

# LEFT ALIVE II

THE TRUMPET JUDGMENTS

ADAM & STEPHANIE

PARKER

Parker Studios, LLC

Copyright © 2024 Parker Studios, LLC

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Front cover design by Adam Parker

First printing edition 2024.

Lyrics from Song “Worthy Of It All” by David Brymer. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*To our daughters: Liz, Ella and Addy.  
You all are everything daughters should be.  
You bring us so much joy and so much pride.  
Thank you for being such a gift from God to us.*

## PREFACE

The book of Revelation is the primary source of prophecy on the End Times in the Bible. Many people stay away from the book using excuses like “it’s too hard to understand”, “we can’t really know anyway, so why bother?”, “it’s not a primary issue, so why read it?”. However, the truth is that the Bible, ALL of the Bible was meant to be read and understood by everyday people. God wrote His word, not just for the elite and the super scholars, but for you and I.

Revelation should not be avoided by the committed Christian. This book contains themes of perseverance, faithfulness, and hope, even in the midst of trials and tribulations. Exploring these themes can lead to personal spiritual growth and a deeper understanding of how to navigate challenges in life in addition to the obvious preparation that comes from reading God’s end time battle plan. This eschatological book provides insights into the future, particularly the ultimate victory of good over evil and the return of Christ. Studying these prophecies can help Christians to be better prepared and have a more informed perspective on the return of Jesus.

John the Apostle is the author of this book. His encounters with the angels as well as with Jesus himself emphasizes the ultimate triumph of God's kingdom and the establishment of a new heaven and earth. This message of hope and victory can be encouraging for believers, especially during difficult times.

A lot of people get hung up on the symbolism in the book of Revelation. However, this book is written in a straightforward

way. It says what it means and it means what it says, except when it says it's figurative or symbolic. The text explains the things that are to be taken as symbols.

God wants His people to have ample information related to the years leading up to His return. He wants this so that we can be confident in His leadership when the world is diving into chaos around us. Those who are not confident in God's leadership during this time I believe will be subject to the scripture that says "even the elect will be deceived" and "the great falling away" of believers from the faith who will be offended with Jesus' leadership at the end of the age.

We must be people of faith who are committed to not only the Jesus of love and mercy, but also the Jesus who is the King and Judge who has eyes like flames of fire and is coming to the earth to make wrong things right. God's mercy and God's justice are 2 sides of the same coin and we must take into account the truth of scripture found in this eschatological book in order to fully embrace the leadership of Jesus.

Our prayer is that this book will spark a desire to read the book of Revelation and seek to understand God's end time plan. There are more than 150 chapters in the Bible where the majority of the chapter deals with the end times. This topic is very important to Jesus and it should be very important to us.

~ Adam & Stephanie Parker

## PROLOGUE

*“When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.” - Revelation 8:1-6*

Miles had seen what everyone else had. His coworkers and he had all seen the scene of heaven and then instantly been distracted by the disgusting beings that seemed to make their home inside and all around them. While it was happening, he felt like he was going crazy. He clawed at his body trying to yank the creatures off of him, but each time he’d rip one off, two would take its place.

The news had reports of chemical warfare agents that had been released that made everyone see hallucinations and every person's hallucination was different. The news anchors said that the Christians’ latest attack was a release of a pathogen that made everyone hallucinate one of two potential scenes. Some people saw heaven and others saw demons. Miles was furious thinking that the Christians were messing with his mind and it was the last straw for Miles. The hallucination had left him with both physical and emotional scars.

When he saw the slithering creatures crawling all over him he

went crazy trying to get them off of himself. They didn't come off easily. He had to dig his nails deep into his skin and rip them off of him. He remembered how as soon as he'd removed one, two more would take its place. His efforts became frantic and left him with physical scars all over his body from where he tried to claw at himself to get them off.

His psychological wounds ran deeper. He had nightmares every night that replayed that incident in vivid detail. Sometimes when he would first wake up from those nightmares he could swear that he saw the same grotesque beings crawling around at the foot of his bed and on top of him, but then in an instant, they would disappear and he would be alone with his thoughts and fears. The terror he felt from those creatures was unlike anything he had ever felt. He just wanted to forget it ever happened, but the nightmares kept it fresh in his mind.

The nightmares made Miles so angry because it was the Christians' fault he was suffering and they weren't suffering at all. The news said they had received some sort of antidote prior to the attack and that was why they all had peaceful and beautiful hallucinations of heaven and God in the sky. The news said it was a direct attack on those with Elyon's mark as they were the only ones who saw a living nightmare.

Every day he hunted down and found more Christians to arrest. He was on a personal crusade to track down anyone evading the mark and each one he'd arrest he'd send immediately to the Elyon worship stations. Miles thought that every time, with boring predictability, they would always refuse the mark and subsequently be beheaded.

He fumed to his coworker one day, "It is crazy to me that the Christians who are so full of hate and intolerance didn't see what we saw. That just shows what we saw was an attack from the

Christians, just like Elyon said at his press conference.”

His coworker agreed, but before he could speak Miles continued with venom in his voice, “You know my mom is one of them.” He spoke with disgust dripping from every syllable, “A Christian. I’m embarrassed by my whole family. I think I know where she went to hide and I’m going to find her and when I do she will either willingly and joyfully take the mark... Or I will be the one to personally see that her head no longer stays attached to her body.”

---

Tom was grateful for all the help from his new guests. He never would have been able to clean up such a mess on his own, but he wondered if he had enough food to keep all of them alive. He had enough supplies for three people for two years. There were seven of them. He guessed he could make that supply work for all of them for a year, but even with strict rationing, he didn’t think that would be enough.

Tom thought to himself, “John claimed that since it had been just over a year since Elyon lost his dadgum mind in the temple that there were no more than two and a half years left of this mess before it was all over.”

He still thought John was a bit crazy, but if he was right then he figured if they rationed they might be able to get by for at least half of that time. Technically it wasn't nearly enough, but some fruit trees survived for this year's harvest and next year there would be tons of fruit on the trees. He also still knew how to plant a garden for next year. They’d get by, he figured.

As Tom helped John repair the cracked roof from the earthquake that let in every drop of water, he was grateful. He was grateful to see his daughter who he never thought he’d see



again. He was grateful for so many helping hands and people that seemed genuinely good-hearted.

Tom worried about Robert, he wasn't healing as fast as he would have liked to see. He was still unable to walk and a fever kept him in bed most of the day. He probably just needed some time to heal. Lost in his thoughts, he suddenly realized everything had become deathly quiet. He never heard such quiet in his entire life. The birds had stopped chirping, the annoying dog in the distance had stopped barking and even the wind wasn't blowing. With each second that passed where the wind continued to be completely non-existent, the air grew thicker and began to feel alive in a way it never had before.

Each breath suddenly felt like he was breathing in through a mouth filled with cotton balls. Any sound that he could possibly want to make was choked out from the effort of simply trying to breathe through the thickness of the air. It wasn't painful. It was just a very odd feeling to suddenly have breathing take concentration as he adjusted to the dense air in his lungs.

He looked at the trees and saw that not a single leaf was quivering in the wind. His gaze continued upward to the sky that, moments before, had large, puffy clouds that you could see being pushed westward by a steady breeze. Now the clouds looked frozen in place. When the wind had stopped moving, everything stopped moving with it. The silence around him felt alive like it had a mind of its own and was silencing everything around it.

As Tom was trying to comprehend what was happening, he dropped the hammer in his hand onto the roof. He was shocked as he watched it fall much slower than it should. It was like the dense air was decelerating its descent. When the hammer finally made contact, it didn't make a sound. He would have expected it

to make a thud as it landed or a scraping sound as it slid down the shingles, but instead, all he heard was silence.

Tom was starting to think that there was more to the thickness of the air. It felt oppressive like it was stopping the very sound waves themselves. Tom tested out this theory and tried to clap his hands to see if he could make them make a sound. He watched his hands move in slow motion in front of him. His hands looked like they might if he were underwater and trying to clap them together. They moved slowly as if the ripples of the air were slowing them down. When they finally did make contact with one another there was no sound. The dense air around him was muting all sound.

It was such a stark contrast to the noise of the last several weeks. He remembered the noise of the entire earth-shaking and rumbling, his daughter, Sophia and Emma screaming, and explosions as satellites and meteors hit the ground. His head is still ringing from the sound of it all and now this. The polar opposite. His ears started to feel pressure from the quiet that silenced even the wind.

He looked around and saw that everyone around him also sensed the change in the environment and that none of them were speaking either.

---

Elyon remembered how his advisors panicked when they saw the vision of heaven followed by the slithering demons crawling around and inside of themselves. He had to think quickly to come up with an explanation that would show he was still in control. He told them it was the latest in a series of attacks from the Christians and Jews. He told them that his top scientists had run tests and found trace elements proving that it was

chemical warfare.

He assured them it was nothing more than a trick of the enemy that made them see demonic creatures slithering around them. They all believed his story because they didn't want to believe the truth. To believe that what they saw was real, was to accept they had chosen the wrong side. None of them wanted to be wrong, so instead, they all willingly embraced Elyon's explanation and grew in their rage toward Christians and Jews.

Elyon was blind to the truth. He knew the prophecies all said that his days were numbered, but he believed it was more lies from God. Elyon didn't understand how, but it was as if the spirit inside of him that guided him gave him knowledge of God himself. Elyon somehow knew that God has a deep deep love for humans and it causes God profound sadness when someone turns from him and heads toward hell.

He believed that God had no intention of letting people go to hell. All Elyon had to do was get enough people going there and God would relent in his judgments. Once that was accomplished, Elyon believed God would leave him alone to rule the earth.

Right now, God was not leaving him alone. He was raining judgments out from heaven on him and, with that knowledge, his fury grew. When he had seen the vision in the sky for those few seconds, his hatred of God consumed every part of him like it never had before and he continued to feel it every second of every day since then.

If the God of heaven thought he judged him, then he would make God sorry. He would wound him the best way he knew how, by hurting people. To his current enforcement officers of the mark he offered promotions and pay raises based on the number of rebels apprehended. For civilians, he gave incentives for them to report on their neighbors any suspicious activity that would

lead to the capture of someone who did not have his mark. Free food, government-funded financial stipends, and free housing were just a few of the many rewards for neighbors turning on their neighbors. Elyon was determined to kill as many people as possible who refused his mark.

If he couldn't destroy their soul, then he would destroy their body. Elyon smiled a sick smile as he thought that he would enjoy every second of it. That thought lingered in his mind as silence enveloped his office. The secretary stopped typing on the keyboard, the sound of the air conditioner whirring died down and the sound of the traffic in the street completely stopped.

He looked outside and saw the stillness that filled the countryside. It seemed even the wind had stopped blowing. The ocean in the distance, which had moments earlier had large waves, now was completely still and flat.

It was a deafening silence that had a thickness to it. Elyon went to open his mouth in defiance to God to scream of his hatred for him, but no sound came out. He was mute and powerless to say a word. His hatred grew as every second passed in silence.

---

During the silence, Tom's mind wandered. His house was far out in the middle of nowhere and was still without any power. Sophia shared earlier with him that she and Michael had power where they lived. In fact, the majority of America was not affected by the EMP, but three large regions had been brought back to a more primitive way of living overnight.

With so much death in the world, manpower was at an all-time low and it was common to have rolling power outages from a lack of workers within the fully functional electrical grid. There

was just not the manpower needed to rebuild the entire electrical infrastructure that had been knocked out by the EMP. Tom didn't expect that would change anytime soon either.

Tom told everyone of his encounter with the thieves earlier in the year, but that they hadn't been back since they had an all-out skirmish in his front yard. Tom didn't expect that to last forever. He had fruit trees and those people saw a garden. They would know this place was somewhere they could steal resources from and they would be back. Tom was sure of it. When Tom's houseguests found that out, they all prayed for strength for when even more trials might come to their doorstep, but Tom did something far more practical. He prepared more traps to keep his supplies secure from looters.

While Tom used the silence to think about future defensive maneuvers to keep his home secure, Katie, Beth, Emma, Sophia, and John used the time to pray. They prayed for Robert who was in the house sleeping yet again with a fever that made them suspicious that infection had set in. They prayed for Tom that his heart would be softened to the truth and he would accept Christ.

Most of all they prayed for Christ to return. Katie had seen heaven twice now and was so eager to be there forever. Her prayers every day spurred everyone on to pray, "Even so Lord Jesus come quickly." Right now they prayed that prayer in silence. They prayed that God would give justice to the many that were being rounded up and killed daily for their faith.

After thirty minutes, they started to hear faint sounds gradually begin again. The air was becoming less thick around them and they were no longer surrounded by only silence. They heard a bird chirping in the distance and that annoying dog was back barking. They never appreciated the mundane everyday sounds of life more than they did right then, but then the sounds

grew. It started as a low rumbling and then the ground started to shake again similar to what it had done during the great earthquake but without the same intensity this time.

Katie yelled up to John from the bottom of the ladder in front of the house, "John. Tom. Get down, it's another earthquake."

The two men hurried off of the ridge pole of the roof and carefully headed toward the ladder as they felt the house begin to shake beneath them. It was Tom who noticed the change around them first, "Look!" He pointed up to the sky above them. What had been a clear sky, had turned to dark filled with ominous-looking clouds.

There was no rain, but there were flashes of lightning all around them as the thunder roared continuously. One crash of lightning was followed by another with a constant, deafening roar of thunder. There were no breaks for silence in between each new crack of lighting. They piled on one after another. A few minutes ago there had been complete silence, and now it was so loud with terrifying sounds that they could barely think straight. Each subsequent thunderclap lasted longer than the previous and the lightning streaked across the sky like a million glowing fingers stretching the length of the sky around them. All of the sights and sounds before them happened while the earth shook around them.

John made it to the edge of the roof and took a moment to steady himself and secure the ladder. Before climbing down, he looked at Tom, " That was the seventh seal, my friend. The trumpets are next. Are you ready?"

# CHAPTER ONE

## *14 months after the Abomination of Desolation*

*“Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them. The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.”*

- Revelation 8:6-7

It seemed as if the deafening silence was almost instantly replaced by yet another earthquake. “How much more could possibly happen?” Tom wondered to himself. It had been fourteen months since Elyon, the evil leader of the world, declared himself as God. Since then, the world had been on a collision course with disaster.

Every month seemed like another catastrophe: wars, famine, disease, death, and persecution of Christians, to name a few things that had happened in the last year. Tom didn’t want to believe John, that things were only going to get worse as they moved from the end time seals of the book of Revelation and on to the trumpet judgements. However, it looked like he was

staring the evidence in the face. He realized things were definitely going from bad to worse as he felt the earth shake around him.

Tom didn't have time to answer John's question; if he was ready for the trumpet judgements of God, because the lightning started striking the ground all around them. The earth itself seemed to be catching on fire.

He had seen control burns before. It was no surprise that the fire was spread from the point of the strike in front of the house to the tree-line to the west, charring half of the vegetation in sight. This did not act like a normal fire. A normal control fire would be contained by the direction of the wind and condition of the weather.

This fire spread in every direction at equal velocity. It advanced just as quickly moving against the wind as it grew with the wind. The rain was beginning to fall in torrents now, but it did nothing to slow down the inferno. The rain acted more like an accelerant than an extinguisher.

If Tom didn't know better he would think that the fire was alive as it angrily attacked each blade of grass. Its tentacles of orange and red reached out to engulf each green shoot that dared to show its head above the dirt, defying the laws of physics.

Hail pelted the ground in the distance as the storm approached. Each ice rock was almost two feet in diameter. It was coming down with such force that it had to be falling at a rate of at least several hundred miles per hour.

Being on top of the roof with Tom was the worst place he could be in that moment, and John raced down the ladder first. He sprinted toward the house when a seventy-five pound hailstone crashed right through the roof on the mobile home. The home crumbled in the storm like it was a house of cards when



the table they are built on is shaken.

Tom made his way down the ladder as everyone yelled for him to hurry. On the final rung, a lightning bolt struck the top. John winced as he watched the electrical currents pulse down the metal ladder through Tom's hands. Tom flew off the ladder and landed with a thud twenty feet behind them. Beth shrieked, "Daddy!"

Everyone raced over to him. John was the first to notice that he wasn't breathing. He prayed while doing chest compressions, "Please God, don't let him die!" Tom didn't know the Lord yet; he wouldn't go to heaven if he died at that moment.

John sighed with relief when Tom took a series of shallow breaths and whispered with what little strength he had, "Bunker." John looked around him and saw the lightning striking the ground at random. Each strike was accompanied by hailstones so massive they seemed less like hail and more like boulders from ancient Roman catapults.

John realized Tom was right. They had to get to the bunker as fast as they could. The trumpets weren't coming. They were already here. John tried to help Tom to his feet, but the good ol' country boy had barely any strength. It took both John and his wife, Katie, to help him up. The strong mountain man draped his arms around their shoulders and limped with them as they hurried to the underground shelter.

Tom's extra two-hundred pounds made each movement seem like slow motion and took all their strength. Katie stopped suddenly and looked at her mother-in-law, "My dad! He's still in the house! Take my spot helping Tom. I have to go back and get my dad!"

Sophia switched places with Katie without hesitation. In the chaos, John was ashamed to admit he forgot about Katie's father,

who lay helpless in the bed recovering slowly from injuries and sickness.

Before Katie could run back and help her father, John yelled out to his wife, "Stop! Katie, you can't go." Hail hammered all around them. Trees were stripped bare. He saw a deer fleeing from the storm in the woods. As the deer ran, a large piece of hail hurled straight towards its head and John saw it knocked to the ground, instantly dead from the impact. The orchard that Tom boasted would be full of fresh fruit next season was burning from the lightning that seemed to pulverize everything in its path.

John realized, they'd be lucky if they even made it to the shelter. Katie would never accept leaving her dad, she couldn't carry her father by herself. "Katie, your dad's on a stretcher and can't walk at all, you'll need help."

Beth, grateful her dad was alive after being electrocuted, volunteered, "I can help carry him."

John shook his head, "It's too dangerous and he's too heavy for even the two of you to carry him. Katie, help me get Tom and everyone to the shelter, and then you and I can go back for your dad. It's a suicide mission if you try to do it on your own."

John couldn't see the tears that he knew were streaming down his wife's perfect face through the storm, but he could hear them in her voice as she spoke between broken sobs, "I can't leave my dad, John. He's all alone. I won't leave him!"

Each step was agony for John as they were practically dragging Tom with them to the bunker, silently willing his wife to stay in step with them. "We aren't leaving him. You and I will go back for him. I promise."

Katie froze, "No, John. Take Tom and the rest to the bunker. I'll be right behind you." She paused for a moment, "I love you."

With those three words, Katie turned and rushed into the

storm-torn home. John didn't have a choice. If he went after his wife, he would be leaving four people in the elements to die.

There was no way Sophia and Beth could carry Tom alone. Emma, the woman who had lost everyone she loved and was on the brink of starvation when she found the group, wasn't able to help them. She was still fighting to put on weight, and it was evident that just the act of walking in the wind and rain was exhausting her. She certainly didn't have the strength to help carry a large, injured man. If he went with his wife, they would all die. He had to keep going and pray that the Lord would protect his stubborn, beautiful wife.

They finally made it to the pole barn at the edge of the pasture where Tom had once shown them a hidden bunker on his property. John carefully sat Tom down on the rocky floor. He ran over to the hatch to open it so they could all go in. There was no time to set up a hoist for Tom, and the barn seemed moments away from collapsing around them. He had to get Tom down a vertical staircase.

John looked at the women with him, "Emma, you go in first. While Emma's climbing down the ladder, Mom and Beth, you guys help me get him to the opening and then you both go down, ok?"

The ladies nodded and did their best to get Tom situated with his stomach on the rocky ground and his legs dangling at the edge of the stairs before they climbed down. They clambered over his legs and once they made it to the bottom, it was time for John to go down with Tom. John took one last look at the house into which his wife had run. He could barely see through the pouring rain and billowing smoke, but he was able to make out the outline of the house.

Hail was falling everywhere now. There was nowhere in the

open that was safe. He saw the beams start to give way on the barn roof above them, and he gazed at the house where his wife was. He wondered, after he got Tom safely to the bunker floor, how he would get to her and get her and her father safely back to the bunker?

He hadn't even finished his thought when he saw the house in the distance completely crumble. Giant hailstones pummeled it into a pile of sticks. One second he saw the outline and the next it was gone. John let out a roar, "NO!"

His wife. His beloved. She needed him. There was a chance he could still save her.

He left Tom at the stairs and was about to rush into the hail to go pull his wife from the rubble when he turned back to see a large piece of hail hit the roof behind him. Metal shrapnel from the metal roof went flying and embedded itself deep in Tom's arm. Tom yelped in pain and looked at John, silently pleading.

John knew Tom didn't want to ask him to stay, because helping Tom meant not helping Katie. The once invincible Tom seemed to be losing all strength. John knew Tom was not strong enough to make it down the stairs alone especially now that he also had a freshly injured arm. He would die if John didn't help him. John was paralyzed with indecision and for the first time in his life, he felt fear.

In a faint voice John heard Tom beg, "Please, help me."

John held back tears and, instead, screamed to no one in particular in frustration as he ran back to the stairs and began to climb the first few steps down it. He yelled for Tom, "I'll get you down, but then I'm leaving for Katie. You're going to have to help me out. Scoot back until you are sitting on my shoulders."

Tom had very little strength, but was able to scoot backward toward John. He scraped the entire underside of his body against

the rocks doing so until he was sitting on John's shoulders as a child would. Except he was no child. He was a large man and John was struggling to hold him, "Steady yourself on the stairs with your good arm."

Tom was about to reach out to the steps to steady himself, but first summoned all his strength and pulled down the hatch door closing them into the bunker. John climbed down the first two steps feeling like his legs were going to buckle underneath him with the weight of each step. Even though Tom tried to hold on to the ladder to give some support and steady them, it barely helped ease the burden on John's shoulders. They were almost to the bottom step when they heard a deafening boom above them. The entire barn had just collapsed on top of the entrance they just came in.

John took the final step and turned to his mom and yelled with no patience in his voice, "Get him off of me, now!"

Sophia and Beth held Tom while John wriggled out from underneath him. He immediately started racing back up the steps.

His mom called out to him, "John, come back! Where are you going?"

John ignored her. Katie needed him.

His mom became frantic, "John, come back it's too dangerous! John!"

John made it to the top and tried to push open the hatch door, but it wouldn't budge. He tried again pushing with all his might, "Open you stupid piece of metal!"

Nothing happened. He pounded it with his fists, until they became bloody. He switched to ramming his whole shoulder into the door jam. He was on a ladder below the hatch, so he couldn't get the leverage he needed when using his shoulder. He went

back to using his bloodied hand, but this time he tried to hit it with the base of his palm. Every attempt and every angle was fruitless.

He knew he was no match for the bomb-proof bunker, but still he beat on the door hoping with each bloodied knuckle a miracle would happen and the door would fly open. It didn't.

He heard his mom crying at the bottom of the stairs empathizing with his pain. She had lost her husband, John's dad, very recently to being martyred by her other son, Miles. She knew the pain of losing a spouse.

He thought to himself that it was so easy in the moment when he had a vision of heaven to have hope and believe it was all going to be ok. He thought to himself how proud he had been that he had such a good perspective about his dad dying.

He laughed as he thought, "I'll see him soon, right?" It was all meaningless words to him at that moment. When it came to his wife, all positive outlooks went flying out the window. He didn't want to think positively; he just wanted her.

He didn't care if he would die tomorrow and be with her in heaven forever then. It was too long. One second away from her was too many. She couldn't die. He had to get to her. But each time he beat the metal that refused to budge, his strength became a little less. He knew he wasn't getting out of there. He was trapped.

He stopped fighting and hung onto the top rung of the ladder and roared like a caged animal desperate to escape. He had no words. It was a guttural cry of desperation to save his wife that came from the depths of his soul.

His screams of frustration turned into sobs of despair as he repeated over and over, "I'm so sorry Katie."

He sat there shutting out the world around him as the

minutes turned into hours. He thought only of his wife whom he was powerless to save.

---

Carlos watched with simmering, smoldering rage as his foster father, Hank, lay passed out, drunk, on the couch. Again. Hank was a giant of a man with a beer belly, despite the famine all around him. It seemed like he always had a five o'clock shadow and there was a sour smell that came from him everywhere he went. Carlos hated the man. He hated life. He hated everything. As he sat staring silent daggers at the snoring man he tried to recall memories from his old life. Memories from five years ago when his parents were still alive.

He was seven and his sister, Rosita, had been four. With Mexican immigrant parents, they were never the typical American kids, but they didn't care because they were a family. As a boy, Carlos was eager to please his mama and make his papi proud. He had the darkest chocolate brown eyes and olive skin, and spent hours climbing trees and pretending to have adventures. All that changed when the drunk driver killed their parents, leaving them orphans.

His hatred grew of the man in front of him as he watched his once full-of-life sister cower next to him, afraid to make a sound. His memories were fuzzy, but he remembered that Rosita, even at four years old, had always been a bashful child. She may have been shy and quiet, but he couldn't remember her being scared like she seemed to always be now.

Even before his parents died, he always protected and looked out for his baby sister. She had the chubbiest cheeks, long silky black hair and a smile that lit up the room. It was always

fun to be her protector, but now looking out for her was not just a matter of pretending. It was a matter of her survival.

Carlos tried desperately to scratch his childhood memories and remember good times even after they became foster kids five years ago. They had no family, so they became yet another statistic in the foster care system. There was still some good in life back then. Their life wasn't great, but it wasn't bad. They went to school, were fed, watched tv and, most importantly, they were together. Life was ok.

All of that changed two years ago when the world slowly started to fall apart. Rosita was just starting to heal from the trauma of her parents death when war broke out. Their foster dad told them they were lucky to have a home. Most orphans didn't anymore, but as the days went on Carlos felt less and less lucky.

His foster father never loved Carlos and Rosita, but at least he was kind. When money started getting tight and food becoming scarce that changed. He took the monthly stipend the government provided for food and supplies for the kids and spent it on himself. There was never any food in the house. Carlos would sneak out at night and find scraps in the dumpsters to bring home to his sister. Eventually he found where his foster father hid the food.

When they went to sleep for the night, he would sneak out and steal a little of the food. Not enough for him to notice, and certainly not enough for what the kids needed, but enough to keep them alive. It had become clear they were kept around simply for the government pay out. Carlos didn't care though. At least they weren't homeless like so many kids. That is, he didn't care until about two months ago.

Two months ago a lot of people began taking something



called The Mark of Allegiance. The government promised a big financial reward for those that took the mark and death to those that refused. It was a no brainer to his money hungry guardian.

In fact, Hank set up appointments for Carlos and Rosita to take it later that week so he could receive triple the pay out. Before their appointment came, Carlos learned that there were reports of massive amounts of death for any children that tried to take the mark.

He overheard Hank talking to a drinking buddy one night that the news said anyone under the age of ten who tried to take the mark or were forced to take it had instantaneous seizures and immediately died before it could be fully administered. The body completely rejected it. For kids ages ten to twelve the results were mixed. Some children survived and some immediately died.

Carlos remembered that his foster dad called the ones that died the kids that were babies and needed to grow up. It seemed that once kids reached the age of thirteen there was a hundred percent survival rate in taking the mark. So, not long after the Mark of Allegiance was introduced, legislation was enacted that everyone thirteen years and older were required to receive the mark.

Once parents received the mark, it was as if the natural affection and inclination to protect their children disappeared. Parents even wanted infants to get the mark even though it would surely kill the babies. That is why the government had to step in with limitations on age. The government wanted the population to grow to replace all those who died, and if children were dying from parents forcing the mark, then there would be no one left for the government to rule.

Thirteen became the age everyone got the mark. Before that age, there were required youth programs filled with messages of

loyalty to the world leader and worship of Elyon as God. The youngest of children were being indoctrinated daily until the day they turned thirteen and could make the decision for themselves to pledge their loyalty to Elyon.

When Hank decided to take the mark of allegiance to Elyon, it seemed like everything changed. He went from indifferent and neglectful to maliciously cruel overnight. He didn't seem like the same person. Carlos didn't know much about the mark or why age mattered, but when he saw his foster dad come home a completely changed man after it, he was glad he was too young to make that decision.

He was even more glad that Rosita couldn't be forced to take it. Even with all her fear and despondency, she was still just an innocent child. It made Carlos wonder if the innocence of childhood is what made the mark not work on kids. He felt like he had lost his innocence long ago, and the mark probably wouldn't kill him. He wasn't ready to find out though.

The meaner his guardian got after his test of loyalty to Elyon, the more Rosita withdrew. The once quiet and shy yet loving girl of four years old had fully changed into a traumatized and depressed girl of nine years old.

As food became scarce and hunger grew, she withdrew more and more, yet she was still the same Rosita deep down. When they were alone at night, Carlos could get her to open up. He saw glimpses of that same sweet girl he remembered before their parents' accident.

Two months ago, he stopped being able to get her to open up. Their foster father came home with a strange mark on his hand, his eyes black and devoid of life, and that's when the beatings began. Carlos tried to take the brunt of it, but even that traumatized his sister. Seeing the one person she cared about

being hurt affected her just as much as when she was beaten herself.

Carlos hated when his mind took these turns - when he was so filled with hatred he could hardly speak - but as he stared at the snoring man in front of him, he couldn't help it. He knew he had to get them away, but he didn't know how. Hank swore he would kill Carlos's sister if he ever ran away. Hank didn't try to hide it anymore. He said if they left, he'd lose the government stipend money and would kill them before he'd let that happen.

As twelve year old Carlos tried to do a man's job of figuring out how to escape an impossible situation, an answer was provided for him. He felt the ground shake and looked over to his sister, whose eyes were wide, but she didn't utter a single sound as she pointed outside. He followed the direction of her gaze and saw hail bigger than he knew how to measure falling from the sky. Then fires began erupting.

This was his chance and he knew it. He had to get them away. When the foster dad opened his eyes, felt the shaking and saw the destruction happening outside, he immediately lunged to grab the kids. Carlos knew that meant Hank was going to lock them up. Carlos grabbed his younger sister and yanked her towards himself as he ran for the door, but Hank was faster. He stood in front of the door blocking their exit with an evil sneer on his face and fists balled at his sides.

Just as the cruel man lifted his fist to rain blows on them, the biggest hail yet came smashing through the roof. Dust flew everywhere. When Carlos finally stopped coughing and got his bearings, he saw the giant man was trapped on the floor beneath a beam.

The man was growling threats, but Carlos knew this was his chance. He would rather gamble against the elements dodging

hail and fire rather than stay in this house.

He took his sister's hand and they ran. He didn't have a destination in mind. They ran just as far away as possible from the ogre who might free himself at any moment. Carlos hoped with every step that the giant ice falling from the sky would not target him or his sister.

As Carlos and Rosita ran, he noticed a pattern. The hail was falling everywhere and fire was spreading at a rapid rate, but the worst of the hail was concentrated on government buildings: police stations, Elyon loyalty centers, and entertainment stores, whose forms of entertainment had become more and more grotesque, were completely pulverized. Nothing remained.

The land around him was certainly decimated too, but not to the same degree. He realized to keep his sister safe his best bet was to head away from town and find shelter somewhere in the forest. That seemed dangerous too, because even though the hail was slowing down in intensity the fires were spreading. He saw people in neighborhoods frantically wetting down their houses so they wouldn't burn and digging trenches around their house trying to remove any grass. It seemed that every blade of grass in sight was being consumed and if he and his sister had any chance of survival, it would be by staying away from combustible material.

When he spied a wide creek in the distance he practically dragged Rosita with him until they were standing dead center in the water. They huddled together in the water watching the world burn around them somehow grateful to be alive and grateful to be away from their foster father.

Carlos didn't know how long they sat like that, but it had to be several hours. Sometime he fell asleep, and when he awoke, the world was charred with smoke billowing from everywhere. His nostrils stung from the smoke and it hurt to breathe, but the

fires were out. He didn't know what to do or where to go. It would have been hard for a twelve year old and his younger sister to survive even back when times were good. Now that everyone fought for the smallest scrap of food and a good many people became homeless from the massive fires, survival would become even harder.

Hopelessness seeped into him while his scared sister stood next to him, and he decided he had to do something. He was fueled in equal parts by hatred of the world and protectiveness of his sister. So he walked with her in the stream, not knowing where they were going, but hoping it was somewhere that would treat them better than what they had known the last couple of years.

# CHAPTER TWO

## *14 months after the Abomination of Desolation*

*“And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”*  
- Revelation 11:3

Benjamin and Rachel Levi had been in the cave for a couple of months. As some of the one hundred and forty-four thousand of the saved Jewish people, both had a blue seal of God on their head that was visible to all. You didn't have to have this seal to be saved, but those of the Jewish people that had this mark were protected. They could not be killed by the Anti-christ's army.

Their mother, Sarah Levi, also became a believer in her time in hiding in the cave, but their father, Jacob Levi, remained a devout Jew. He was opposed to the Anti-christ, but he wasn't ready to trust any religion again and lead his family wrongly like he did when he encouraged them to follow Elyon.

Benjamin and Rachel preached the Gospel in public because they were unable to be harmed by Elyon's officers, but they returned to the mountain to use the supernatural protection they experienced to protect their family and others hiding during the

many natural disasters that happened. When their family gathered around them as the rocks from the cave trembled and fell, they were protected by being in the same proximity to their children with the seal.

Lately, the two siblings were feeling a stirring that they could not stay hidden in the cave any longer. They were being called, but they did not know to where.

When they went to sleep that night they got their answer. As they slept, they both dreamt identical dreams, but it didn't feel like a dream. They had only closed their eyes for a few seconds and didn't even feel like they had fallen asleep, when they saw two robed figures walking toward them. As they got closer they could see that these were very old men. Their clothing was what one might expect from biblical times like something akin to sackcloth with brown sandals on their dirty feet. Their hair was long and white, their eyes were fierce and their skin was brown and creased with age. They seemed older than anyone Benjamin and Rachel had ever seen. One man walked with a large staff and they stared at them as they came closer and closer.

Benjamin and Rachel glanced at each other with confusion in their eyes. Somehow they were alert and aware of each other's dreams. They knew they weren't awake, but they knew they were sharing a dream.

As the men finished their approach, they stood in front of the brother and sister silent and staring.

The old man with the staff spoke first, "I am Moses from the house of Pharaoh, leader of the people of Israel out of captivity into the wilderness; the parter of the Red Sea with the power of the I Am."

Benjamin and Rachel stood transfixed with their mouths agape. This was no dream. It was as if Moses himself were

speaking to them.

The man next to Moses then stepped forward and spoke "I am Elijah, prophet of the Kingdom of Israel who called down fire from heaven and defeated the priests of Baal. I am he who was the parter of the river Jordan and who escaped death to ride chariots of fire into heaven. We two are the witnesses sent by God to proclaim his message until the appointed time of the end. You are of the tribes of Israel that have been sealed for the purposes of the Almighty. We are here to bring you a message of the mission that God has set before you, oh Sealed Ones."

Rachel stuck her hand inside her brothers like she did when she was a little girl. Trepidation and excitement filled her, and she felt unsure of what to do with all the emotions swirling inside of her.

Moses raised his staff to the air, and Rachel couldn't help but wonder if it was the same staff that had turned to a serpent once thousands of years ago.

As the staff pointed to the sky Moses proclaimed, "The time is coming when we will proclaim judgments on the army of the Anti-Christ. Soon, the sky will withhold its bounty of water in order to further disrupt the evil that is growing throughout the land."

Elijah took over the message as Moses lowered the staff back onto the ground, "You have protected those with you in this cavern from harm using the hedge that surrounds you. Bring those hidden amongst you to us. All who come to us will be offered sanctuary under our protection. No one will be able to harm anyone that is close to us. We have been given authority from the Most High to rain down Manna from heaven as in the days of old. They will not want for anything. They will hear the Truth and the Truth will set them free."



Moses leaned mere inches from their face, "But you must bring them. The evil one's regime has thwarted all attempts of those trying to reach us and hear our message. You must offer the people safe passage to us using the hedge that surrounds the Sealed Ones of the Lord"

The two prophets spoke in unison, "Do what you have been instructed in great haste, for the days are short and the time is wicked. Save as many as you can."

Just as suddenly as they appeared, they were gone and the siblings' eyes were now wide open as they shockingly stared at each other. As they looked around the cavern they saw everyone without the seal of the Lord on their heads fast asleep. Those who had the blue shield were all awake, wide eyed and asking each other if they experienced the same thing.

The consensus was unanimous. There was a link between the two witnesses and the sealed ones in Scripture. They knew what they must do next. Benjamin wondered if the rest of the hundred and forty four thousand around the world experienced the same thing. People all around the world were receiving a call to gather a multitude of people and escort them to the two witnesses to ensure their safety on the journey.

Everyone sealed began waking those still asleep explaining what had happened and what they must do. Benjamin and Rachel woke their parents first and explained everything. Their mother was much easier to convince than their father, but eventually everyone in the cave agreed to leave and come with them. They had seen the protection the Sealed Ones had offered and didn't want to be left alone.

The immense group headed out of the mountainside cave, not quite sure where they were headed, but following the Sealed Ones who surrounded them. Those that were sealed made sure

to encircle with a human perimeter those who weren't protected, taking seriously their role to safely escort those on the journey to the two witnesses.

---

Tom awoke to a sharp pain in his arm and fatigue everywhere. It all came back to him. With a wave of nausea, he remembered Katie. He looked at his arm and saw that time must have passed, because his arm had makeshift stitches in it where the shrapnel had hit. He looked at John, who was sitting dejectedly staring up at the hatch door.

Tom tried to speak but his voice betrayed the weakness he felt in his body. "John." He whispered. It took two more times saying his name before John finally looked over at Tom, pain evident on every feature of his face. Tom motioned for John to come over to him, and John reluctantly left his post staring at the door that was keeping him captive from being able to leave to search for his wife.

When John reached his side, Tom mustered all his strength to say two words that would hopefully put a little life back in his friend's eyes, "Escape Hatch."

John didn't register what Tom had said at first, but then his eyes became wide as he started looking around. Tom still weak simply motioned to the far end of the large bunker. John wasted no time and ran over to where Tom had pointed. He looked all around until his gaze finally landed on a small spot on the ceiling where a string was dangling. He reached up and pulled on the string and suddenly dirt from the ground above sprinkled the floor around him.

A hidden escape hatch had been there the whole time. John

didn't waste a single second but jumped onto the ladder attached to the hatch that had been hidden just a minute before.

When he reached the surface, he was shocked at what he was seeing. There was devastation as far as his eyes could see. He didn't see a single blade of green grass. The trees were all stripped bare of their leaves, and many were toppled onto the ground. Animals lay dead all around, stopped in their tracks as they attempted to flee the onslaught from above.

He looked back toward the barn where the main entrance to the bunker was blocked and saw that half of the roof of the barn had collapsed directly onto the hatch. He looked in the direction of where Tom's mobile home once stood. It was gone.

He sprinted over to the pile of rubble, hoping to see some part that might have offered his wife shelter during the storm, but it was no use. The entire structure was nothing more than a debris pile crushing his dreams of being with his wife.

He fell to his knees, sobbing, not caring if he lived or died and screamed at the top of his lungs, "God, why?!!" As he sat there, he heard a faint sound in the distance. It was faint, but it sounded like a voice.

He jumped up and ran toward the barn, "Katie?!"

He stopped a moment waiting, listening. There is was, close to the entrance to the barn. He sped towards the barn's driveway with all the strength and speed he possessed. He canvassed the area with his eyes. The driveway to the barn had ditches on either side, forming a bridge-like structure for the tractor to drive over with a drainage pipe underneath it. This culvert was strong to sustain the weight of massive tractors driving over it.

When he got to the culvert, he stopped and yelled, "Katie is that you?"

This time there could be no mistaking it. It was his wife's

weak and tired voice.

“John, I’m here. I’m trapped.” He heard her yelling from beneath where he stood.

He wanted to rejoice and jump up and down, but he didn’t know if she was hurt. He wouldn’t risk wasting another second. Katie must have taken shelter in the metal drainage pipe underneath the bridge-like driveway, but fallen trees littered the deep ditches, blocking her from being able to get back out.

He ran over to the the part of the barn that was still standing, found an axe, and ran back to the ditch next to the culvert. He hacked away at the trees ignoring the blisters that instantaneously started forming from the force and ferocity of his blows. In what seemed like hours, he broke up the largest of the trees and removed enough debris covering the entrance to allow his wife out.

She squeezed through and ran straight for his arms. He had never felt such relief in his entire life. He thought he had lost her. He began alternating between shaking her shoulders asking her what she was thinking, to kissing her head, cheeks, neck, laughing and crying with each affectionate peck. It took him a minute to realize that although she was happy to be with him, she was quieter than he expected her to be. Then he remembered her father.

He stopped rejoicing and tried to calm himself enough to be there for her. He gazed at her, grateful for another chance to show how much he loved her as he said, “What happened?”

She collapsed into his arms, “Oh John. I ran in to save him. He was already gone. I stayed for just a second. I wanted to say goodbye.”

She stopped talking and John knew she was reliving every moment of her dad’s final moments on earth. She had lost so

much in such a short time. First her mom to a bear attack and now her dad to a hailstorm.

After a few moments she began to speak again, "I ran after you guys and wasn't very far behind, but then the hail became worse where I was. You guys were already under the barn and the metal roof was deflecting a lot of it, but I was still in the open. I didn't think I could make it any further and not get hit, so I dove off the driveway into the ditch and crawled into the storm pipe. Almost as soon as I did, I heard the barn collapsing. I thought you died. I thought I lost my dad and my husband on the same day."

John put his arm around her shoulders and led her toward the escape hatch, "I'm so sorry, Sweetie. Your dad was a great man."

It was a bittersweet reunion as they climbed to the bottom of the bunker as everyone rejoiced in the news that Katie had survived, but mourned the loss of their friend, her dad.

# CHAPTER THREE

*15 months after the Abomination of Desolation*

*“These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall  
during the days of their prophesying”*

*-Revelation 11:6*

Fifteen months ago the World President, Xander Elyon, declared himself god. His hatred of God grew with every catastrophe that befell the land around him. His prophet and chief advisor, Benedetto Francis, knew scripture far better than Elyon did. Francis assured Elyon that though the prophecies said that his days were numbered, those were lies from God.

A voice had guided Elyon to positions of power since his first year at boarding school. He didn't understand how, but it was as if the spirit inside him guided and gave him knowledge of God himself. Elyon somehow knew that the God of creation has a deep deep love for humans and it causes God profound sadness when someone turns away from Him and heads toward hell.

Elyon believed that God had no intention of letting people go

to hell. All Elyon had to do was get enough people going there and God would relent in His judgments. Once that was accomplished, Elyon believed God would leave him alone to rule the earth. God could have the heavens, but Elyon wanted to rule the earth, be worshiped, and be king over all things.

God was not letting him enjoy his earthly kingdom. Never before had anyone or anything dared stop Elyon's rise to power. If the God of heaven dared to interfere, then Elyon committed to make God sorry. He would wound the Almighty the best way he knew how: by hurting people.

He offered promotions and pay raises based on the number of rebels apprehended to his current enforcement officers of the mark. For civilians, he gave incentives to report on their neighbors any suspicious activity that would lead to the capture of someone who did not have his mark. Free food, government-funded financial stipends, and free housing were just a few of the many rewards for neighbors turning on their neighbors. Elyon was determined to kill as many people as possible who refused his mark.

If he couldn't destroy their souls, then he would destroy their bodies. He thought about his war to win as many people to his side as possible to secure his place as leader of the earth. As his mind swirled with thoughts of world domination, he felt the silent but familiar swoosh of the cold whisp of air fill the room around him.

He closed his eyes, enjoying one of the few pleasant sensations of a force bigger than himself filling the room with a wind so icy it set his hairs on edge. He waited as the wind around him stopped swirling and felt as if a hurricane force of wind were forcibly pushing through every orifice on his body, filling him up until he felt like he would explode.

The voice was always with him, whispering guidance, but he relished the rare moments when this power would fill his body. In those moments, he knew he was just as powerful as God of the heavens. He had supernatural power.

He heard the familiar long drawn out whisper of the voice that had guided him, "Speeeeeeeeeeeeaak."

Elyon knew never to disobey the voice or the torture he would endure would be excruciating. He didn't mind obeying because the voice had given him everything he had ever desired. It had given him more power than anyone in the history of the world. It had given him more money than he could ever spend. It had fulfilled the darker lusts of his flesh as well.

No, he had no problem obeying the voice because it was the voice that was making him god. So he responded, "I will speak your words."

His mind filled with exactly the words to speak to the nations that would move the undecided people to choose him. They would motivate his followers to work harder to track down the rebels. He knew what to say to explain the catastrophes all over the world and he rose from the floor. He had received a vision of the future. He would prophecy what would happen next to the world.

---

Miles recalled the hailstorm that burned up so much of the earth a month earlier. News reports said it was estimated that 1/3 of the earth was burned up including houses, trees, buildings and all of the green grass had burned. Still the world's infrastructure was nowhere close to being restored.

Even in normal times, big storms would wipe out the power



grid for weeks, but that was isolated to a small region with unlimited manpower to restore what was broken. Now everything was different. This was the biggest natural disaster the world had ever seen. It would have taken years to rebuild in the best of circumstances. With so many dead from events in the last year and a half, the man-power to even attempt to rebuild was destroyed.

Areas that experienced destruction and lost power, would stay in the dark for years to come. Primitive living times was no longer isolated to the EMP zones. Over one-third of the world subsisted without modern conveniences. It wasn't just modern conveniences that were affected worldwide from the storm. The ecosystem, wildlife and food production were all also severely impacted.

Animals had long been outlawed to eat, but as so many disasters happened in the last several years, many people began to hunt illegally to stay alive. Few animals remained. The loss of so much animal life affected the ecosystem. Carbon dioxide levels plummeted from the drastic reduction in animal life. As a result, many plants suffocated. There was suddenly a drastic decrease in Carbon Dioxide emissions to support photosynthesis so many complex plants began having a difficult time adapting to the new reduced levels of Carbon Dioxide.

Worldwide barren farmland left empty shelves in markets. There was no food to use to restock stores. It would take a whole planting season to replace what was destroyed, if the crops could even grow under such tenuous conditions. People had to subsist on what they had for the foreseeable future.

Elyon's government limited its resources to restoring power to main stations of enforcement of the new one world government, like where Miles worked.

Miles was the enforcement director of the Midwestern Region. He hunted down those disloyal to Elyon's regime and forced them to take the mark of devotion to Elyon. He oversaw the execution of dissidents, like his father. Miles relished the moment of ending the life of the man who clung to the hateful religion of Christianity and refused to embrace Elyon's message of peace and love.

Miles resolved to find the rest of his family and make them see the truth that he had already discovered when he took the mark. Elyon was god, and there was no choice but to serve him. He was getting closer to finding them too. He scoured town after town hunting rebels. He had eliminated all but a couple of towns left to search with how far he believed his mom could have gotten on a full tank of gas. She couldn't have driven further since he knew she traveled south where fuel reserves and working cars were almost non-existent.

The next stop on his search was a little town called Jasper, Arkansas. He turned on the news. Most of the world was relegated to getting caught up on the news by listening to the radio like during the times of the Great Depression. However, his office building still had power and everything was functioning including. One of the perks of being so high up in the government: he had a working television with cable news.

Miles watched as Elyon spoke directly to the camera. Something about that man when he would gaze at you, even through the tv screen, seemed to make Miles's insides churn with a hunger for power he couldn't explain. He listened transfixed as Elyon spoke of a coming catastrophe.

Elyon spoke to the camera with a hypnotic voice, "My children. You have seen me do the impossible, raise myself from the dead. Watch me work wonders again in your midst."

With each word, Miles become more mesmerized at the power of the man he served.

The audience of his speech erupted into spontaneous applause. Elyon smiled and nodded his head in appreciation before raising his arm up demanding silence so he could continue his speech.

“I am not only indestructible, I also have supernatural precognition. I have seen the future.”

Miles snapped to attention as he stared at his leader with both anticipation of what he would say next and with skepticism of his most recent claim.

An all knowing smile spread across Elyon’s face, “Oh ye of little faith. Why do you doubt me? I prophesy this to you now. When it comes to pass, know that I am not only immortal, but also omniscient.

An attack is coming on our people. Many will suffer, but we will prevail in the end. Remember these words when times seem darkest. When we overcome and are victorious against the coming invaders, remember, it was I who foretold they’re coming.”

Miles stood transfixed at the screen torn in awe at the continued show of power from the leader of the world. He fell to his knees when Elyon concluded his message by calling for all those loyal to the truth to join with him in prayer.

Elyon looked at the camera and spoke, “My children, hear my words and I will teach you how to pray to have strength to endure the time to come. Our Father, Elyon, god whom I serve.”

Miles closed his eyes and repeated the prayer, “Our Father, Elyon, god whom I serve.” Miles was waiting for the next line to pray when the silence stretched on and he didn’t hear his leader’s voice anymore. He peeked open his eye to see what the

hold up was when he saw his TV screen coming into focus on a different location. He couldn't quite grasp what he was seeing but it certainly was not Elyon's sanctuary.

There were two men dressed in what could only be described as burlap sacks. The men had long white hair halfway down their backs that looked like it hadn't been brushed since they were children. Their eyebrows were also pure white and the length of their eyebrows was so long it obscured their eyes. Almost. Their eyes pierced through Miles soul in a way than he had ever felt. This didn't feel like the lust for power he felt when he looked at Elyon. This felt like terror.

He went to turn off the TV, but his arms felt like stone and refused to move. It seemed his brain could not command his body into motion. He sat staring at these two old men who spoke an ancient language he didn't understand. Was it Aramaic? Hebrew? He had never heard anything like it before. He didn't understand a word they said, but it was as if his soul understood.

They were speaking about him. They were proclaiming judgment on him. As his terror grew, so did his hatred. How dare anyone judge him, let alone two senile old men from the other side of the world? They were likely nothing more than rebels taking over the broadcast for their warped propaganda.

Reports that two crazy old men in the Middle East speaking warnings against Elyon, had been buried by the government. Internal reports stated that the old men had some kind of secret armor, like so many Jews in that region. No matter what they tried they could not kill these two men. The government kept them blockaded so as few of people as possible would hear their harmful message.

That had worked until now. Somehow they managed to gain control of the airwaves. One of the old men pointed a staff into

the sky and chanted in a foreign language. As he chanted, Miles was stunned to see the clouds that were moments earlier dark and threatening grow whiter and whiter. Soon, all the gray from the rain was gone, but the man with the staff continued to chant with his giant serpent-like stick pointed to the air. The clouds continued to change, but this time instead of going from gray to white, they began to change from a thick cumulus cloud to a thick wisp of a cloud and soon to no cloud at all. The sky had gone from a dreary, stormy day to a cloudless, blue sky in a moments time.

The man lowered his staff and looked directly into the camera, his eyes boring into Miles's soul as he spoke a final word of judgment.

He still spoke in a strange tongue, but Miles somehow knew exactly what he was saying: "No rain."

---

It had been a month since the storms ravaged Tom's land and they barely escaped with their lives. Katie nestled in the crook of John's arm as he stroked her hair while he read the Bible to her. There really was no privacy in the bunker. Beth stood a shoulder width apart from Katie unintentionally listening to their conversation. Sophia was not much further away cleaning.

John wouldn't let the lack of privacy stop him from sharing what had been weighing him down. He became momentarily silent in the middle of a verse about trusting in the Lord.

"I guess I didn't trust the Lord so well when I thought I had lost you." His voice was filled with regret at how weak he was for blaming God and being angry when he thought he lost his

wife.

Katie knew that she had reassured her husband that he was only human and moments of doubting are bound to come even to the most faithful followers, but something more was needed to pull him from his disappointment in himself. She was reminded of a story she had once heard in church and knew that it might be what he needed to hear.

She had tried the soft approach, but now it was time for a little more of the tough love tactic.

“You’re right. I need to know that whatever happens, your faith won’t waver again. It’s been fifteen months, John, since the countdown to the end began. We know the Bible says it will be no longer than forty-two months in total length from that time. It will probably be sooner than that! That means, at the very most, we have twenty-seven months left on this earth. A little over two years max. Even if I die, you will see me in heaven very soon. You can’t let your faith waver for such a short time a part.”

She felt his kiss on the top of her head as he squeezed her close. She knew her words had done the trick of helping him snap out of the stupor of self recrimination.

“Do you remember the story of Peter’s wife you once told me?” She asked while she still leaned against his chest.

She felt his chest rise and fall with a heavy sigh as he remembered the story he had told her often. Her death wasn’t in scripture, but there was a Roman historian who documented the growth of the early church and he recorded the events of it. John told her often of the story reminding them of the sacrifice the early Christians made and that they might be called to make as well. He did it to strengthen his wife for hard days ahead, but now she was using it to remind him of the sacrifice Christianity might mean for them.

She recounted the story she had heard so many times: on the day of Peter's crucifixion, where he chose to be crucified upside down rather than in the same manner as his Lord. However, before that moment arrived, his captors made him watch his wife's execution first. She was led out in front of her husband being led to her death.

As she walked by him, Peter called out her name and when she turned around to look at him one final time he comfortingly said to her, "Remember the Lord."

Katie looked up into her husband's eyes with tears in her own, "Whatever happens John, to me, to yourself, or to our baby.... Remember the Lord."

It took a moment for John to process what she had just said. Their baby? She was pregnant? After a few moments of stunned silence he pushed her off of his chest to look at her and see if she was joking.

Katie just smiled as he stood her up in the cramped bunker and held her in an embrace that lifted her feet off the ground.

He didn't need to repeat it because everyone heard already, but he couldn't stop himself from saying it again, "We're having a baby!"

The shouts of joy echoed in the small chamber. Everyone talked long into the night about the joy a little one would bring to their lives. No one mentioned the hardships they would inevitably face raising an infant in such perilous times. Now was a time to focus on this gift to all of them. A baby would remind them of what they were fighting for, and what good remained in the world.

Katie's face glowed with the joy of new life growing inside of her. She told everyone that with all the craziness in the world she didn't even notice when her appetite left or that she was more

tired than usual. She thought it was all due to the stress they were under and their limited diet.

Katie couldn't know exactly how far along she was, but she guessed when she first lost her appetite that she was about three months along. In six more months she would be a mother. In six months she would be a mother with a precious perfect baby in her arms. She was terrified of how she would keep the baby safe, but mostly she couldn't wait to be a mom.



## Seals, Trumpets & Bowls

The book of Revelation describes a series of judgments that will occur during the end times. These judgments are often categorized into three sections: the Seals, the Trumpets, and the Bowls.

### **The Seal Judgments (Revelation 6)**

These judgments unfold progressively, revealing a worsening state of affairs:

1st Seal: The White Horse: Symbolizing the rise of a powerful leader, potentially the Antichrist, who gains power through political maneuvering (Revelation 6:1-2).

2nd Seal: The Red Horse: Representing increased bloodshed and war, culminating in a final world war (Revelation 6:3-4).

3rd Seal: The Black Horse: Signifying a period of famine and economic hardship (Revelation 6:5-6).

4th Seal: The Pale Horse: Depicting widespread death, where a quarter of humanity perishes (Revelation 6:7-8).

5th Seal: Strengthened Prayers: The cries of martyrs for justice intensify prayers for God's intervention (Revelation 6:9-11).

6th Seal: Cosmic Disturbances: Dramatic events in the sky display God's power and signal the coming judgments (Revelation 6:12-17).

7th Seal: Strengthened by Angels: A period of silence in heaven precedes the final trumpet judgments, with angels empowering prayers (Revelation 8:1-6).

### **The Trumpet Judgments (Revelation 8-9)**

These judgments escalate in intensity, impacting various aspects of the Earth:

\* \* \*

1st Trumpet: Destruction of Vegetation: One-third of the earth's vegetation is burned (Revelation 8:7).

2nd Trumpet: Seas Turn to Blood: A significant portion of the seas turn to blood, causing widespread death (Revelation 8:8-9).

3rd Trumpet: Freshwater Contamination: Freshwater sources become undrinkable (Revelation 8:10-11).

4th Trumpet: Darkness: The light sources of the sun, moon, and stars are diminished by one-third (Revelation 8:12).

5th Trumpet: Demonic Torment: Locust-like creatures torment humanity for five months (Revelation 9:1-12).

6th Trumpet: Demonic Horsemen: Demons riding horses bring death to another third of humanity (Revelation 9:13-21).

7th Trumpet: The Rapture and Return of Jesus: The final trumpet heralds the return of Jesus Christ (Revelation 11:15-19).

### **The Bowl Judgments (Revelation 16)**

These judgments represent the fullness of God's wrath, bringing complete devastation:

1st Bowl: Sores on the Wicked: Those who worship the Antichrist are afflicted with painful sores (Revelation 16:2).

2nd Bowl: Seas Turn to Blood (Again): The remaining sea life dies as the entire sea turns to blood (Revelation 16:3).

3rd Bowl: Freshwater Turns to Blood (Again): All remaining freshwater sources become blood (Revelation 16:4-7).

4th Bowl: Scorching Heat: The sun's heat intensifies, causing immense suffering (Revelation 16:8-9).

5th Bowl: Darkness over the Antichrist's Empire: The Antichrist's domain is plunged into darkness (Revelation 16:10-11).

6th Bowl: Deception Leading to War: Demons deceive the nations, drawing them into a final battle at Armageddon (Revelation 16:12-16).

7th Bowl: Annihilation: A massive earthquake, hail, and the final fall of Babylon mark the end of the current world system

Adam & Stephanie Parker

(Revelation 16:17-21).

## **SYMBOLS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

There are seven main symbols in the book of revelation which are found in Revelation chapters 12-14. When we find symbols, numbers or events in this book, they are to be taken in their plain literal meaning unless otherwise indicated by scripture (Rev. 1:20; 5:6; 11:8; 12:1, 3, 9; 17:7, 9, 15-18). Most of the symbols used in these chapters were also used by Daniel (Dan. 7:3-7, 12, 17; 8:4).

**The dragon:** consistently symbolic of Satan (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4; 16:13; 20:2)

**The first beast:** represents the Antichrist (Rev. 13; 14:9-11; 17:3-17; 19:19-21; 20:4, 10). Daniel foretold the Antichrist as the Beast ruling over a large empire. (Dan. 7:7, 11, 19-23).

**Another beast:** represents the False Prophet, who is designated as another beast only once; on all other occasions, he is identified as the False Prophet. (Rev. 13:11-17; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10).

**The seven heads:** the seven historical powers that oppressed Israel include Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, ancient Rome, and a yet-to-come revived Roman Empire. (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3-16).

**The ten horns:** Refer to a forthcoming alliance of ten kings governing their respective nations concurrently, united under the authority of the Antichrist through a fervent agreement or collaboration. Daniel foretold the Antichrist as the Beast with an extensive realm, upheld by ten kings referred to as ten horns on

the Antichrist. (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 11, 19-23; 11:36-45; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).

**The Harlot Babylon:** It is probable that this kingdom will be established in the physical, reconstructed city of Babylon situated along the Euphrates River in Iraq (approximately fifty miles to the south of Baghdad). This restored city is envisioned to serve as a base for the Antichrist, functioning as the epicenter of global, demonic, religious, and economic activities. Its allure will lead many astray into sin, and it will become a place of persecution for the faithful. (Isa. 13-14; 21; Jer. 50-51; Rev. 17-18).

**The Woman with the Male Child (Jesus):** The woman represents the enduring faithful of Israel across ages, birthing the male Child, who is Jesus. Satan contends with her descendants, who are comprised of Gentile believers (Rev. 12:1-5, 17).

## GLOSSARY

**Abomination of Desolation:** The Antichrist, as depicted in Revelation 13, will claim to be God and demand to be worshipped, marking a despicable act leading to profound devastation. Those who engage in this grievous abomination will face ruin through God's judgments, as outlined in Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14, and 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. This system of worship will center around the Antichrist, referred to as the Beast, installing an image—whether a statue or idol—of himself within the Jerusalem temple. This image will possess demonic empowerment, imbued with the ability to animate and speak, as detailed in Revelation 13:14-15. Compliance with worshiping the Antichrist before this image will become a prerequisite for commerce, as stated in Revelation 13:16-18. Those who resist will face persecution as enemies of the state, under threat of martyrdom.

**Antichrist:** The prefix "anti-" denotes opposition or substitution. The Antichrist, portrayed as a malevolent figure, will oppose Christ and aspire to receive worship from nations as a substitute for Jesus. He will spearhead the most formidable and malevolent global dominion ever witnessed.

**Armageddon:** A significant military campaign that is forecasted to unfold during the final three and a half years within the land of Israel, culminating in the battle for Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:3; 14:1-2). The gathering point for the nations is known as Armageddon in Hebrew (Revelation 16:16), derived from the Greek rendering of the Hebrew name Har Megiddo, signifying "the hill of Megiddo" (with "har" meaning "hill"). Megiddo is an

ancient town situated in the valley of Jezreel, also known as the valley of Esdraelon, within the Plain of Jezreel. The plain surrounding Megiddo, upon which the hill of Megiddo stands, serves as the strategic military staging ground for this campaign in northern Israel.

**Daniel's 70th Week:** The book of Daniel contains a prophecy outlining a period of "seventy weeks" (Daniel 9:24-27). Here, each "week" signifies seven years, similar to how Jacob referred to seven years as a "week" (Genesis 29:27-28). This translates to a total of 490 years (70 x 7). This prophecy details God's plan for Israel's redemption. The 70 weeks represent God's work from Daniel's time to Jesus' second coming. The first 69 weeks (483 years) span from 445 BC to Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem (30 AD). The remaining "seventieth week" is a future period of seven years that will begin when Israel makes a peace covenant with the Antichrist, a leader from a future revived Roman Empire (Daniel 9:26-27). This period marks the lead-up to Jesus' second coming.

**Daniel's 30 day period:** The Bible describes a dramatic end-time sequence of events. After a period of intense tribulation lasting 1,260 days (three and a half years), Jesus will return to the sky (often referred to as the "rapture") signaled by the seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:17). During this tribulation, God will miraculously protect a remnant of Israel (Revelation 12:6, 14), and two witnesses will prophesy (Revelation 11:3). The Antichrist, meanwhile, will persecute the Church and Israel, both through warfare (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5, 7) and by controlling Jerusalem (Revelation 11:2; Daniel 12:7).

However, the story doesn't end there. Daniel 12:11 suggests an

additional thirty days following the 1,260-day tribulation. This period witnesses the final dismantling of the Antichrist's empire and his system of worship, often referred to as the "abomination of desolation." It culminates with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where he will personally defeat the Antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 19:20). This thirty-day period marks a significant shift from the Antichrist's reign to Jesus' complete victory.

**Eschatology:** This word comes from two Greek words: "eschaton," meaning "end," and "-logy," meaning "study of." The Bible places significant emphasis on the end times, devoting over a quarter of its content (27%) to prophecies about what will happen. Some of the key events include the Great Tribulation, the second coming of Jesus Christ, and the establishment of his millennial kingdom.

**Image of the Beast:** The Bible describes a significant event in the end times - the unveiling of an idol or statue representing the Antichrist. This image, set up within the Jerusalem temple, will be imbued with demonic power, creating the illusion of life. People may believe it can think, speak, breathe, and even make laws (Revelation 13:14-16). The widespread emphasis on this image (mentioned ten times by John in Revelation) suggests it will be a major prophetic sign. It's possible this central idol will be connected to a network of similar figures across the globe. Regardless, its presence in the temple signifies a blatant challenge to God's authority and a defining moment in the end times.

**Lake of Fire:** The book of Revelation (20:15) describes a final judgment for those who haven't placed their faith in God. This



includes the Antichrist, the False Prophet, Satan, demons, and all unbelievers. This event, sometimes referred to as the "resurrection of condemnation" (John 5:29), marks the end for those who haven't accepted God's grace. They will face eternal separation from God and experience a state of suffering.

**Little Horn:** The prophet Daniel describes a powerful and evil leader called the "Little Horn" (check out Daniel 7:7-8 and 19:25). This figure is seen as a foreshadowing of the Antichrist.

**Mark of the Beast:** The False Prophet will institute a global economic structure, compelling nations to revere the Antichrist by accepting the mark of the Beast, thus coercing individuals to declare their allegiance openly. Legislation will mandate the adoration of the Antichrist as divine (Revelation 13:12, 15). Those who dissent will be deemed adversaries of the state and sentenced to capital punishment. The image and mark of the Beast will fuel and fund the Antichrist's worldwide worship initiative (Revelation 13:13-18).

**Marriage Supper of the Lamb:** The book of Revelation (19:7-10) describes a celebratory event after the rapture where Jesus is united with his redeemed people, symbolized as a wedding feast. Some believe it lasts for the entire 1,000-year millennial reign.

**New Jerusalem:** The Bible describes a magnificent city called the New Jerusalem, the eternal home for all believers (Hebrews 11:10, 16; 12:22-24). Revelation provides a glimpse of the New Jerusalem's arrival in 2 stages. First, it appears at Jesus' second coming (Rev. 21:10). Then, after the 1,000-year millennial reign, the New Jerusalem fully descends to earth (Rev.

21:2), signifying the ultimate fulfillment of God's plan and a new era of peace and joy for believers.

**Parousia:** ( παρουσία ) is a Greek word that literally translates to "presence" or "arrival." In the New Testament, it's used specifically to refer to the second coming of Jesus Christ (See passages like Matthew 24:3, 27, 37, 39; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 8; James 5:7-8).

**Reprobate:** The Tribulation will be a horrific period unlike any other in history. Many will tragically reject God's grace, signified by receiving the mark of the Beast (Revelation 19:2). The term "reprobate" describes those who have hardened their hearts against God and show no desire to repent (Romans 1:28; Hebrews 6:4-6; 2 Peter 2:20). While believers will continue to pray for the lost during this time, there may also be a call for God's judgment to bring an end to the suffering caused by those who relentlessly persecute God's people (Revelation 19:2). This aligns with the prayers of martyrs who long for justice and an end to their oppression (Revelation 6:9-11).

**Replacement Theology:** This unbiblical concept, not supported by the Bible, suggests that God has permanently cast aside the Jewish people and their covenants. It proposes that the Church has taken their place as God's chosen people, inheriting the promises originally made to Israel (Romans 9-11).

**Second Coming of Christ:** The moment when Jesus returns bodily to Jerusalem to establish His reign over the entire earth. He will traverse the skies, ensuring that His glorious appearance is visible to every eye in every corner of the globe (Revelation 1:7).

\* \* \*

**Second Coming Procession:** The sequential journey of Jesus' return unfolds in three stages: commencing with His passage across the heavens, ensuring His visible presence to all (Revelation 1:7); followed by His procession through the land of Edom, corresponding to present-day Jordan (Isaiah 63:1-6; Habakkuk 3:3-16), culminating in His arrival at Jerusalem's Mount of Olives (Psalms 24:7-10; Zechariah 14:4; Revelation 19:17-21).

**The Great White Throne Judgment:** This judgment occurs after the 1,000-year millennial reign and is for those who haven't placed their faith in Jesus Christ. It's a final judgment where unbelievers will be held accountable for their actions (Revelation 20:11-15).

**The Judgment Seat of Christ:** This judgment happens for believers before the 1,000-year millennial reign begins. It's a time for believers to be rewarded for their faithfulness on earth (1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10). It's not about salvation, but about the recognition and reward for the good works done in life.

**The Last Trumpet / 7th Trumpet:** (1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 10:7): Jesus will initiate a radical change in earthly governance through His decisive actions. He will lead a majestic procession spanning the globe. His journey will commence by traversing the heavens to gather His faithful followers (as prophesied in Revelation 1:7), then proceed through the territory of Edom (modern-day Jordan; Isaiah 63:1-6; Habakkuk 3:12), vanquishing His adversaries, before arriving at Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:2-5).

\* \* \*

**The Millennium:** The Millennium denotes a span of one thousand years during which Jesus will govern the world with justice and righteousness. The term "millennium" originates from the Latin word "mille," signifying "a thousand." Therefore, it is customary to designate this forthcoming thousand-year reign of Jesus on earth as the Millennium.

**The Rapture:** Derived from the Latin term "raptus," meaning "catching away," the concept of the rapture entails that the living saints upon Jesus' return will be swiftly taken to meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17). This event coincides with the sounding of the seventh trumpet, denoting the final trumpet (1 Corinthians 15:50-52; Revelation 11:15). In an instant, their bodies will undergo a miraculous transformation.

**The Restrainer:** The restrainer involves the force that holds back the emergence of the Antichrist. This obstacle will be removed to facilitate his ascent to global political prominence. This restraining influence, as made clear by Paul, comprises a combination of two entities described as both someone and something that currently hinder the Antichrist's emergence (2 Thessalonians 2:6-8). Paul characterizes the restrainer of the Antichrist as both a "what" (neuter in verse 6) and a "He" (masculine in verse 7), indicating a cooperative effort between an entity and a person. Paul's teaching underscores the role of governmental authority, appointed by God to curb malevolence (Romans 13:1-4). The "what" that restrains the Antichrist pertains to the authority wielded by the state, while the "He" signifies God and His sovereign timing regarding the removal of constraints on the Antichrist. Some erroneously attribute the role of the restrainer to the Holy Spirit and posit His removal at the

pre-Tribulation rapture of the Church. However, such a notion would imply an absence of salvation opportunities during the Tribulation, as the Holy Spirit's work in convicting unbelievers is necessary for their redemption.

**The Tribulation / The Great Tribulation:** Some characterize the Tribulation as encompassing the entire seven-year period preceding Jesus' return. However, Jesus specifically delineated the final three and a half years of this span as the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21, 29; Mark 13:24; Revelation 7:14). It is also identified as the time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:4-7). The primary focus during the Great Tribulation is the outpouring of God's judgments upon the Antichrist, in partnership with the prayers of the Church remaining on earth (Revelation 6-19). While the saints will not be subject to God's judgments, they will serve as agents of their execution upon the Antichrist, akin to how Moses administered God's judgments upon Pharaoh (Exodus 7-12). A secondary aspect of the Great Tribulation involves the Antichrist's persecution of the saints.

**The Two Witnesses:** The Church will receive aid from the two most influential prophets in history as they prophesy for a period of 1,260 days, equivalent to three and a half years. Their extraordinary miracles echo those performed by Moses and Elijah. They will stand in opposition to the Antichrist while spreading the gospel's message. Despite their true identities remaining a mystery, there are conjectures suggesting they could be Moses and Elijah, or perhaps Moses and Enoch.

**Where do we get 3 1/2 years of Tribulation from?** (1260 days, 42 months, Time, Times and half a time, Middle of the week, 1290 days)

\* \* \*

Those versed in end-time prophecy are acquainted with the renowned three-and-a-half-year period culminating at the sounding of the seventh trumpet. This duration is also denoted in Scripture as 42 months or 1,260 days (according to the Hebrew calendar). Similarly, it is described as "time, times, and half a time," where "time" signifies one year, "times" indicates two years, and "half a time" represents half a year, totaling three and a half years. The significant 1,260-day interval commences on the day of the abomination of desolation's establishment and concludes precisely on its 1,260th day. This marks the day of the Church's rapture at the seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:15) and the termination of the Antichrist's unchallenged rule over Jerusalem and Israel.

The inquiry arises: where will Jesus and the saints be during the thirty days between the 1260 days and 1290 days? The three activities concerning God's people—provision, prophecy, and persecution—cease precisely 1,260 days after the abomination of desolation is erected, coinciding with the saints' rapture at the seventh trumpet.

During this period, Jesus will advance from Edom (Jordan, Isaiah 63:1-6) to Israel, akin to a greater Moses, executing the bowl judgments upon the Antichrist, reminiscent of an end-time Pharaoh. He will proceed to Jerusalem to liberate Israel, vanquish the Antichrist and his forces, thereby abolishing the abomination of desolation (Revelation 19:11-21).

In summary, the 1,260-day period culminates with Jesus' appearance in the sky at the seventh trumpet for the saints' rapture (Revelation 11:15). The 1,290 days encompass an

additional thirty days past the seventh trumpet, during which the Antichrist's worship system, or the abomination of desolation, persists on earth. This era concludes when Jesus personally arrives in Jerusalem to obliterate the Antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 19:20).

**Pre-Tribulation Rapture (Pretrib):** The prefix "pre" denotes "before," often associated with a theological belief known as the pre-tribulation rapture, suggesting that the rapture occurs prior to the Tribulation. This doctrine posits that Christians will be spared from enduring the Tribulation. It is founded, in part, on a misinterpretation of the Tribulation as a period during which the saints are subjected to God's judgments. However, the Bible explicitly states that the saints are not destined to experience God's wrath (Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9).

**Mid-Tribulation Rapture (Midtrib):** Midtribulationism proposes that the rapture occurs midway through the tribulation period. This event coincides with the sounding of the seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:15), marking the moment when the church ascends to meet Christ in the air, preceding the outpouring of the bowl judgments upon the earth (Revelation 15–16), which some would refer to as the great tribulation. In essence, the rapture and Christ's second coming (to establish His kingdom) are separated by a span of three and a half years. According to this perspective, the church endures the initial half of the tribulation but is shielded from the worst of it during the latter three and a half years. A viewpoint closely aligned with midtribulationism is the concept of a "pre-wrath" rapture, advocating that the church is taken up to heaven prior to the commencement of the "great day of ... wrath" (Revelation 6:17).

\* \* \*

**Post-Tribulation Rapture (Posttrib):** The term "post" signifies "after." Also referenced as "Historic Premillennialism". This pertains to the biblical doctrine indicating that the rapture and the second coming transpire "after" the Tribulation. Essentially, the Church will remain on earth, triumphantly navigating through the Tribulation. This period will represent the pinnacle of the Church's existence, characterized by an extraordinary manifestation of God's power, surpassing any preceding era in history.

**Pre-Millennialism:** Premillennialism asserts that Christ's return will precede His millennial reign, a literal thousand-year period when He will rule on earth.

**Post-Millennialism:** Postmillennialism interprets Revelation chapter 20 as depicting Christ's second coming following a period known as the "millennium," characterized by a golden age or era of Christian prosperity and influence. This term encompasses various perspectives on the end times and contrasts with premillennialism, which posits that Christ's second coming precedes His literal thousand-year reign, and to some extent, amillennialism, which does not envision a literal millennium.

**A-Millennialism:** An amillennialist interprets the 1,000 years symbolically and figuratively rather than as a literal duration, contrasting with a tangible understanding of historical events. Despite the prefix "a-" typically indicating negation, in the amillennial perspective, the millennium is perceived as "realized" or more accurately described as "millennium now." In essence, amillennialism regards Christ's first coming as the commencement of the kingdom and anticipates His return as the



fulfillment or completion of the kingdom. Therefore, John's reference to the 1,000 years signifies events unfolding throughout the church age.

### **Where is the Church in the Book of Revelation?**

Certain individuals advocate for the pre-Tribulation rapture of the Church. This belief rests on the premise that because the term "Church" is absent from Revelation after Chapter 4, the Church must have been removed from earth by that point. However, this conclusion is drawn from an absence of explicit mention rather than direct scriptural affirmation. The book of Revelation provides ample evidence suggesting that the saints will indeed reside and play active roles on earth during the Tribulation.

The significant gathering of souls from every corner of the globe occurs amid the Tribulation. At this pivotal moment, the Church will not be absent but rather experience its highest point in growth and effectiveness in global evangelism.

Revelation 7:9 and 14 depict a vast multitude, representing people from diverse nations, tribes, languages, and cultures, standing before the throne. These individuals emerge from the great tribulation, having purified their robes in the blood of the Lamb. Moreover, amidst the Tribulation, the saints will achieve remarkable triumph over Satan and the Antichrist.

Revelation 12:11 illustrates their victory, achieved through the power of the blood of the Lamb and the testimony they bear, even to the point of sacrificing their lives.