

Rev 13:2 John was impressed with the appearance of the Antichrist. He resembled a leopard, with feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. He saw a dragon who seemed to be behind the scene leading the respective kings. The dragon was Satan himself, he gave the beast his power, a throne and great authority.

3.1 The animal symbols represented three of the four major Gentile Empires of time past: the leopard, Alexander, the bear, the Medo-Persians and the lion, Babylon. A fourth was an empire yet to come, one whose rise was imminent but not yet revealed; the fourth would be a Revived Roman Empire soon to come. John was amazed at that which had been revealed to him. He would be even more amazed at what would be revealed next.

Rev 13:3 He saw the Antichrist sustain a fatal wound, but was miraculously resuscitated. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast as their political and spiritual leader.

Rev 13:4 Most of the world though unaware, were worshipping Satan. Satan indwelt the Antichrist and gave him his authority and power. This power included a strong military presence. Those who worshiped the new world leader were absolutely devoted and impressed. They asked, 'Who is like the Antichrist? Who can make war against him?'

Rev 13:5 The Antichrist was also given great wisdom to effectively blaspheme God. He ruled the world as a despot.

Rev 13:6 Both the Antichrist and his side-kick the False Prophet took great pleasure in slandering the name of God and His Word. Jews were ridiculed and Christians were considered a lunatic fringe. The Word of God was said to be but an opiate for the downtrodden.

Rev 13:7 The Antichrist in the last half of the Tribulation was given power to make war against all Jews and Christians. All of this was done under the permissive will of God. God permitted the rise of the Antichrist in order to set him up for his grand humiliation prophesied by the 28th chapter of the book of Ezekiel.

Rev 13:8 The nations of the world and all their unbelieving citizens were openly worshipping the Antichrist as God--that is to say all those whose names had been removed from the book of life belonging to the Lamb of God.

Rev 13:9 Believers of all ages are urged to pay attention to that which is said in this apocalypse.

Rev 13:10 If you live in the Tribulation you are going to be incarcerated for the cause of Christ. Do not miss the Rapture, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ now! Many believers living in the Tribulation will be executed. This age will call for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints of God but at the end of the seven years the Saints of God will be vindicated. All of this chaos makes becoming a believer the way to go—now!

4. The Beast Out of the **Earth** -- The False Prophet

Expanded Translation

Rev 13:11 Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth, he was a Jew. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. The two horns were symbolic of his ambivalent nature; he was at first sweet as sugar but later took on the nature of the meanest junk yard dog ever.

Rev 13:12 He was given power and authority to speak and act on behalf of the Antichrist, in fact he made certain the earth and its inhabitants worshipped the Antichrist, the same world leader whose fatal wound had been healed.

Rev 13:13 The second beast is called the False Prophet. He will be a world religious leader who performs miraculous signs and wonders, even causing fire to streak across the heavens and then on command the fire would fall to earth. He is considered by many unbelievers as the incarnation of Elijah.

Rev 13:14 It is because of the many miracles performed by this second beast that he and the Antichrist will be able to deceive the inhabitants of the earth.

4.1 He receives his power from the indwelt Antichrist and makes no bones about the source of His power. Consequently he orders the leaders of Israel to set up an image in honor of the Antichrist. Those living on planet earth had earlier been impressed because of the recovery of the Antichrist from the terrible head wound; his resuscitation to life was just the sign many needed to accept the allegation that the Antichrist was the incarnate messiah and the False Prophet, the reincarnated Elijah.

5. The False Prophet was permitted to put the breath of life into the statue of the Antichrist, ergo he spoke and many were amazed. The image had been setup in the ersatz temple. This took place in the middle of the Tribulation. Everyone who refused to worship the image of the first beast was put to death. To believers who know the Word of God, the erection of the abomination of desolation is the signal to flee south to the mountains of Idumea where they are to remain for the next three and one-half years.

Rev 13:15 The False Prophet was permitted to put the breath of life into the statue of the Antichrist, ergo he spoke and many were amazed. The image had been set up in the ersatz temple. This took place in the middle of the Tribulation. Everyone who refused to worship the image of the first beast was put to death.

Rev 13:16 All people were forced to receive a mark on their hand or on their forehead in order to transact business. An underground economy had to be established to feed the many believers. It did not matter how powerful or how wealthy you might be, without the mark you could not buy or sell.

Rev 13:17 To transact business you had to have the mark. The mark stood for the name of the first beast and for the number of his name.

Rev 13:18 Here is wisdom. The wise man will understand and learn from the number assigned to the Antichrist--666. The entire Book of The Revelation is a portrait of man, without God, in control having power provided by Satan himself.

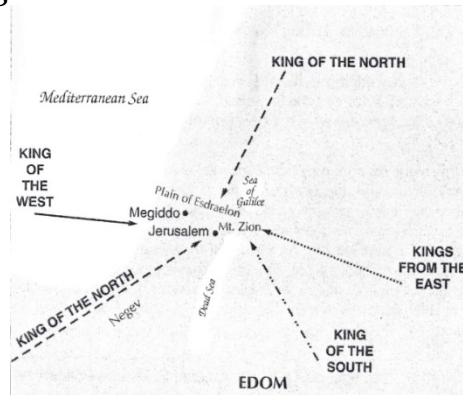
6. So much for the Unholy Trinity; by producing great signs and miracles through the power of Satan, the dictator of Palestine is able to sustain the claims of deity by directing worship toward himself. Thus these two beasts as earthly rulers use and encourage unprecedented demon activity, wars, cataclysms, and pestilence precipitating the greatest suffering the world has ever known.

The Frog Demons

1. For centuries demons have operated undercover, but in the Tribulation they assume major roles and their activities become highly visible. These demons are said to be "like frogs." The croaking noise of the frog is used here as an analogy to the boastful promises of these future tyrants.

2. The summit talks which precede the alliance between the demon-possessed beast and the false prophet are actually the brilliant strategies of demons motivating mankind. These demons also provide the power for the dictators to perform pseudo miracles which are designed to captivate people.

3. The less people think Bible doctrine, the more they are deluded by the performing of “signs.” In the Tribulation, Satan utilizes every means possible to assemble the “armies of the world” to do battle against God.



Rev 16:13 Then I saw three demons that looked very much like frogs; they came out of the mouth of Satan, out of the mouth of the Antichrist and out of the mouth of the False Prophet.

Rev 16:14 They performed miraculous signs and wonders before the kings of the earth. By demonic control and possession the leaders of the world were persuaded to send their armies into the Valley of Jezreel near Megiddo to await the battle to end all battles—the destruction of Israel being their ultimate goal.

The Campaign of Armageddon

1. Just as God has used invading armies to punish disobedient Israel in the past, so the king of the North appears during the Tribulation to ravage the Land and destroy its people. But, his invasion of Israel assures his own destruction. Daniel writes of the campaign in great detail.

Expanded Translation

Dan 11:37 The Antichrist in the last half of the Tribulation will openly flaunt his hatred of both true and apostate religion. This impressive world leader will ridicule the hope of a coming Messiah. He will finally declare himself to be the Jewish messiah.

Dan 11:38 Early in his ministry he will glorify raw power, placing his trust in military might, wealth and international power. The Antichrist will reward his military commanders with gifts of gold, silver and precious stones. He will be unparalleled as a world leader, infatuated with military might.

Dan 11:39 Initially he will attack and defeat those nations that do not submit to his program of world domination. With the help of the False Prophet, he will procure favor from the Jews in the land. He will initially aid and protect them. In fact, all who support his rise to power will be promoted and rewarded.

Dan 11:40 In the middle of the Tribulation, a Pan-Arabic coalition led by Egypt will break the peace established by the Antichrist.

2. These Arab nations are led by a man called elsewhere in Scripture—the king of the south. By his military might he will attempt to take over Israel. With mechanized infantry, he will start to move his forces overland through Gaza and into Israel. This political and military indiscretion will precipitate a response from the Soviet Union.

3. The leader of the Soviet forces is called elsewhere in Scripture-the king of the north. The king of the north will storm out against the Pan-Arabic coalition with infantry, armor, air and sea power.

4. From the Bosphorus will come a naval force, and from the area west of the Caspian Sea will come a large contingent of armor and infantry with tactical fighter support. The king of the north will sweep through Turkey, Syria and Iran like a flood.

Expanded Translation

Dan 11:41 The king of the north will also invade Israel on his way south in blitzkrieg fashion. He will leave carnage and destruction in his wake. Eastern Turkey, Syria and Lebanon will fall. Those countries east of Israel, like Jordan and the Persian Gulf nations, will be spared. The Russian forces seem intent on staying close to the Mediterranean shoreline thus permitting maximum support from their naval armada.

Dan 11:42 The forces of Russia will very quickly drive the army of the king of the south into Egypt.

Dan 11:43 The Soviets will gain control of Egypt and her North African allies, not just defeating them, but taking all of their wealth as earned plunder. The Pan-Arabic bloc will be annihilated and militarily embarrassed.

Dan 11:44 While the king of the north is mopping up in the south, he receives an alarming report. Air reconnaissance indicates a large armada of Asians is moving across the Euphrates, heading toward Israel. Naval intelligence indicates a large naval armada under the flag of the European Union has left Italy, rapidly moving east toward Israel. Rumor has it the Antichrist commands this EU fleet. This demands quick action on the part of the king of the north. He orders his entire army back into Israel. He also orders his naval forces to turn north. They are to engage the EU's fleet and determine their intentions.

Dan 11:45a. The Russian ground forces will return through Egypt, across Gaza and into Israel. They will meet token resistance from the remaining Israeli Defense Forces. The IDF will retreat in the direction of Jerusalem. Their plan will be to defend the holy city or die. After securing all the surrounding countryside, the king of the north will establish his command post just west of Jerusalem, near Megiddo. It is there the Soviets will plan to meet the Asian forces and the European Union's expeditionary force just north of Jerusalem.

Dan 11:45b. The Antichrist will come ashore to meet with the king of the north, king of the south and the leader of the Asian armies. Using his Satan-supplied gift, the Antichrist will negotiate a settlement. Plans will be made to attack the city of Jerusalem and destroy God's remnant. The plan is soon executed and the small IDF is driven back into the Temple area where they await their expected destruction. Suddenly, a vast darkness will cover the land and the last battle of Armageddon will begin.

5. The Lord Jesus Christ with His angelic army will descend from the heavens. With a fury Christ will destroy the armies of the world, and the remnant of Israel will be delivered.

The Siege of Jerusalem

1. In the history of Jerusalem there have been many sieges of the holy city. Prominent among them is the fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. and to Rome in A.D. 70. Yet to come is the siege at the end of the Tribulation which is a part of the Armageddon Campaign.

1.1 Joel chapter two describes the powerful armies gathered to destroy Israel.

Joel 2:1 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand --

Joel 2:2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come.

Joel 2:3 Before them fire devours, behind them a flame blazes. Before them the land is like the garden of Eden, behind them, a desert waste -- nothing escapes them.

Joel 2:4 They have the appearance of horses; they gallop along like cavalry.

Joel 2:5 With a noise like that of chariots they leap over the mountaintops, like a crackling fire consuming stubble, like a mighty army drawn up for battle.

Joel 2:6 At the sight of them, nations are in anguish; every face turns pale.

Joel 2:7 They charge like warriors; they scale walls like soldiers. They all march in line, not swerving from their course.

Joel 2:8 They do not jostle each other; each marches straight ahead. They plunge through defenses without breaking ranks.

Joel 2:9 They rush upon the city; they run along the wall. They climb into the houses; like thieves they enter through the windows.

The Lord's Victory

1. The last battles of the Armageddon campaign occurs in the closing days of the Tribulation prior to the premillennial return of Christ; thus fulfilling the promises of the four unconditional covenants.

2. Before we read in part Zechariah's account, it might help to take a look at the Middle East today.



3. Zechariah 12:1-9 and Zechariah 14:1-5 describe the victory of our Lord over the Antichrist's forces.

Expanded Translation

Zec 12:1 I was then told to declare a special message: This is the Word of the LORD for Israel. I am The I Am, who created from absolutely nothing the heavens and the earth; it was I who stretched out the heavens and then laid the foundation for the earth; after creating a perfect heaven and earth it was spoiled by the incompetent Satan; I chose to restore things, form man from the dust of the ground and breathe life into the first Adam. Now you should know just Who it is that is speaking to you.

Zec 12:2 I, Myself will make Jerusalem a goblet of intoxication for all the greedy nations who arrive to spill the blood of the inhabitants of the city. And likewise shall it be concerning all of Judah.

Zec 12:3 Just before the Second Advent of the Lord, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against Israel at Jerusalem, I will make that city a large immovable rock and all who try to lift it will be injured; Judah too will be a cup of reeling for those who come to the valley of Jezreel. Both Judah and Jerusalem will be used as bait to draw the nations to a single geographical area where they will be easy prey for the returning Messiah and His heavenly army.

Zec 12:4 Within 24 hours of the return of Christ, God will cause absolute panic in the battle lines of Israel's foes. God will impose a total darkness over the battlefield, all lines of communication will cease, there will be no command and control. The God of Israel will provide a supernatural protection over the house of Judah.

Zec 12:5 The forces of the nations will come to a screeching halt. When the Lord returns all of Judah will say, "The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the LORD Almighty is again their God."

Zec 12:6 After the Lord of the Armies has established peace in the land He will make the leaders of Judah militarily superior, they can best be described as a flaming torch among sheaves. They will rule all the nations surrounding Judah and the city of Jerusalem will stand as the world's capital.

Zec 12:7 At the return of the LORD, He will deliver all of the Northern Kingdom first; that is to say before He delivers Judah and Jerusalem; this in order that there be no jealousy stimulated between the north and the south.

Zec 12:8 The Lord Jesus will protect those who live in Jerusalem, even the feeblest will be made strong, and David will return and serve as Christ's Executive Officer, he will be like the Angel of the Lord Who was often seen going before Israel to destroy and route their enemies.

Zec 12:9 On that day I, as the Lord of lords and King of kings, will destroy all the nations in and around Jerusalem.

Zec 14:1 Note well Israel, God's judgment day for you and your countrymen is on the way. Plunder will be piled high and handed out to the nations, particularly destructive will be the forces of the King of the North.

Zec 14:2 I'm bringing all the godless nations to war against Judah and particularly Jerusalem - your houses will be plundered, your women will be raped; half of the population of the city will surrender and be killed or enslaved and half will be left in Jerusalem to defend it.

Zec 14:3 But then the Messiah will return, with His heavenly angelic army; Christ will destroy the godless nations and fight on your behalf, just as He has done so often in the past.

Zec 14:4 Jesus Christ will return at His Second Advent to the Mount of Olives and when His nail scarred foot touches earth there will be a great earthquake splitting Mount Moriah.

Zec 14:5 All those trapped in the city will flee to the east using the great valley caused by the Lord's return. When Jesus' foot touches earth atop the Mount, it will split open making a way of escape. The valley will extend all the way to Jericho, a city located some 25 miles east of Jerusalem. Then the Lord God will move out with His Angelic army against the armies of the world.

The Deliverance of the Saints

1. The largest and arguably the best trained army in all human history might have ruled the world but for one detail---the intervention of Jesus Christ. No man or group of people can progress further than God allows. No army advances once God calls a halt. Jesus Christ controls history, past, present, and future.

2. Everyone will be able to see Jesus Christ as He comes out of heaven. His divine essence is the "light of the world," the only Light which can penetrate the abysmal darkness even as He is the only Light who can penetrate the darkness of the human soul lost in sin.

3. The earlier stated paradigm of the Lord doing battle for Israel refers to His action at the cul-de-sac of the Red Sea. The Jews of the Exodus generation were hopelessly trapped with the Red Sea in front of them, the mountains to the side, and the Egyptian army in rapid pursuit.

3.1 The Israelites panicked. Then Moses shouted "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation [deliverance] of the Lord ... the Lord will fight for you while you keep silent."

4. As they quieted down they beheld the miracle of the sea opening up before them to let them pass through dry-shod, and then they watched the waters return and drown the Egyptians. Grace was the principle of deliverance then as it will be in the future. Grace depends entirely on who and what the Lord is. As divine intervention won the day for the Jews in the past, so grace wins the day in that future siege.

5. As the Lord Jesus Christ returns to the earth in glory, the first place His feet touch is the Mount of Olives. The personal presence of the Lord on the Mount of Olives converts this obstacle into a portal of refuge. The Lord splits the mount and through the valley will move the believing remnant of Israel. Just as the exodus generation passed through the Red Sea to safety, so the future, generations surviving the Tribulation will pass through the valley east of the city.

6. After the Tribulation the Lord prepares planet earth for implementation of 1000 years of perfect environment and the Millennium.