

1. Review of events of the 70th Week of Daniel

- We looked at events leading up to the Second Coming and discussed the 70th week of Daniel.
- At the midpoint of the seven years, the Antichrist breaks the covenant, and the Great Tribulation begins. At the end of the seven years, we see the return of Jesus Christ.



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## 2. The Wars Of Messiah (refer to map)

An interesting thought for you: *Revelation* isn't where you go to learn about the end times. It's a behind-the-scenes look at things that are already spelled out.

Several phases to Christ's return:

1. Fighting in the South;
2. Fighting around Jerusalem and the Mediterranean coast; and
3. Fighting in the north of Israel, and Armageddon.

### 2.1 Wars in the South

**EGYPT:** its destiny is trouble, to be followed by glory.

*1 The burden against Egypt. Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud, and will come into Egypt; the idols of Egypt will totter at His presence, and the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst.*

*2 "I will set Egyptians against Egyptians; everyone will fight against his brother, and everyone against his neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom.*

*3 The spirit of Egypt will fail in its midst; I will destroy their counsel, and they will consult the idols and the charmers, the mediums and the sorcerers.*

*4 And the Egyptians I will give into the hand of a cruel master, and a fierce king will rule over them," says the Lord, the LORD of hosts. 5 The waters will fail from the sea, and the river will be wasted and dried up....*

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*16 In that day Egypt will be like women, and will be afraid and fear because of the waving of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which He waves over it. 17 And the land of Judah will be a terror to Egypt; everyone who makes mention of it will be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts which He has determined against it. 18 In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear by the LORD of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction.*

*19 In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD at its border. 20 And it will be for a sign and for a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the LORD because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them. 21 Then the LORD will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day, and will make sacrifice and offering; yes, they will make a vow to the LORD and perform it. 22 And the LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the LORD, and He will be entreated by them and heal them. 23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. 24 In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land, 25 whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, “Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.” (Isa. 19:1-5, 16-25)*

## **EDOM AND ARABIA:**

### **(In Numbers, by Balaam)**

*17 “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult. 18 “And Edom shall be a possession; Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession, while Israel does valiantly. 19 Out of Jacob One shall have dominion, and destroy the remains of the city.” (Numb. 24:17-19)*

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**(In Isaiah)**

*1 Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? — “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” 2 Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?*

*3 “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. 5 I looked, but there was no one to help, and I wondered that there was no one to uphold; therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; and My own fury, it sustained Me. 6 I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth.” (Isa. 63:1-6)*

**(More from Isaiah)**

*4 All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; all their host shall fall down as the leaf falls from the vine, and as fruit falling from a fig tree. 5 “For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; indeed it shall come down on Edom, and on the people of My curse, for judgment.*

*6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made overflowing with fatness, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Edom.... 8 For it is the day of the LORD’s vengeance, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion. 9 Its streams shall be turned into pitch, and its dust into brimstone; its land shall become burning pitch. 10 It shall not be quenched night or day; its smoke shall ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; no one shall pass through it forever and ever. (Isa. 34:4-6, 8-10)*

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**(In Habakkuk)**

*2 O LORD, I have heard Your speech and was afraid; O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy.*

*3 God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. 4 His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, and there His power was hidden. 5 Before Him went pestilence, and fever followed at His feet. 6 He stood and measured the earth; He looked and startled the nations. And the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills bowed. His ways are everlasting. 7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian trembled.*

*8 O LORD, were You displeased with the rivers, was Your anger against the rivers, was Your wrath against the sea, that You rode on Your horses, Your chariots of salvation? 9 Your bow was made quite ready; oaths were sworn over Your arrows. Selah. You divided the earth with rivers. 10 The mountains saw You and trembled; the overflowing of the water passed by. The deep uttered its voice, and lifted its hands on high. 11 The sun and moon stood still in their habitation; at the light of Your arrows they went, at the shining of Your glittering spear.*

*12 You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. 13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people, for salvation with Your Anointed. You struck the head from the house of the wicked, by laying bare from foundation to neck. Selah. 14 You thrust through with his own arrows the head of his villages. They came out like a whirlwind to scatter me; their rejoicing was like feasting on the poor in secret. 15 You walked through the sea with Your horses, through the heap of great waters. 16 When I heard, my body trembled; my lips quivered at the voice; rottenness entered my bones; and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble. When he comes up to the people, He will invade them with his troops. (Hab. 3:2-16)*

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Besides these passages, the entire book of Obadiah is against Edom.

A major theme in the prophets is Christ rescuing the captives of His people.





## **2.2 Battles in Judea, Jerusalem, and the west (refer to Israel map)**

### **(In Zephaniah)**

*3 Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the LORD's anger. 4 For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon desolate; they shall drive out Ashdod at noonday, and Ekron shall be uprooted. 5 Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, the nation of the Cherethites! The word of the LORD is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines: "I will destroy you; so there shall be no inhabitant."*

*6 The seacoast shall be pastures, with shelters for shepherds and folds for flocks. 7 The coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed their flocks there; in the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down at evening. For the LORD their God will intervene for them, and return their captives. (Zeph. 2:3-7)*

### **(In Zechariah)**

*2 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. 3 And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. 7 "The LORD will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah. 8 In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them. 9 It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. (Zech. 12:2-3, 7-9)*

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**(More from Zechariah)**

*1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. 2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

*3 Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. 4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. (Zech. 14:1-4)*

**2.3 Fighting in the North: Gog and Magog; Armageddon, etc.**

One large battle or campaign is the Battle of *Gog and Magog* spoken of by Ezekiel.

*2 “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the [chief prince of] Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, 3 and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. 4 I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.*

*5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; 6 Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you....*

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*4 You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. 5 You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken," says the Lord GOD. 6 "And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the LORD. (Ezek. 38:2-6, 39:4-6)*

- People debate whether this comes at the beginning of the seven years or at the return of Christ. Personally, I believe that Gog is the Antichrist, and that this battle comes at the end of the seven years.

Revelation 19:11-21 describes the battle at Armageddon:

*11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**.... 19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

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Other major scenes of battle or judgments to the north of Israel include the spoiling of Assyria (Micah 5) and the destruction of Damascus (Isaiah 17).

### **3. Key Events Taking Place at the Return Of Christ**

#### **3.1. Capture and judgment of the Antichrist and False Prophet. (Rev. 19:20)**

**3.2. The binding of Satan:** *1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. (Rev. 20:1-3)*

**3.3. The resurrection of those beheaded by the Antichrist:** *4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4)*

#### **3.4. The rescue and national salvation of Israel.**

*20 "But I will remove far from you the northern army, and will drive him away into a barren and desolate land, with his face toward the eastern sea and his back toward the western sea; his stench will come up, and his foul odor will rise, because he has done monstrous things." 21 Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done marvelous things!...*

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30 “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. 32 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls. (Joel 2:20-21, 30-32)

Other passages speak of how Christ will personally judge Israel. (See Ezek. 20:33)

**3.5. The judgment of the nations.** This is the *sheep and the goats judgment* of Matthew 25. The nations are judged for their treatment of the brothers of Christ.

#### 4. Brief Highlights of the Millennial Reign of Christ

Important features of the Millennial Kingdom:

1. Changes in Israel’s geography. (Zech. 14)
2. Division of the land of Israel among the tribes. (Ezek. 45, 48)
3. Expansion of Israel. (Various places.)
4. Return of all exiled Jews. (Isa. 60)
5. Construction of Ezekiel's temple and new worship instituted. (Ezek. 40-48)
6. Installation of Christ’s government over all the nations. This includes the preeminence of Israel and government by the saints. (Micah 4:2-4)
7. Changes in nature. (Isa. 11, 65) These include:
  - a. Removal (or partial removal) of the curse on nature.
  - b. Loss of animal ferocity.
  - c. Return of human lifespans to antediluvian lengths.

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Christ will rule the nations with a perfect balance of goodness and severity: He will rule with a rod of iron. It will be a time of peace and prosperity.

## 5. The Eternal State: The New Heavens and New Earth

*1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God." (Rev. 21:1-3)*

- People debate whether the New Jerusalem is here during the Millennium.
- If the traditional calculations are correct, the New Jerusalem is almost the size of the moon, being about 1500 miles on each side. (Rev. 21:16)
- There are also arguments concerning its shape: cube, pyramid, etc.?
- The key feature of the city is the fact that God will be living with us!
- Jesus came to make our beautiful fellowship with God possible again.

With the coming of God to earth, the work of salvation will be fully accomplished:

*"Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." (Rev. 21:3-5a)*

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