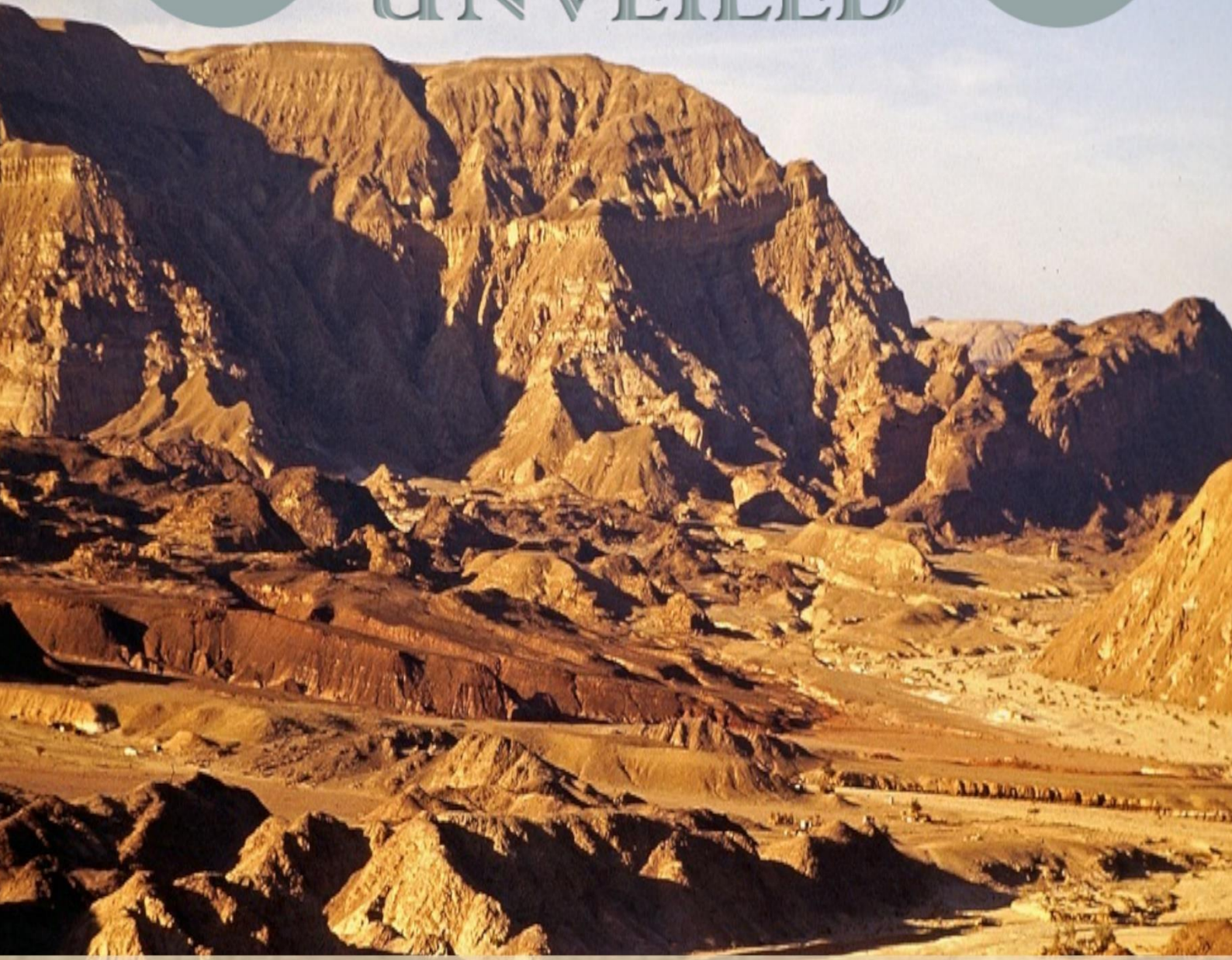




THE TRUTH UNVEILED



WILDERNESS
THE PLACE OF SAFETY
DURING THE GREAT
TRIBULATION

WILDERNESS: THE PLACE OF SAFETY DURING THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Millions of Christians all over the globe are caught up in the false doctrine of pre-tribulation rapture—the doctrine of Jesus coming to secretly rapture the Church away to Heaven to escape the great tribulation. One of the strong selling points of this false doctrine is the fact that it offers “protection for believers”; and the majority of Christians believe in protection that will never come. God has promised protection for believers but it is not the rapture. God has an unwavering commitment to protecting His true children and this commitment never stops—it never changes. God has provided a place of safety during the great tribulation—the WILDERNESS. Because of the rampant doctrine of the false pre-tribulation (or mid-tribulation) rapture, this topic is strange to many Christian leaders and their congregations. The instruction from Jesus Christ is to **flee to the wilderness** for safety when the great tribulation begins.

MATTHEW 24:15-19

15 When ye therefore shall see **the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place**, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 **Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:** 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

The questions on the minds of many: Where is the wilderness? How do I get to the wilderness? When do I flee to the wilderness? How is God going to take care of me in the wilderness?

The focus of this booklet is on answering these questions and much more. This topic is not popular among the preachers of the false pre-tribulation (or the mid-tribulation) rapture doctrine. In this exhaustive booklet, we will build precepts from different parts of the Bible, and at the end of this article, it will be difficult for you not to understand this important subject and how to apply it to your life when the time comes.

We have already written extensively on the fact that there is no pre-tribulation rapture, and Christ's second coming will be after the great tribulation. The false pre-tribulation rapture doctrine was given birth as a result of “other parts of the Scriptures neglected”; after assembling all the key Scriptures, we see that all the so-called rapture verses are talking about the second coming of Christ. The table below (**Table 1**) summarises all the key passages talking about the second coming of Christ.

Further, **Matthew 24:27-29** and **Revelation 6:12-17** overlap on several points; the celestial events described in **Matthew 24:27-29** are the same as the celestial events described in **Revelation 6:12-17**; thus, strengthening the fact that the second coming of Jesus is not in phases and will occur after the great tribulation (**Matthew 24:30-31**). THE LORD IS COMING BACK AFTER THE GREAT TRIBULATION.

The Lord will not come until after the seventh trumpet has been sounded (**Revelation 8:1-6**). The seventh trumpet will come after the great tribulation.

Furthermore, **1 Corinthians 15:21-23,49-52** state that Christ is the firstfruits (first to rise from the dead with a glorified body) and others will be raised at His second coming—not during a secret pre-tribulation rapture. **Verse 23:**

“But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming”

The 15th chapter of **1 Corinthians** deals largely with the second coming of Christ and resurrection of the righteous dead; notice verses 49-52: this talks about the righteous dead resurrected with glorified bodies at the second coming of Christ. The resurrection of the dead will happen at Christ’s second coming, and Christ’s second coming will occur after the great tribulation—after the seventh trumpet is sounded. Read also **1 Thessalonians 4:13-17**; this passage talks about the event in **1 Corinthians 15:47-52**—the resurrection of the righteous dead and translation of righteous believers that are still alive; all these will happen at Christ’s second coming—after the great tribulation.

Although the instruction is to flee to the wilderness for safety, not all will make it to the wilderness—the place of safety—some will pass through the great tribulation (**Revelation 7:1-4; 9-14**).

	1 Thessalonians 4	Matthew 24	1 Corinthians 15	Revelation 11-20
WHEN?	Not stated	After the tribulation	Last trumpet	Seventh trumpet
WHERE IS CHRIST?	In the clouds	In the clouds	Not stated	Seen coming down to earth
WHO IS GATHERED?	The dead, then the living saints	The elect	The dead, then the saints	The dead are judged, the saints are rewarded
WHO IS RAISED FIRST?	The dead	Not stated	The dead	Not stated
WHAT IS HEARD?	The voice of an angel and a trumpet	A trumpet	Last trumpet	Seventh trumpet

Table 1: A table putting together key passages that talk about the second coming of Christ. These events all talk about the same thing—the second coming Christ. There is no such thing as Christ coming in phases; Christ’s second coming will occur after the great tribulation—after the seventh trumpet has been sounded. Source of Table: BT TV

From the table above (**Table 1**), there is no such thing as the rapture of the saints before the great tribulation; the saints will be around during the great tribulation. If the saints will be around during the period of the great tribulation, how are the saints going to be protected? This is the crux of this article: **The Wilderness**—The place where the Church (Israel and all who have accepted and served the God of Israel faithfully) will be protected.

In addition, several events are leading to the coming of the Lord and the event we are looking at is one of the events leading to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, to gain a better understanding, it would be proper to construct a visual timeline of events leading to the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to establish His Kingdom on this Earth. The Church will be in the wilderness during the great tribulation and will be there until the Lord returns.

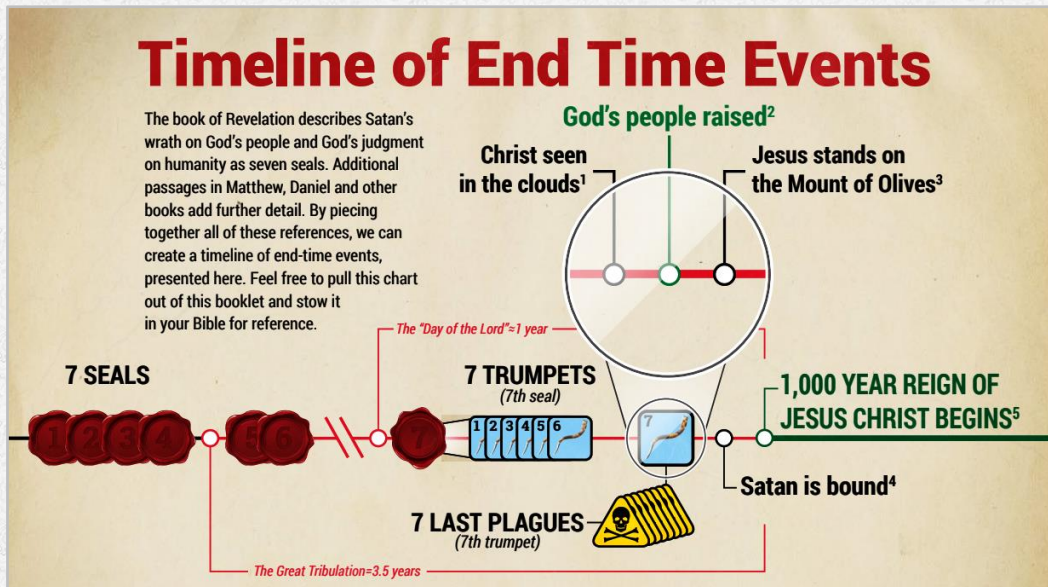


Figure 1: Timeline of events leading to the second coming of Christ. Notice the period of the great tribulation—the saints will be protected in the wilderness during this period. **Source of the chart:** Beyondtoday.tv

GENERAL OUTLINE OF EVENTS LEADING TO THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

Just as so many today are curious when it comes to understanding correctly the events that will happen before the second coming of Jesus Christ, the disciples of Jesus were in those days. While Jesus sat on Mount Olives (Mount Olivet—Hebrew), the disciples approached and asked Him to tell them the signs of His coming and end of the world. Jesus gave them a general outline in **Matthew 24**; finer details of the outline in **Matthew 24** are given in other Scriptures.

MATTHEW 24:1-3

“1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. 3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?”

One of the key things that should be noted in the question that the disciples asked Jesus is, **what shall be the sign of thy coming?** Signs are there to point to something—the final event. Jesus will not come until all signs leading to His second coming are fulfilled. So many preachers preach that Jesus can come randomly at any time. This statement is wrong. Although the exact time and day of the second of Christ are not known, His second coming will happen at a specified period: **and after the tribulation of those days...** Jesus will come back after the great tribulation. What day and time after the great tribulation? –this is not known. This is not to say that people should live carelessly; although the second coming of Christ will happen in the specified time window (**Matthew 24:29-31**), people can die at any time; **And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (Hebrew 9:27).**

We are currently living in the very last days, how do we know this? Watch this:

MATTHEW 24:32-33

“32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.”

Now, the signs spoken of by Jesus in **Mathew 24** are all around us—the last days are here, and our redemption draws near. What are these signs? Let us see a few of them:

MATTHEW 24:4-8

“4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.”

Let us break them into bullets:

- For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.
- Wars and rumours of wars.
- Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
- Famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places.

The above, does it sound familiar? It should! All these signs are around us. Let us read further to understand what Jesus said specifically concerning the time of the great tribulation and when it will come:

MATTHEW 24:11-16

“11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. 15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:”

Verses 15 & 16 outlined key events and actions, what are these?

- When ye, therefore, shall see **the abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place.
- Then let them which be in Judaea **flee into the mountains** (or flee to the wilderness).

In the general outline of events, Jesus outlined when the great tribulation will commence and what the church should do:

- When the abomination of desolation stands in the holy place: this commences the great tribulation.
- Then let them which be in Judaea (or elsewhere) flee into the mountains: Flee to the wilderness for safety.

So, we can see Jesus states the general outline of events and even refer people to the book of Daniel but sadly, so many Christians have ignored this instruction and are instead preaching false protection of rapture—protection that will never come.

Furthermore, there are burning questions surrounding this subject: What is the abomination of desolation and how can one know when it starts? Where is the wilderness? This booklet is geared towards answering all these questions and much more; continue reading and these will be answered.

Similarly, the outline given in **Matthew 24** is also given in **Luke 21**; let us see:

LUKE 21:5-11

“5 And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said, 6 As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. 7 And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass? 8 And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. 9 But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. 10 Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: 11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.”

The above passage is the account narrated by Luke—it talks about the second coming of Christ and the signs leading to it. As mentioned earlier, all these signs must be fulfilled before the Lord can come the second time. Let us read further:

LUKE 21:20-36

“20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. 22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. 24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. 25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. 27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. 29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; 30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. 31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. 32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. 33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. 34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be

accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

In the above passage, Jesus further outlined the events leading to His second coming. Everything will be fulfilled according to what is written in the Scriptures and not according to man’s understanding. If the instruction was to “flee to the mountains (the wilderness)”, it will come to pass as stated. One of the key things that should be noted is that the past is, in most cases, a preview for the future. When Jerusalem and the temple were going to be destroyed in 70AD, Jesus mentioned it to the disciples and instructed them what to do:

And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains

When they see a sign (Jerusalem encompassed with armies) they need to act: flee to the mountains. The event mentioned in **Luke 21:20** has come and gone; in 70AD, the Roman army, led by the future Emperor Titus, with Tiberius Julius Alexander, encompassed Jerusalem and the temple was destroyed. It happened exactly as prophesied.

Currently, Jerusalem is trodden by the gentiles and it will continue to be trodden until the time of the gentiles is fulfilled. The true Israelites have been led away captive and are scattered among the nations since 70AD, and they will be gathered at the second coming of Christ.

Likewise, when you see the abomination that causes desolation standing in the holy place, **flee into the mountains (the wilderness)**. The past is a preview for the future: when they see Jerusalem encompassed with armies, they should flee to the mountains (the wilderness). The future is no different: when you see the abomination that causes desolation standing in the holy place, flee into the mountains (the wilderness).

When you see all these things coming to pass, know that your salvation draws near. We are the generation witnessing these events, and this generation will not pass until all be fulfilled. The second coming of Christ will only happen when all events that are a precursor to His coming have been fulfilled. We are enjoined to watch and pray so that the day does not come upon us unaware.

THE EVOLUTION OF GENTILE KINGDOMS

One of the things that should be realised is that the topic we are looking at is part of a bigger picture—series of events that will happen before the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Daniel chapter 2, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream in which God showed him world-ruling kingdoms: a kingdom that currently was, and kingdoms to come. Nebuchadnezzar saw a giant statue composed of several sections, and each of these sections represents a world dynasty—a world-ruling kingdom. One of the kingdoms (empires) will be the last empire that will rule before Jesus come and set up the Kingdom of God—the kingdom which will last forever.

Prophet Daniel in Daniel chapter 7 saw these kingdoms, each represented by a beast (animal).

DANIEL 7:1-3

“1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. 2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.”

The kingdoms that King Nebuchadnezzar saw, Daniel saw the same kingdoms (**Daniel 7:1-3**) but each represented by a beast; and they are different from each other.

DANIEL 7:7-8

“7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.”

In verses 7-8, Daniel records the description of these kingdoms, each likened to a ferocious animal. The fourth beast (verse 7) was dreadful; this is the Roman empire. This is the empire that will be around (the resurrected Roman empire) at the time of the second coming of Christ. Verse 8 mentions that a little horn emerged, and behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things. This is characteristic of one of the key rulers of the Roman Empire—the empire that will be around during the coming of Jesus Christ.

DANIEL 7:13-23

“13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. 15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. 16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. 17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. 19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; 20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. 21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. 23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.”

The above passage gives a further description of the dream that Daniel had; the dream had to do with kings that will rule the earth—each of these kings came at a different time. There will be series of empires, one after another; all these kingdoms will be

climaxed by the kingdom of God (**Daniel 7:14, 22**). The key events that will precede the second coming of Christ will be within the period of the fourth kingdom (empire). Notice verses 21-22: **I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High;**

The Roman Empire (the religious horn) has made war with the saints in the past and will do so again in the future during the time of the great tribulation.

Figure 1 illustrates the succession of kingdoms and the final kingdom that will be set up at the second coming of Christ; this final kingdom will not be destroyed and will last forever.

Contrary to the false belief that the saints will be raptured away to escape the great tribulation, the saints will be around during the great tribulation and will be protected in the WILDERNESS.



	EMPIRE	DANIEL CHAPTER 2	DANIEL CHAPTER 7	DANIEL CHAPTER 8
	Babylon 606 B.C	Head of Gold	Winged Lion	
	Medo-Persia 538 B.C	Breast & Two Arms of Silver	Bear	Ram
	Greece 333 B.C	Belly & Thighs of Brass	Leopard	He Goat
	Rome	Two Legs of Iron	Monster (Beast)	
	Kingdom of Restored Rome	Feet of Clay And Iron	10 Horns Little Horn	
	THE CRUSHING ROCK THE KINGDOM OF GOD			
				

Figure 1: The statue in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar (**Daniel 2**); Notice the succession of Kingdoms and the final Kingdom to be set up—the kingdom of God—and it will last forever.

THE MAN OF SIN

DANIEL 8:8-12

“8 Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. 9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. 10 And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. 11 Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down.”

12 And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.”

Further, the above passage gives further descriptions of the kingdoms. Notice verse 9: a little horn came forth; this horn made war with the saints. Verses 11-12 describe “the fierce king”; this king will be part of the Roman empire. The king being talked about is the Antichrist; let us break verses 11-12 into bullets:

- He magnified himself even to the prince of the host (verse 11).
- And by him, the daily sacrifice was taken away (verse 11).
- And the place of the sanctuary was cast down (verse 11).
- And a host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression (verse 12).
- And it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered (verse 12).

All the above are qualities of the fierce king that will emerge out of the Roman empire. This fierce king is the Antichrist (the **Son of Perdition**, the **Man of Sin**, the **Self-willed king**). Let us see chapter 8 to further understand more about this king.

DANIEL 8:23-25

“23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. 24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. 25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.”

The above passage adds further light to the qualities of the **fierce king**; verse 23 states: **a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up**. This is talking about the **Antichrist**, a king of fierce countenance and understanding of dark sentences. This king shall be mighty but not by his power—his power comes from the dragon—the devil. The Antichrist shall exalt himself in his heart; he shall come with false peace and will destroy many (verse 25); he shall destroy the wonderful and mighty people—the saints (verse 24); he shall stand up against the Prince of princes (Jesus Christ) but will be destroyed by Jesus at His second coming.

Remember, the king of fierce countenance will be part of the last ruling empire before Christ come and set up His kingdom. What Daniel saw in Daniel chapter 8, John saw the same in **Revelation 13**.

REVELATION 13:1-7

“1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his

mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. 7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.”

As we have already seen, there will be a succession of kingdoms, and the king of fierce countenance will be part of the last ruling empire before Jesus setting up His kingdom on this earth. The above passage adds more description to the last empire that will rule before the coming of Jesus Christ. Apostle John saw the same thing that Daniel saw: compare **Daniel 8:24-25** and **Revelation 13:5-7**; both of these passages talk about the Antichrist (the son of perdition, the king of fierce countenance, the self-willed king, the man of sin). Notice verse 7: **and power was given him**; the power of the Antichrist will be given to him by the dragon—the devil.

In the succession of gentile kingdoms, the Antichrist will be part of one of the empires—the Roman empire—the last empire that will rule before the second coming of Christ. People will have to deal with the Antichrist and there will be no rapture to escape the Antichrist. When the Antichrist is revealed, the great tribulation will begin. When the man of Sin is revealed (the abomination that causes desolation), the great tribulation will begin and at that time the saints will need to flee to the WILDERNESS.

Don't lose track of what we are trying to do; the wilderness—where the saints will be protected, is part of a bigger picture and we are building that picture; please refer to the timeline of events. When do I flee to the wilderness? The time to flee to the wilderness is when you see the abomination that causes desolation standing in the holy place (**Matthew 24:15-16**; **Daniel 11:31**). Then, what is the Abomination of Desolation? Continue reading.

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION AND THE THIRD TEMPLE

You will remember the first temple was built by King Solomon but was destroyed by king Nebuchadnezzar; the temple was rebuilt by Nehemiah and others and was then destroyed by the Roman army, led by the then-future Emperor Titus, with Tiberius Julius Alexander in 70AD. Since then, the temple has not been rebuilt. It should be realised that Jerusalem will be trodden by the gentiles and will continue to be trodden until the time of the gentiles is fulfilled.

LUKE 21:24 “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”

The true Israelites have been led away captives into all nations and will be gathered at the second coming of Christ. The majority of people living in the land of Israel today did not descend from Jacob and thus are not the true children of Jacob. People are posing as Jews but are not (**Revelation 2:9**).

The majority of the people living in the land of Israel supposedly claiming to be Jews don't believe in Jesus and are still waiting for the Messiah.

Currently, the plan to rebuild the temple destroyed in 70AD is underway—this will be the third temple. The temple will be rebuilt by Edom—the people falsely claiming to be Jews, and they will restart the daily sacrifices in the temple. When the temple is rebuilt and the daily sacrifices restarted, a time will come when the man of sin (the Antichrist)

will move into the temple and occupy it. He will declare himself to be God. The Antichrist will come from the highest office of the Church of the Roman empire. When the highest religious leader of the Roman empire occupies the temple declaring himself to be God, then, the man of sin is revealed; in other words, the abomination that causes desolation has taken place. How do we know the above? Let us see the Bible:

DANIEL 11:31

“31 And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.”

The above passage is talking about when the fierce king shall occupy the temple (the sanctuary) in Jerusalem and cause desolation by the abomination. Jesus Christ instructed His followers to flee when they see this happening:

MATTHEW 24:15-16

“15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:”

The Antichrist will, very soon, move to Jerusalem and occupy the temple that will be rebuilt. When the religious leader of the Roman Church moves to Jerusalem and occupies the temple (**the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place**), at that time, you are to flee to the wilderness.

The king of fierce countenance that will occupy the temple will speak blasphemous things, how do we know?

DANIEL 11:36-38

“36 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. 37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. 38 But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.”

The Antichrist shall do according to his will and shall regard no one; he shall exalt himself above God of gods. This king shall reign in terror and shall make war with the saints (**Revelation 13:7**). The Antichrist shall reign for a stipulated time after which Jesus will come and put an end to this king, and establish His kingdom—the Kingdom of God.

DANIEL 11:45 “And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”

The Antichrist shall establish himself in the glorious holy mountain (Jerusalem), **yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him**. Jesus will eliminate this king at His second coming. The period for which the Antichrist will unleash terror on this Earth is known as the **great tribulation** (the period when the saints are required to flee to the wilderness to be protected there). Then, what is the Great Tribulation?

Apostle Paul also talks about the **abomination that makes desolate**; let us see:

2 THESSALONIANS 2: 1-4

“2 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”

According to Apostle Paul, the second coming of Christ will not occur until the Man of Sin (Son of Perdition) is revealed. The Antichrist will exalt himself above all that is called God. He will sit in the temple of God and declare himself to be God.

Verses 7-8:

“7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:”

This wicked king shall be consumed at the coming of the Lord. Apostle Paul is on the same page as Daniel, Jesus, and other parts of the Bible. The abomination that maketh desolate is the same as what Apostle Paul stated in verse 4 **so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.** When this happens, believers are to flee to the wilderness. The abomination of desolation = the Man of Sin/vicar of Christ/false prophet /Pope of Rome.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION—TIME OF JACOB’S TROUBLE— THE HOUR OF TEMPTATION

The period known as the great tribulation is the period when the Antichrist (the Man of Sin/vicar of Christ/false prophet/Pope of Rome) will rule the earth fiercely. This period is also known as the **time of Jacob’s trouble**. Let us see:

JEREMIAH 30:1-7

“1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, 2 Thus speaketh the Lord God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book. 3 For, lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. 4 And these are the words that the Lord spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. 5 For thus saith the Lord; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. 6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? 7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.”

From the above passage, God says a time will come when He will bring back His people (both Israel and Judah) from captivity to the land that He gave to their fathers. The above passage further strengthens the fact that the true Israelites are still scattered among the nations and will be gathered at Christ’s return after the great tribulation (the time of Jacob’s trouble).

Verse 7: the **time of Jacob's trouble** is the same thing as **the great tribulation**. Time of Jacob's trouble because it is during this period that beast and the false prophet will make war with the saints (children of Jacob). Jacob will be saved in the wilderness.

Verse 7 says: **Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it**. It is a terrible time but God will save Israel out of it; **it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it**.

How will God save Jacob out of it? It is through the wilderness; flee to the wilderness for safety.

Prophet Daniel stated the same thing in **Daniel 12:1-2**:

DANIEL 12:1-2

“1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

In the above passage, prophet Daniel is saying the same thing that Jeremiah prophesied; **and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time (verse 1)**. There shall be a time of great trouble that cannot be likened to any but **thy people** (Jacob, the saints) shall be delivered.

Verse 2 states the first resurrection: **And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt**.

The resurrection of the righteous dead will happen after the great tribulation and not before. There is no such thing as rapture before the great tribulation.

How long will these things (the troubles) last? Let us see:

DANIEL 12:5-7

“5 Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. 6 And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? 7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that **it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.**”

According to the above passage, it is for 3 ½ years. He (the Antichrist) shall scatter the power of the holy people (sons of Jacob).

DANIEL 12:8-13

“8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? 9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. 11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the

abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. 12 Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. 13 But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.”

Many shall be purified and made white; many shall be made saints. The wicked shall do wickedly and shall not understand all the words of the Most High God concerning the end times. Verse 11 mentions the abomination that causes desolation:

And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days

The religious leader of the Roman Church will move into the temple at Jerusalem (the temple that will be rebuilt by Edom) and declare himself to be God; he shall cause the daily sacrifices to be taken away.

MATTHEW 24:21

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

In the above passage, Jesus is reiterating what the prophets have already written—he was not stating something new.

When the abomination that makes desolate is set up, flee to the wilderness:

Revelation 8:1-18 gives further description of the great tribulation and things that will characterise this dreadful period; the period of the great tribulation is also mentioned in this passage; the two witnesses of God—who will operate during the great tribulation are also accounted here. Verses 15-18 talk about the seventh angel sounding the seventh trumpet (the great trumpet), and the second coming of Christ to set up His kingdom on this earth. Again, the second coming of Christ will not be in phases and will take place after the great tribulation—after the seventh angel has sounded the seventh trumpet (the great trumpet).

The period of the great tribulation is also referred to as the **HOUR OF TEMPTATION**

REVELATION 3:10-11

“10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from **the hour of temptation**, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. 11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown”

Why is it called **the hour of temptation**? Because it is a great temptation—temptation to leave the Most High God altogether and worship the devil.

How long is the great tribulation?

HOW LONG IS THE GREAT TRIBULATION? 3 ½ YEARS AND NOT 7 YEARS

The great tribulation is also known as the time of Jacob's trouble (**Jeremiah 30:7** "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it."); Jesus also mentioned it in **Matthew 24:21**. This was also revealed to John and recorded in **Revelation 7:14**. Prophet Daniel also prophesied the same thing:

DANIEL 12:1

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

The question that people ask is, how long is the great tribulation? Let us see:

REVELATION 12:2 "But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months."

REVELATION 13:5 "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months."

REVELATION 11:3 "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth."

DANIEL 12:7 "And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."

REVELATION 12:14 "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent."

All the above passages talk about the same thing but are expressed differently. Let us summarise them:

1. **REVELATION 12:2**: forty and two months: **3 ½ Years**
2. **REVELATION 13:5**: forty and two months: **3 ½ Years**
3. **REVELATION 11:3**: a thousand two hundred and threescore days—1260 days: **3 ½ Years**
4. **DANIEL 12:7**: a time, times, and half a time: **3 ½ Years**
5. **REVELATION 12:14**: a time, and times, and half a time: **3 ½ Years**

From the above passages, we can see that the period for the great tribulation is 3 ½ years expressed differently in different parts of the Bible. So, where did people get the idea of seven-year great tribulation from? The false idea of seven-year great tribulation comes from **Daniel 9:27**. People have massively misinterpreted this verse thinking that it is referring to the Antichrist—it is not. What does the verse say?

DANIEL 9:26-27

"26 And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one

who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

The above passage, contrary to the popular belief that it is referring to the antichrist, is referring to the Messiah (Jesus Christ)—Vs 26. Jesus will confirm a covenant with many and bring an end to animal sacrifice in the middle of the week. The one week referred to in the above passage has dual prophecy meaning: One week means seven-week years but it also means a literal week:

1. Christ's ministry was intended to last for seven years but in the middle of His ministry (3 and half years), He shall be offered as a sacrifice for the sins of many.
2. Also, in the **middle of the week** is taking about when Jesus will die; He will die in the middle of a literal week.

So, according to Prophet Daniel Christ will die in the middle of the week; what Daniel wrote agrees with other parts of the Bible. Verse 26 clearly states **“Messiah”** and the Messiah referred to in Vs 26 is Jesus Christ and not the Antichrist. We can see that the Bible overwhelmingly states the period of the tribulation will be 3 ½ years. The idea of a seven-year tribulation just shows another wrong understanding of the Bible.

THE CHURCH (ISRAEL AND ALL WHO HAVE ACCEPTED THE GOD OF ISRAEL FAITHFULLY) WILL BE PROTECTED IN THE WILDERNESS

If you are a good student of the Bible, you will remember one of the great rules of Bible study: **Isaiah 28:10 “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:”** If you are dealing with a subject, you would assemble all related precepts to build what the bigger picture is. In this respect, the question that should be asked is, who is the church? The answer is not far-fetched; the CHURCH is Israel (and of course it extends to all who have accepted and served/serving the God of Israel faithfully). Contrary to the belief that the church started in the Acts of the Apostles period and it is separate and different from Israel, this belief is false. The Church is ISRAEL and it started in the wilderness; how do we know this? Let us see:

ACTS 7:38 “This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:”

The word church was derived from the Greek word **ekklesia** and it means “the called-out ones”; Israel is the called-out ones (and of course all who have identified with the God of Israel). The disciples in the Acts of the Apostles did not start the church but are rather the descendants of the church that was in the wilderness. Therefore, the church is Israel and it started in the wilderness; don’t be deceived to think that the gentiles have now replaced Israel—this is not true.

With the above said, let us see **Revelation 12:1-6:**

REVELATION 12:1-6

“12 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 3 And there appeared

another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 5 **And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.** 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.”

From the above passage, you will notice that Israel is referred to symbolically as **the woman**, how do we know this? Verse 1 says: a woman clothed with sun and moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. The woman being referred to here is Israel; the crown with twelve stars are the 12 tribes of Israel. How do we know that the crown with 12 stars is the twelve tribes of Israel? Let us see:

GENESIS 37:9-10

“9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.”

From the above passage, we can see the twelve tribes of Israel in the dream that God showed Joseph; they are referred to as **stars**. The dream that Joseph had was ordained by God and it was not random.

Revelation 12:5 says **the woman** brought forth a child who will rule all nations with a rod of iron (**Revelation 2:27**); this is referring to Jesus Christ coming through the woman—through Israel. The woman delivered a child who was to rule all nations: Israel delivered Jesus Christ who was to rule all nations.

Notice verse 3 (**Revelation 12:3**): a great dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. The dragon here is referring to the devil represented by the Roman empire. The Devil (the dragon) wanted to devour the child as soon as the child was born i.e., the devil wanted to kill Jesus Christ as soon as He was born (verse 4); this is when king Herod (a Roman and part of the then ruling Roman empire) wanted to kill Jesus when He was born. See below:

MATTHEW 2: 13

“And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.”

The Bible has repeatedly referred to the Devil as the **dragon** or the **serpent**; and referred to Israel as **the woman**. How do we know this? Let us see:

GENESIS 3:15 “**And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**”

The above verse talks about the enmity that was created between Israel (the woman and her seed) and the serpent (the Devil). Since then, there has been a great enmity between Israel (**the woman**) and the Devil (the serpent, the dragon).

Remember the topic we are dealing with: protection for the children of God during the great tribulation; notice something very striking in verse 6:

And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days

The above passage says **the woman** (referring to Israel) fled to the wilderness where she had a place prepared for her and will be nourished there for 1260 days—that is the period of the great tribulation, 3 ½ years. So, we can see that the place of safety prepared for Israel (and of course all who have accepted the God of Israel faithfully) is in the wilderness.

Verses 14-17 complete the picture:

“14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. 15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Please notice verse 14: the woman (Israel and all who have accepted the God of Israel faithfully) was given wings that she might fly into the wilderness where **she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent**. We can see here the place of protection during the great tribulation is the wilderness. The serpent referred to here is still the devil but operating in the capacity of the Antichrist—the false prophet and the beast—the Roman empire.

Verse 15 is talking about the great persecution that the Antichrist will bring upon the woman (Israel); verse 17 mentions something very striking, what is it? Let us see:

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The above passage talks about the dragon being wroth with the woman (Israel) and the remnant of her seed. There are two key qualities of the remnant of the seed of the woman, what are they? Let us see:

- Keep the commandments of God.
- Have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

This verse destroys the false idea of pre-tribulation rapture theory. So many people believe that the greater part of Israel will be left behind because they don't believe in Jesus Christ, and it is during the great tribulation that they will come to know Jesus. This idea is wrong. We can see according to verse 17 that the dragon (the devil operating in form of the Antichrist) is wroth with the remnant of the seed of the woman; those that **keep the commandments of God** and **have the testimony of Jesus Christ**. This destroys the idea of the false pre-tribulation rapture that people will be left behind—those who don't keep the commandments of God and don't have the testimony of Jesus Christ. The saints will not be raptured but will be around during the great tribulation.

Now, let's summarise what we have learned so far in bullets:

- We have seen what the great tribulation is and how dreadful it is going to be.

- we have seen that when the abomination that causes desolation happens, it is the beginning of the great tribulation.
- When the abomination that causes desolation happens, the instruction is to flee to the wilderness.
- We have seen that the place of safety prepared for the children of God is in the wilderness.
- Israel is referred to as **the woman**; Israel is also the church.

Further, we have seen that God will surely protect His children; some passages specifically mention the wilderness as the place of safety:

God will protect His children, let us see:

JEREMIAH 30:7: “Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, **but he shall be saved out of it.**”

DANIEL 12:1-2: “1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time **thy people shall be delivered**, every one that shall be found written in the book.”

REVELATION 3:10-11: “10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, **I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation**, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. 11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown”

REVELATION 12:14: “**And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished** for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.”

REVELATION 12:6 “ **And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God**, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.”

Beyond any shadow of a doubt, we can see that there is protection and the protection is in the wilderness, here are the questions that should be asked: Where is the wilderness? Is it a random wilderness near you? It is literal or metaphorical?

Let us dig further to answer these questions.

Before we delve into answering these questions—where the wilderness is & more, it should be realised that the past is a preview for the future. How God delivered His children out of bondage in Egypt, led, protected, and guided them through the wilderness—the future will be similar. With that said, let us see how God guided, protected, and nourished his children in the past so that we can have a preview for the future.

EXODUS 3:1-12

The account narrated in the above reference is when God appeared to Moses when he was looking after the sheep of Jethro, his father-in-law. God saw the affliction of the children of Israel and has drawn a plan to save them. Verse 12 mentions:

EXODUS 3:12 “**And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.**”

The instruction was for Moses to bring the children of Israel back to the wilderness—mount Horeb—that they should serve God upon this mountain. Mount Horeb is Mount Sinai and is in present-day Saudi Arabia. The wilderness is comprised of several places, and Mount Horeb is one of the places in the wilderness. As in the past, the future will not be different; God will bring His children back into the wilderness for protection.

Let us further explore the Scriptures to understand more about the wilderness the Bible is referring to:

EXODUS 13:20 “And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness.”

The above passage is talking about the journey of the children of Israel and how they encamped on edge of the wilderness; the wilderness here is also the wilderness of the future. The journey of the children of Israel through the wilderness—the wilderness where they spent 40 years before moving into the promised land—this is wilderness!



Figure 2: Map showing the wilderness where the children of Israel spent 40 years; this is the wilderness to flee to in the future when the time comes. Source of Map: keyway.ca

In the past, the Lord guided the children of Israel by signs: clouds and fire throughout their journey in the wilderness. Let us see:

EXODUS 40:34-38

“34 Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 36 And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all

their journeys: 37 But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the Lord was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.”

From the above passage, we can see that God guided the children of Israel using a sign of cloud by day and a sign of fire by night. If the cloud stands still, they stop their journey, and if the cloud is taken away, they continue their Journey. In the night, God guided them by fire.

As already mentioned, the past is a preview of the future. The future will be similar to the past; God will guide His people in the wilderness during the great tribulation.

God has promised protection for His people but He wants obedience; He wants people to keep his covenant and obey His voice. Let us see:

EXODUS 19:1-6

“19 In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount. 3 And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; 4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. 5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”

When the children of Israel came out of Egypt, they were taken to the wilderness of Sinai (see **Figure 2**). God said to them through His servant Moses, just as I delivered you from the Egyptians with a mighty arm, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, I will do much more: you will be peculiar people unto me (verse 6).

The present is no different from the past; God wants people to obey His voice and keep His covenants; God does not want rebellious people. God will not tolerate any form of rebellion just as He did not in the past.

How will God take care of His children in the wilderness? Look at how He did in the past; He has not changed and He will protect, guide, and provide for His people just as He did in the past.

In the wilderness, God will not tolerate murmuring, grumbling, and evil speaking; just as He did in the past, He will purge all rebels in the wilderness—rebellious people will not stand in His presence.

Let us see:

NUMBERS 21:1-6

“21 And when king Arad the Canaanite, which dwelt in the south, heard tell that Israel came by the way of the spies; then he fought against Israel, and took some of them prisoners. 2 And Israel vowed a vow unto the Lord, and said, If thou wilt indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities. 3 And the Lord hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them

and their cities: and he called the name of the place Hormah. 4 And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. 5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. 6 And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.”

God delivered them from their enemies and never left them alone but yet they murmured and spoke evil against Moses and God. God sent a fiery serpent among them to bite them and many people died. The wilderness during the period of great tribulation will be no different; God will purge rebels out.

NUMBERS 14:1-3

“14 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. 2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! 3 And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?”

They murmured against Moses and Aaron and this act displeased the Lord. During the great tribulation in the wilderness, the Lord will not tolerate murmuring just as He did not in the past. People should not murmur but give thanks to God in all things.

Hear what God says:

NUMBERS 14:11 “And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?”

The children of Israel demonstrated fear and lack of faith in the power of God. God is looking for people who will have faith in His word and power. Without Faith, it is impossible to please God (**Hebrews 11:6**).

NUMBERS 14:22-24

“22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; 23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: 24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.”

All these things are written for our learning; all the mistakes exhibited by the children of Israel in the wilderness in the past, people should avoid them now and in the future. God is looking for people who will have faith in His word. God made the rebellious children of Israel wander in the wilderness for forty years and they were denied entering the land; only Joshua and Caleb and those below 20 years were permitted to enter the land. See **Numbers 14:28-38**.

The Lord has not changed and He is looking for people who will have faith in His word and power. In all things give thanks (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**).

What happened in the past will repeat itself. How will God provide for His people in the wilderness? Let us see:

PSALMS 78:12-16

“12 Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. 13 He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap. 14 In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire. 15 He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths. 16 He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.”

The above passage is the answer: just as God guided, provided for, and protected His people in the past, He will do the same again in the future during the time of the great tribulation. The only thing that can limit the hand of God is your lack of faith in His word. Allow your heart to be filled with faith; it will require faith to move to the wilderness when the time comes.

God, as in the past, does not want people to forget His wondrous works: how He poured plagues on Egypt and brought the children of Israel out, and led them in the wilderness; how He destroyed the Egyptians in the red sea (see **Psalms 78:40-54**). How God did in the past, He will do the same in the future during the great tribulation; only have faith in word and power. If you don't show faith in the word and power of God, you limit what God can do for you. He will keep Israel (and all who have accepted and served the God of Israel faithfully) and none will touch Israel— **Psalms 121:4**; God will be a refuge to Israel, let us see:

PSALMS 91:1-11

“91 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. 3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. 4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; 6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. 8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. 9 Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; 10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.”

From the above passage, God will be a refuge to His people and protect them from all pestilences and all arrows of the enemy. Only have faith in God!

God will not let His people down; He will take care of Israel and those who are willing to be protected in the wilderness, how? Let us see:

REVELATION 12:5-6 “5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. 6 **And the woman fled into the wilderness**, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.”

REVELATION 12:14 “**And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness,** into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.”

According to the above two passages, this is what God says concerning Israel:

- And the woman fled into the wilderness (verse 6).
- And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness (verse 14).

And **the woman** (Israel and all who have identified with the God of Israel faithfully) fled to the wilderness; how did the woman (Israel) flee to the wilderness? Verse 14 answers: **And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness.** Power was given to Israel (the woman), from who did the power come from? From God! God will make His word come true; only have faith in His word. The only thing that will prevent you from feeling into the wilderness to experience the protection of God is the lack of faith. All that is required is faith—God will provide means of transport to the wilderness—plane—boat, vehicle, etc.

Let us see further examples:

EZEKIEL 20:33-42

“33 As I live, saith the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: 34 And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. 35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. 36 Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord God. 37 And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: 38 And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the Lord. 39 As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord God; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols. 40 For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord God, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things. 41 I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen. 42 And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers.”

Currently, the true children of Israel are scattered among the nations and God, according to the above passage, will gather them with a mighty hand from all the nations where they are scattered. The Lord has power and will do what His word has spoken (**Joshua 21:45**). God will purge rebels from the people.

The wilderness will be a place of protection, abundance, and comfort; people will lack nothing (see **Isaiah 35:1-10**). The Lord will bring Israel into the wilderness and take care of her in the wilderness (**Hosea 2:14-21, 23**). God will have mercy on Israel and protect them in the wilderness (**Isaiah 60:8-10**).

The Lord will gather and deliver Israel from all the nations where they have been scattered. Let us see:

JEREMIAH 23:3-8

“3 And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. 4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord. 5 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, The Lord Our Righteousness. 7 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; 8 But, The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.”

The Lord will gather the remnant of Israel and make them dwell safely; they will fear no one. The wilderness is the beginning of the redemption of Israel and all who have accepted and served the God of Israel faithfully. God will settle Israel in their land permanently. God will provide all the resources required; only have faith in Him:

ISAIAH 41:17-20

“17 When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. 18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. 19 I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: 20 That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.”

ISAIAH 16:1-5

“1 Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion. 2 For it shall be, that, as a wandering bird cast out of the nest, so the daughters of Moab shall be at the fords of Arnon. 3 Take counsel, execute judgment; make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; bewray not him that wandereth. 4 Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land. 5 And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.”

SONG OF SOLOMON 8:5

“5 Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the apple tree: there thy mother brought thee forth: there she brought thee forth that bare thee.”

The church (Israel) shall be in the wilderness and shall be nourished and protected there until the Lord comes. The Lord will protect the poor; He will protect and provide for His people.

SUMMARY

The place of protection during the great tribulation is the wilderness, and the time to flee to the wilderness is when the abomination that causes desolation stands in the holy place. The wilderness is the same wilderness where the children of Israel spent 40 years. God will provide means of reaching the wilderness and will protect and nourish His children there. The rapture is not the protection God has promised.