



A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES

Week 60: The Seventh Trumpet Judgement, and Transitions

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Review:

- A. Last week we wrapped up our study of *The Two Witnesses* in *Revelation Ch. 11*
- B. Our emphasis was on the resurrection of *The Two Witnesses*. The natural question, "Who are they?"
- C. Concerning their resurrection, which is outlined in *Revelation 11:11-13*, we learned several things:
 1. **First**, we learned their enemies '*watched them.*'
 2. We already know that people from all over the globe are going to be '*gazing on their dead bodies,*' therefore their resurrection will also be seen by many.
 3. **Second**, the resurrection of *The Two Witnesses* perhaps amounts to the pinnacle moment of their ministry.
 4. Because the antichrist will have killed *The Two Witnesses* when nobody else was able to, the depraved world's perspective will be that the antichrist has one-upped everything *The Two Witnesses* have stood for thus far.
 5. Their resurrection consequently becomes their greatest and final testimony. It's their greatest statement that they have served in God's power, and that God Himself is the ultimate authority.
 6. **Third**, the resurrection of The Two Witnesses is accompanied by several other phenomena.
 - a. There is the voice from heaven which announces, "*Come up here*" in **vs.12**.
 - b. This statement is exactly what John heard in *Revelation 4:1* when he was transported to heaven in a type of the Rapture at the end of the Church Age.
 - c. In **1 Thessalonians 4:16**, we are told concerning the Rapture, that "*the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout.*"
 - d. It is possible that this shout will also be a command that we hear to "*Come up here.*"
 7. The second phenomena is they went up to heaven in a cloud.
 - a. Jesus ascended to heaven in a cloud.
 - b. Elijah was taken up to heaven in something described as "*a whirlwind*" in **2 Kings 2:1**.
 - c. It may very well be that our own Rapture will be accompanied by a similar visual element.
 8. The last phenomena, and it's an important one, is the ascent into heaven of *The Two Witnesses* was seen by others.
 - a. Again, this was also true for Jesus and for Elijah.
 - b. While it is conventionally taught that the Rapture will be an act of instantaneous disappearance. However what IS most strongly

suggested in Scripture instead is that our ascent during the Rapture will be seen by others.

- c. What DOES happen instantaneously is that we are changed from mortal to immortal and from corruptible to incorruptible. In the sequence of Rapture processes, it is AFTER that change that we ascend.
- D. In the process of answering the question, “Who are **The Two Witnesses?**” I told you my personal conclusion that it was a literal and physical return of two Old Testament figures: Moses and Elijah.
- E. I gave several reasons for this conclusion:
 - a. First, the list of miracles that **The Two Witnesses** will perform are very much like the miracles that Moses and Elijah both performed.
 - b. Second, both Moses and Elijah represent to the Jewish people “the law and the prophets” more than any other two OT figures.
 - a. This is a very key matter. The Jewish people, in terms of their own religious system, revere “the law and the prophets” more than anything else.
 - b. And the Jews will have just returned to a Levitical religious system with the third temple, so their renewed focus on the Law and the Prophets is going to be contemporaneous with the appearance and ministry of **The Two Witnesses**.
 - c. Third, it was Moses and Elijah that appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.
 - a. It’s important to remember that: this was an occasion in which Jesus was presented in his future glory, in a form He would be known by at the end of times, and Moses and Elijah appeared with Him.
 - d. Fourth, both Moses and Elijah left this earth in unusual ways.
 - a. Elijah didn’t die, and God ended Moses’ life when Moses was still very healthy.
 - c. Satan also wanted Moses’ body, perhaps to prevent in some way Moses’ return.
 - d. All to say, I think the conditions were set up for both Moses and Elijah to return to this earth in an unusual way.
 - e. Lastly, both the Old Testament as well as Jewish tradition, expected Moses and Elijah to return in the future.
 - a. It seems their reappearing as **The Two Witnesses** fulfill these expectations.
- I. That brings us to a portion of **Revelation Ch. 11** where, once again, some transitional information is presented. Let’s briefly address these elements, and also give ourselves a quick set of reminders:
 - A. We are roughly at the halfway point of The Tribulation and **The Two Witnesses’** 3 ½ years of ministry is complete.

- B. The antichrist has likely died and been supernaturally resurrected by Satan by this point.
 - 1. As I've shared before, I think he comes back to life in a different constitution or form than what he had before.
 - 2. If he was not a Nephilim before, I think various occultic processes will have rendered him to be not fully human by this point.
 - 3. The antichrist has achieved worldwide acclaim and applause for killing **The Two Witnesses**. However, now all that has been tarnished and thrown into question by the resurrection and ascent of **The Two Witnesses**.
 - C. Hostilities against the Jews are now at a fever pitch, and somewhere around this point, the antichrist will nullify the covenant he'd confirmed with them 3 ½ years earlier.
 - 1. That means he is about to enter the Jewish temple and proclaim himself to be God (if he hasn't done this already), and he is ready to exterminate all of the Jews.
 - 2. Whatever thin veneer of "rights and protections" the Jews thought they had gained by that covenant earlier - - that is all about to come apart precipitously.
 - 3. Also, we know from our earlier studies around the false one-world religious system, that the antichrist and his ten kings are about to put a violent end to this global religion.
 - 4. The Bible says that secretly: they "*hate*" this false global religious system that rapidly emerged in the wake of The Rapture. They will "*bring it to ruin*" according to **Revelation 17:16**.
 - 5. This is necessary for the antichrist to demand self-worship, and so those processes are about to unfold, if they have not started already.
 - 6. All to say, I think we find ourselves in this study at the juncture between the first half of The Tribulation and the second half of The Tribulation. There may be some flex of a few days concerning "this or that" detail, but this is where the overall timeline is at.
- II. Let's briefly look at some specific pieces of information about this transitional phase:**
- A. (**Cf. vs. 14**) – "*The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.*"
 - 1. This verse makes no sense if we don't recall the information that was given to us in **Revelation 8:13**. It was there we learned the "three woes" are synonymous with the last three Trumpet Judgments.
 - 2. So, two of the last three Trumpet Judgements have taken place, numbers 5 and 6. Now, the seventh Trumpet Judgement is coming soon. This is the "*third woe.*"
 - 3. Here is an interesting detail that is easy to overlook: **Revelation** positions the sounding of the seventh trumpet as being an event which *follows* the conclusion of the ministry of The Two Witnesses.
 - a. Given what we know about the time of the ministry of The Two Witnesses, that means the seventh trumpet must sound near the midpoint of the Tribulation, or more likely very early in the second half of The Tribulation.
 - b. In turn, that means all seven of the final Bowl Judgments occur within the last three and a half years of The Tribulation. That is the portion of time which is also called The Great Tribulation.

- B. This is a significant detail because it corrects conventional thinking. Conventional interpretation has placed the judgements of all seven Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls within the seven years of The Tribulation.
1. As I have shared before, I find no good Biblical argument(s) to suggest that the Seal Judgements are INSIDE of the seven years of The Tribulation.
 - a. That is the conventional view, however I feel “convention” in this case falls short of that higher standard which is *“rightly dividing the Word of Truth” (2 Timothy 2:15)*
 2. As we’ve learned, the best set of arguments from Scripture place at least the first FIVE Seal events as being BEFORE the start of the Tribulation and with the 6th or the 7th of them likely marking the start of those seven years.
 3. It is here that we see Trumpet Judgement #7 (AKA “the third woe”) as probably taking place shortly after the halfway point of The Tribulation. The Bible tells us as much.
 4. Now, if the 6th Seal Judgment marks the start of the Tribulation, and the period of silence in heaven for *“about half an hour”* (which defines the 7th Seal Judgment) marks the “entry into” the first half of The Tribulation, then perhaps the 7th Trumpet Judgment marks the “entry into” the second half of The Tribulation.
 5. In any case, we are now left to fit the remaining Bowl Judgments within the final 3 ½ years. (NOTE: I say it this way because most scholars have compressed all the Bowl Judgements into the final weeks or months of the seven-year Tribulation.)
 6. Their view is this: the nature of the Bowl Judgments do not permit life to exist. For example, in the 3rd Bowl Judgment it seems all available fresh water is turned to blood).
 7. The conclusion is these Bowl Judgments must be clustered together at the very end, with the Trumpet Judgements going all the way up to a point just before that.
 8. However, here we see the Trumpet Judgements end around the halfway point of The Tribulation.
 9. Perhaps the better way to look at the collection of Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl Judgments would be the following:
 - a. The bulk of the Seal Judgments occur BEFORE the start of The Tribulation and AFTER the Rapture. Again, I feel Seal #6 or #7 likely marks the start of The Tribulation.
 - b. Clearly, Trumpet Judgements #1 through #6 occur in the first half of The Tribulation. The Bible seems to make this pretty clear.
 - c. Trumpet Judgment #7 is probably at the halfway point, or more likely yet, a matter of days after that juncture.
 - d. Again, with the details of the ministry of The Two Witnesses in view, and with the statement of **Revelation 11:14**, this seems to be clear.
 - e. The Bowl Judgments then come in the second half of The Tribulation. This is that part known as The Great Tribulation.
 - f. IMPORTANT: There are no good arguments to suggest that all 21 of these ‘judgment events’ happen in a nice, neat, orderly fashion with

uniform times between each event. I know this has been presented by many commentators as being the general layout.

- g. In fact, the Bible suggests otherwise. The Bible suggests that they take place in bursts at times, and at other times there are pauses (EX: events of asteroid impact, five months for the 5th Trumpet Judgement, etc.)
 - h. I agree that the ramifications of some of the Bowl Judgments would argue that these must have to happen at the very end of The Great Tribulation – because life cannot be sustained with their impact.
 - i. So, I think the best way of looking at all this is to forget any nice, neat, orderly sequence. Both Scripture and logic seem to suggest otherwise.
 - j. Loosely speaking, I also think the best way of looking at all this is to see the Seal Judgements as taking place in that gap of time between the Rapture and the start of The Tribulation. The Trumpet Judgments as being in the first 3 ½ years of The Tribulation, and the Bowl Judgments as being in the second 3 ½ years of The Tribulation.
- C. (Personal confession here) I am very tempted to say, “The Seal Judgements as taking place in roughly those 3 ½ years between the Rapture and the start of The Tribulation.” Here is why I personally lean in this direction:
1. That would give each of the three sets of judgments – Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl - 3 ½ years, with the Seal Judgements maybe being closer to 4 years.
 2. That totals the number 11, which many scholars feel is the Biblical number representing ‘disorder, chaos, and judgment.’
 3. As we’ve seen so far, there tends to be a sovereign structure that surrounds these judgments, a sort of subtle supernatural message to mankind that God is behind all of this.
 4. There is also a third of something being destroyed, which happens multiple times; and 3 ½ days of *The Two Witnesses* lying dead, 3 ½ years for the first part of the Tribulation, 3 ½ years for the second part of the Tribulation, 3 ½ years of the sky being shut up so it would not rain, and so on and so on.....
 5. **Also**, as I’ve shared before, we need to stop and consider all the things that need to take place between The Rapture and the start of The Tribulation:
 - a. There is a worldwide governing system that must be embraced which also sets the stage for the political rise of the antichrist. Those processes do not happen overnight.
 - b. There is a sense or a period of peace which is then followed by the onsets of wars and a pattern of violence all over the globe. Again, this implies a period of time.
 - c. Also there is the introduction and impact of global economic ruin and famine. While I recognize that these things can take place quickly, I am still suggesting some time is involved.
 - d. Perhaps most significantly, there is the rise and impact of a “false one world religious system” which persuades many to become radicalized by it.

- e. A global campaign of genocide is then implemented and put into motion which takes the lives of many people, particularly those who believe in Jesus Christ for their salvation.
- f. It is those martyrs which cry out to Jesus asking Him, *“How long is it going to be before you start your judgements that you promised?”* (I’m paraphrasing, but that’s the essence of their question in **Revelation 6:10.**) It’s reasonable to see they are wondering when the final seven years of Tribulation will start.

D. Another KEY element that we probably need to place in those years between The Rapture and the start of The Tribulation, and again, the value of 3 ½ emerges for our consideration. Let me explain:

1. The War of Gog and Magog (**Cf. Ezekiel 38 and 39**)

- a. This is when Russia and her allies (incl. Iran, Turkey, Libya, and others) descend on Israel to *“gain plunder and booty (Cf. Ezekiel 38:13).*
- b. If I had to guess, this is Israel’s vast new resources of oil and natural gas.
- c. This is a future war which I believe follows the **Psalms 83** Conflict, the destruction of Elam in **Jeremiah 49**, the destruction of Damascus in **Isaiah 17**, etc.
- d. Something will happen where Russia and her friends will sense an opportunity they feel they did not have before.
- e. I personally think it’s the global chaos that follows The Rapture. It’s the sudden and profound weakening of America and HER allies as a result of The Rapture that gives Russia this window of opportunity.
- f. That’s why America (likely one of the *“young lions or villages of Tarshish”* in **Ezekiel 38:13**) is reduced to doing nothing more than protesting this invasion of Israel by Russia.
- g. God will supernaturally defeat Russia and the invading forces, it will NOT be the Israeli Defense Forces as it was with **Psalms 83** and the various Mideast conflicts just prior.
- h. This conforms to the new paranormal routine which I have said will be “the new norm” following God’s removal of the church from this planet.
- i. But here’s where the value of 3 ½ MAY once more come into play:
 - In **Ezekiel 39:9-10**, we are told that following the supernatural defeat of Russia and her allies, that those who live in the towns and villages of Israel will go out and gather the weapons of the invaders and burn them for fuel. (This is perhaps a reference to the gas and diesel these weapons depended on, etc.)
 - We are told in the same verses that Israel will *“plunder those who plundered them and will loot those who looted them.”*
 - AND....we are told Israel will do this for SEVEN YEARS.

- We know that at the halfway point of the Tribulation, 3 ½ years into it, all Jews will be running for their very lives as the antichrist seeks to exterminate them.
- Jesus warned about this in **Matthew 24:15-20**. The situation for the Jews in Israel at that time will be an extreme crisis. Jesus tells them to flee.
- They will not be going out to plunder the former invaders at that point and gathering their weapons for fuel.
- So, if you are following me, that means that the halfway point of The Tribulation (right around this transition between the 6th and 7th Trumpet Judgments, or 3 ½ years into the Tribulation) is the very LAST point that any of those Russian weapons could possibly be gathered and burned for fuel.
- That means the War of Gog and Magog would have to commence no later than SEVEN YEARS before the halfway point of The Tribulation. It means the War of Gog and Magog is unlikely to take place any LATER than 3 ½ years BEFORE the start of The Tribulation.
- If the War of Gog and Magog, and its extraordinary supernatural dynamic, is a Post-Rapture event, (which it seems to be, and which is perhaps why America is so suddenly and precipitously weakened and impotent).
- If the War of Gog and Magog is one of those global conflicts alluded to in the Second Seal Judgment which *“takes peace from the earth....”* just when a new globalist political system is rising.
- Then that ALSO means the Rapture will have taken place at some point just BEFORE all of this, which is why I had suggested that maybe the Seal Judgments all take place within a span of about four years between the Rapture and the start of The Tribulation.

NOTE: I’m not going to be dogmatic about any of this. I’m just saying that my best understanding about all these things put my personal convictions here. I think it’s the most defensible view with what I know and think I understand at this point in time.

- III. A few weeks ago, we briefly reviewed Dr. Thomas Horn’s conclusions that the asteroid, Apophis, is documented by NASA to strike the earth on Friday, April 13, 2029.
 - A. I mentioned that NASA is doing all it can to backpedal from their original assessments, because they don’t want mass global panic. They are afraid of what they’ve learned.
 - B. However, other experts also conclude that this asteroid collision with earth is highly likely on this date.
 - C. **IF** Apophis DOES strike the earth on or about this date, it would perfectly conform to all the dynamics of the first four Trumpet Judgments.
 - D. It would also mark the start of The Tribulation as being somewhere around the first part of 2029.

- E. If THAT is true, then we need to go 3 ½ years earlier for the approximate time of the War of Gog and Magog, that would be sometime around the last part of 2025.
- F. If we reverse engineer from there, and if we take into account everything I've just shared up to this point, you can see we are "running out of time" here.
- G. I'm not a date-setter, which I refuse to be. But, God does call us to be "watchful" and to "know the seasons."
- H. His instructions are: We are not to be caught by surprise. I think the things I am telling you conform to the intent of those instructions.
- I. All said another way, I think we can expect the next two years to be exciting times and chock full of prophetic fulfillment.
- J. **(Cf. vs. 15)** (A couple points to be made here...)
 - 1. Most translations use the singular "*kingdom*" here rather than the plural "*kingdoms*."
 - a. It's an important detail, because the text is saying that all of the world's diverse national, political, social, cultural, economic, and religious groups and institutions are in reality one kingdom under one king.
 - b. It also means that the deal is as good as done. God is going to have HIS kingdom (singular). With the Bowl Judgments that are about to commence, it's an issue of certainty. There is NO question.
 - c. Just as important, this moment underscores the answer to the pivotal prayer of the ages, *'Thy kingdom come'* **(Cf. Matthew 6:10+)**
 - d. Most people pray that prayer or teach about it without regards for its "prophetic significance."
 - When we pray "*Thy Kingdom come,*" we are praying for the institution of God's Millennial Reign "*on earth, as it (already) is in heaven.*"
 - It's the same thing when we are instructed to pray for "*the peace of Jerusalem*" in ***Psalms 122:6***.
 - We are not praying for a two-state solution. In fact, that goes against what God wants. We are not praying for the demonstrations in Israel against Judicial overhaul to quiet down. We are not praying for terrorists to stop blowing themselves up, for Muslims to stop rioting on the temple mount, or for any of those sorts of things.
 - Both passages are saying the same thing. They mean we are praying for the commencement of the Millennial Kingdom, when Jesus Himself will reign from Jerusalem over the whole earth.
 - That when Christ's Kingdom will come on earth. It is the ONLY time we will see peace in Jerusalem and the Bible is very clear about this.
 - 2. Here's another point that needs to be made, and I touched on it a moment ago:
 - a. Look at the "*have become*" or "*has become*" phrase in **vs. 15**.

- b. The event of Jesus Christ gaining His kingdom is so certain within the sounding of the 7th Trumpet Judgment that it is treated here in the text as though it is already past.
- c. However, we know that Christ's Kingdom will not have arrived in totality until all seven bowl judgments are delivered, and those are coming.