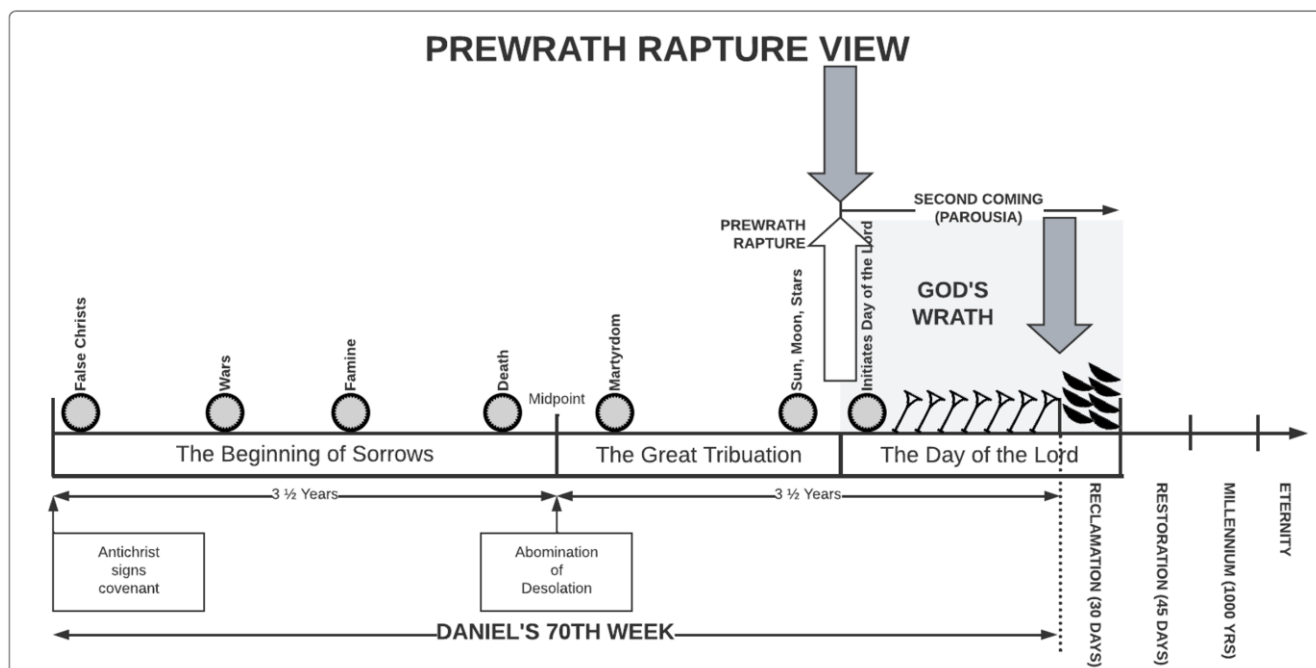


# SESSION 4



## The Restrainer

While in person, Paul told the church of Thessalonica about a restrainer (“the one who restrains”), but didn’t say in his letter to the church who this was. We are given clues about the influence of the restrainer but left to determine who he is referring to.

2 Thess 3:2-10 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not arrive until the rebellion comes and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, and as a result he takes his seat in God’s temple, displaying himself as God. Surely you recall that I used to tell you these things while I was still with you. And so you know what holds him back, so that he will be revealed in his own time. For the hidden power of lawlessness is already at work. However, the one who holds him back will do so until he is taken out of the way, and then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will destroy by the breath of his mouth and wipe out by the manifestation of his arrival. The arrival of the lawless one will be by Satan’s working with all kinds of miracles and signs and false wonders, and with every kind of evil deception directed against those who are

perishing, because they found no place in their hearts for the truth so as to be saved.

Paul tells us that the Day of the Lord will not occur until the antichrist is revealed, but that there is a restrainer who is preventing that from happening. At the right time, the restrainer will be taken out of the way, and then the lawless one (antichrist) will be revealed.

Proposals for the restrainer include: 1) the Roman government; 2) gospel preaching; 3) the binding of Satan; 4) the providence of God; 5) the Jewish state; 6) the church; 7) the Holy Spirit; and 8) Michael the archangel<sup>1</sup>

The pretrib view usually points to this being the Holy Spirit, removed with the church at the rapture. They observe the Greek gender in verses 6 and 7. In verse 6, “what holds him back” (also translated “the thing that restrains”) is neuter gender. Yet, in verse 7 “the one who holds him back” is masculine gender. Arguments for the restrainer being a government entity also point this out. The prewrath view shows a clearer reference.

Daniel 12: 1-2 “At that time Michael, the great prince who watches over your people, **will arise**. There will be a time of distress unlike any other from the nation’s beginning up to that time. But at that time your own people, all those whose names are found written in the book, will escape. Many of those who sleep in the dusty ground will awake—some to everlasting life, and others to shame and everlasting abhorrence.

Michael is the great protector of Israel: Daniel 10:21b There is no one who strengthens me against these princes, except Michael your prince.

Hebrew: Amad

The Hebrew term amad means to “stand aside,” “stand still,” “desist,” or “be inactive.” Here are some examples:

“Must I wait, now that they are silent, now that they **stand there** [stand still or desist] with no reply?” (Job 32:16).

“Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all **stood up** [arose and kept quiet or stood still]” (Nehemiah 8:5).

“The king said, ‘Stand aside and wait here.’ So he **stepped aside and stood there** [stood aside or stood still]” (2 Samuel 18:30).

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will **arise** [step aside or stand still]. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered” (Daniel 12:1)<sup>2</sup>.

## The War in Heaven

Revelation 12:7-9, 12 Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But the dragon was not strong enough to prevail, so there was no longer any place left in heaven for him and his angels. So that huge dragon—the ancient serpent, the one called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world—was thrown down to the earth, and his angels along with him...But woe to the earth and the sea because the devil has come down to you! He is filled with terrible anger, for he knows that he only has a little time!”

## The Women, the Child, and the Dragon

Read Revelation 12:1-6

Similar imagery in Joseph’s dream: Genesis 37:9 He said. “I had another dream. The sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

Jesus seen in Rev 12:5 - Psalm 2:9 “You will break them with an iron scepter; you will smash them like a potter’s jar.”. And Revelation 19:15 “From his mouth extends a sharp sword so that with it he can strike the nations.”

The obedient line of Israel will run to the wilderness and be protected 42 months. Some consider the location as Petra in Jordan (Sela also means ‘rock’), although it’s also contested. Isaiah 16:1-4, Daniel 11:40-41, Obadiah 1:12-15

“From the similar description given in 13:1 and the parallel reference in Daniel 7:7-8, 24, it is clear that the revived Roman Empire is in view. Satan, however, is also called the dragon later in 12:9, and it is clear that the dragon is both the empire and the representation of satanic power.”<sup>1</sup>

## 144,000 Firstfruits

Revelation 7:1-4 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth so no wind could blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He shouted out with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given permission to damage the earth and the sea: “Do not damage the earth or the sea or the trees until we have put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” Now I heard the number of those who were marked with the seal, 144,000, sealed from all the tribes of the people of Israel.

They have a song that only they can learn. They are referred to as firstfruits, which suggests that they represent more than just the 144,000.

The number 12 represents completeness. 12,000 is 12 amplified. Whether the 144,000 are a literal number or a spiritual number, they, as the firstfruits, most likely represent more than themselves. Being called out specifically as Israelites, they do not represent the church.

Contrary to popular teaching, they aren't mentioned in scripture as evangelists. They may be evangelists, but it's not specifically called out.

Revelation 14:1-5 Then I looked, and here was the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him were 144,000, who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. I also heard a sound coming out of heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. Now the sound I heard was like that made by harpists playing their harps, and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one was able to learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were redeemed from humanity as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb, and no lie was found on their lips; they are blameless.

Ezekiel 9, regarding the first temple, is a foreshadow of the 14,000 being sealed.

Ezekiel 9:4 The Lord said to him, “Go through the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of the people who moan and groan over all the abominations practiced in it.”

In Ezekiel the sealing takes place just before the glory departs. In Revelation it occurs just after the glory returns.

## Two Witnesses

Read Revelation 11:3-13

Revelation doesn't tell us specifically who this is, but there are clues in scripture, although they aren't necessarily strong enough to know for certain. The three most common views are:

- Elijah and Enoch
- Moses and Elijah
- Two unknown witnesses

## Exercise

With the 3 views above in mind, read the following passages and complete the exercise below

Primary passage: Revelation 11:3-13  
Read Zechariah 4:11-14 (optional 4:1-6)

- List your two most interesting observations

---

---

Read Hebrews 9:27. What are people appointed to?

---

---

Read about Enoch: Genesis 5:21-24, Hebrews 11:5. Based on this and the information above, why is Enoch considered to be one of the two witnesses?

---

---

Read 2 Kings 2:11-12, Malachi 4:5, Luke 4:25. Why is Elijah considered to be one of the two witnesses?

---

---

Read Luke 9:28-36, Jude 1:9. Why is Moses considered to be one of the two witnesses?

---

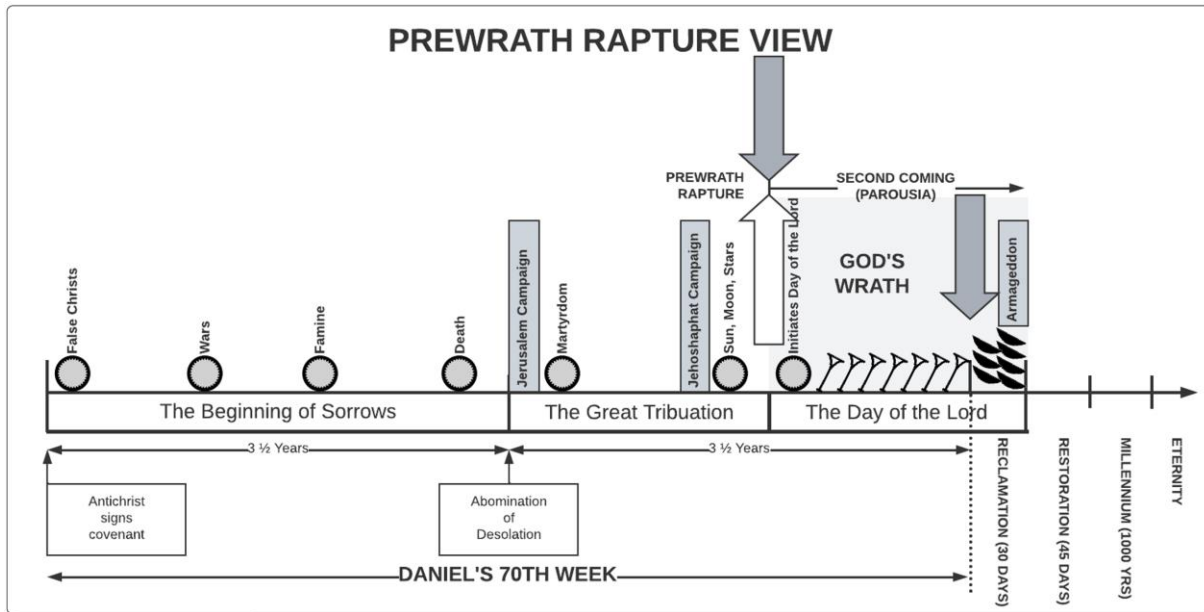
---

What type of signs are Moses known for? How about Elijah? Read the Revelation passage again and note the type of signs.

---

---

# Three End Time Campaigns



The prewrath view defines three separate campaigns during the timeframe of the 70<sup>th</sup> week. They are:

## The Jerusalem Campaign

Occurs when the antichrist sets up his rule in the temple at the midpoint of the 70<sup>th</sup> week.

Luke 21:20-24 But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Those who are inside the city must depart. Those who are out in the country must not enter it, because these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing their babies in those days! For there will be great distress on the earth and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led away as captives among all nations. Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Revelation 12 also shows this same campaign where the antichrist, at the midpoint, purses Israel followed by the church.

Ezekiel 38:9, 10-12 You will advance; you will come like a storm. You will be like a cloud covering the earth, you, all your troops, and the many other peoples with you. You will say, “I will invade a land of unwalled towns; I will advance against those living quietly in security—all of them living without walls and barred gates—to loot and plunder, to attack the inhabited ruins and the people gathered from the nations, who are acquiring cattle and goods, who live at the center of the earth.”

## **The Jehoshaphat Campaign**

Joel 3:2 Then I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. I will enter into judgment against them there concerning my people Israel who are my inheritance, whom they scattered among the nations.

Joel 3:9 Proclaim this among the nations: “Prepare for a holy war! Call out the warriors! Let all these fighting men approach and attack! Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weak say, ‘I too am a warrior!’ Lend your aid and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves to that place.” Bring down, O Lord, your warriors! “Let the nations be roused and let them go up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit in judgment on all the surrounding nations. Rush forth with the sickle, for the harvest is ripe! Come, stomp the grapes, for the winepress is full! The vats overflow. Indeed, their evil is great!” Crowds, great crowds are in the Valley of Decision, for the day of the Lord is near in the Valley of Decision! The sun and moon are darkened; the stars withhold their brightness.

Zechariah 12:4,6 On that day,” says the Lord, “I will strike every horse with confusion and its rider with madness. I will pay close attention to the house of Judah, but will strike all the horses of the nations with blindness. 6 On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like an igniter among sticks and a burning torch among sheaves, and they will burn up all the surrounding nations right and left. *Then the people of Jerusalem will settle once more in their place, the city of Jerusalem.*

## **The Battle of Armageddon**

The third campaign, the Battle of Armageddon, will be discussed next week.

- 
1. <https://bible.org/seriespage/12-conflict-heaven-and-earth>
  2. <https://www.tedmontgomery.com/bblovrww/Revelation/amad.html>



# PREWRATH RAPTURE VIEW

