

SESSION 5

Critical Events at the Midpoint of the 70th Week

1. Satan is cast out of heaven to earth. (Rev 12:12)
2. Satan empowers Antichrist. (Rev 13:2; 2 Thes. 2:9)
3. The Restraint's protection is removed. (2 Thes. 2:7; Dan 12:1)
4. The "man of lawlessness" [Antichrist] is revealed. (2 Thes. 2:3)
5. The abomination of desolation takes his place in the temple. (Matt. 24:15)
6. The covenant with Israel is broken. (Dan 9:27)
7. Antichrist exalts himself above all others. (2 Thes. 2:4)
8. The worship of the world is demanded by Antichrist. (Rev 13:3-4, 12, 14b-15)
9. The Babylonian Harlot is destroyed. (Rev. 13:3-4, 8, 12-15; 17:16)
10. The everlasting gospel and a warning to those who would take Antichrist's mark is given to the world by God's angelic messengers. (Rev. 13:3-4, 8, 12-15; 17:16)
11. The two witnesses begin their ministry. (Rev. 11:1-14)
12. The persecution of faithful Israel (the woman) and the true church (the rest of her offspring who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus) begins. (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:15-22)
13. The apostasy or the "falling away on account of my [Christ's] name" begins. (Matt. 24:9-12; 2 Thes. 2:9-12)¹

Critical Events on day of the Lord's return

There is a frequently unknown same-day relationship between many eschatological events.

The (2nd) coming [parousia] of Christ, the revelation [apokalupsis] of Christ, the day of the Lord, the resurrection of the just, the change of those who are alive and remain, the catching up (rapture) of the redeemed, and the fire of the first trumpet plague all either take place or BEGIN on the same literal day.

1. A great earthquake takes place, one that moves islands and mountains out of their places (Rev 6:12-14).
2. The cosmic sign of the sun, moon, and stars going dark takes place. (Joel 2:10, 31; Isa 13:6-11; Matt 24:29; Lk 21:25-26; Rev 6:12-14) This is the only sign that signals that Christ will appear at any moment. We are told to look up (to the sky) when it takes place (Lk 21:25-28). This sign portends the day of the Lord.
3. Christ appears in all His glory with the mighty holy angels for every eye to see. (Matt 24:30; Lk 21:27; 1Cor 1:7; 2Thes 1:7; 1Pet 1:7, 13; Rev 1:7; Titus 2:13, 1John 3:2) (This begins the day of the Lord, the day of Christ, the last day, that day, etc.. Each of these expressions refers to a period of time that extends at least through the 1000 years.)
4. The unbelieving, Beast worshiping, earth-dwellers begin hiding in fear. (Lk 21:25-26; Isa 2:19; Rev 6:15)
5. The surviving saints are encouraged (Lk 21:28)
6. The dead in Christ are resurrected (Isa 26:19; 1Cor 15:23; 1Thes 4:15-17; Rev 20:4-6)
7. The surviving saints, those who are alive and remain are changed (1 Cor 15:51-52)
8. All the redeemed admire our Glorious Savior (2Thes 1:10)
9. We are gathered unto Christ in the clouds by the Angels. (Matt 24:31; 13:39; 1Thes 4:17)
10. We appear in glory with Christ (Col 3:4; 1Pet 1:5; Rom 8:19)
11. We are escorted to the Father's house to stand before the throne. (Jn 14:3; Rev 7:9-17)
12. The 144,000 are sealed for protection from the plagues of God's wrath while remaining upon the earth. (Rev 7:1-8)
13. The first stroke of God's eschatological wrath falls in the fire of the first trumpet plague at some point in the second half of the week on the very day we have been gathered unto Christ. (Rev 8:7; Lk 17:26-30; 2Thes 1:6-10).²

Seven Seals / Trumpets / Bowls

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Seals	False Christs	War	Famine	Death	Martyrdom	Sun, Moon, Stars	Initiates Day of the Lord
Trumpets	Third of Earth	Third of Salt Seas	Third of Fresh Water	Third of Sun, Moon, Stars	Five Months Torment	Third of Mankind Killed	Earthly Rule to God
Bowls	All Infected with Sores	All Salt Seas	All Fresh Water	All Mankind Scorched	All Kingdom Darkened	All Armies to Armageddon	Total Destruction

Seven Trumpets

A third of the earth, salt water, fresh water, sun, moon and stars fully impacted. Completes the 70 weeks of Daniel.

These occur during the time after the rapture until and slightly past the end of Daniel's 70th week.

First six seals: Rev 8:6-9:21

Seventh seal: Rev 11:15-19

The first days after the 70th week

Day 1 The two witnesses are killed (Rev. 11:7) and Christ appears on earth (Heb. 9:28) to lead the 144,000 out of Bozrah (capital city of “Edom” – Is. 63:1-3; Micah 2:12) to Jerusalem, to be joined enroute by additional Jews and Gentiles still in hiding.

Day 2 Christ leads the 144,000 on their two-day journey to Jerusalem for the salvation of the unsaved remnant of Israel that survives the 70th Week. (Micah 2:12-13; Is. 63:1-3; Hab 3:3-6, 12)

Day 3 Christ’s Journey to Jerusalem will be joined by the wilderness remnant of Israel who will look upon Christ and be saved. (Hos. 6:1-2; 11:10-11; Zech. 12:10; 13:9; Rom 11:25-26)

Day 4 Christ and the saved remnant of Israel conclude journey from Bozrah to Mount Zion in Jerusalem. Resurrection of the two witnesses. (Rev. 11:11)

Day 5 Christ and the 144,000 ascend to top of Mount Zion (Rev. 14:4 cf. Obad. 21). The seventh trumpet is blown, and God Almighty reclaims divine authority over the earth from Satan. (Rev. 11:15-17)

Day 5 or 6 Saved remnant of Israel to Azel (Zech. 14:5) and then the commencement of the bowl judgments, the last of God’s wrath. (Rev. 15:1, 6-8; 16:1-21)³

Seven Bowls

Bowls distributed: Rev 15

Bowls poured out: Rev 16

Brings total death and destruction to nearly the entire world. The most notable exception is the gathering of the armies of the world for the battle of Armageddon.

These take place after the 70th week, during the 30-day Reclamation period, and set up for the battle of Armageddon.

Bema Seat judgment

There will be three major judgments in the end times. The *Bema Seat judgment*, the *Sheep and Goats judgment*, and the *Great White Throne judgment*. The Bema Seat judgment is for all believers, those who have been saved through Jesus’ death. The Sheep and Goats judgment will occur at the beginning of the

Millennium for the living, both the believer and unbeliever. The Great White Throne judgment occurs at the end of the Millennium for the unbeliever. The Bema seat judgment takes place just after the 7th seal, at the end of the 7 years. We'll look at the Sheep and Goats judgment and the Great White Throne judgment next week.

The term, Bema Seat, is taken from the Greek word for judgment, *bēma*. It comes from the ancient Olympics and refers to the platform where victors were led to receive their reward.

The Bema seat judgment is not primarily about our sins, although there is an aspect of that. Instead, it's about rewarding us for our lives.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be paid back according to what he has done while in the body, whether good or evil.

Romans 14:10b Why do you judge your brother or sister? And you who eat everything—why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

Revelation 22:12 Look ! I am coming soon, and my reward is with me to pay each one according to what he has done!

1 Corinthian 3:10-15 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master-builder I laid a foundation, but someone else builds on it. And each one must be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than what is being laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, each builder's work will be plainly seen, for the Day will make it clear, because it will be revealed by fire. And the fire will test what kind of work each has done. If what someone has built survives, he will receive a reward. If someone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss. He himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

Marriage supper of the Lamb

Read Revelation 19:6-9.

Jewish wedding customs had three major parts to them:

1. Betrothal period. Starts with a marriage contract between the parents of the bride and bridegroom. Joseph and Mary were betrothed when Mary was found to be with child.
2. Usually a year later, the bridegroom, accompanied by his male friends, went to the house of the bride at midnight and, all together would join the parade to return to the bridegroom's home. See John 14:2-3.
3. The marriage supper itself which could go on for days, as in the wedding at Cana in John 2:1-2.

Who attends?

Revelation 19:9b Write the following: Blessed are those who are invited to the banquet at the wedding celebration of the Lamb!" He also said to me, "These are the true words of God."

All believers from all time:

The Church

Ephesians 5:25b-27 Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to sanctify her by cleansing her with the washing of the water by the word, so that he may present the church to himself as glorious—not having a stain or wrinkle, or any such blemish, but holy and blameless.

Israel

Isaiah 54:5 For your husband is the one who made you—the Lord of Heaven's Armies is his name. He is your Protector, the Holy One of Israel.

Battle of Armageddon

The most epic battle in all of history!

The arrival of Jesus and his armies

Revelation 19:11-16 Then I saw heaven opened and here came a white horse! The one riding it was called "Faithful" and "True," and with justice he judges and

goes to war. His eyes are like a fiery flame and there are many diadem crowns on his head. He has a name written that no one knows except himself. He is dressed in clothing dipped in blood, and he is called the Word of God. The armies that are in heaven, **dressed in white, clean, fine linen**, were following him on white horses. From his mouth extends a sharp sword so that with it he can strike the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod, and he stomps the winepress of the furious wrath of God, the All-Powerful. He has a name written on his clothing and on his thigh: "King of kings and Lord of lords."

Who are his armies?

Matthew 13:40-43 As the poisonous weeds are collected and burned with fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man **will send his angels, and they will gather from his kingdom everything that causes sin as well as all lawbreakers**. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

2 Thess. 1:7-8 And to you who are being afflicted to give rest together with us when the **Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels**. With flaming fire he will mete out punishment on those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Revelation 15:6 And the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, **dressed in clean bright linen**, wearing wide golden belts around their chests.

Possibly *also* the church, the bride?

Revelation 19:8 She was permitted to be dressed in **bright, clean, fine linen**" (for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints).

Where is it located?

Revelation 16:16: Now the spirits gathered the kings and their armies to the place that is called **Armageddon** in Hebrew.

The actual location for this short-lived battle is described in Scripture as "Har-Magedon" (Revelation 16:16 NASB), which literally means "Mount Megiddo." There is actually no mountain by that name, but "Har" can refer

to hill country. This being the case, it is likely a reference to the hill country surrounding the Plain of Megiddo, which is some sixty miles north of Jerusalem.⁴

The valley around Megiddo is called the Plain of Megiddo. The Plain of Megiddo is within the Jezreel Valley, which is a 141 square mile area of land, surrounded by the Jordan River on the East and mountains on the other sides.

The French military and political leader Napoleon Bonaparte once stood at the valley of Megiddo, which is a large tract of land and inland valley south of the Lower Galilee region in Israel, and remarked, "All the armies of the world could maneuver their forces on this vast plain." Napoleon at that time either knowingly or unknowingly made a prophetic statement, because the Bible specifically states that one day all the world's armies will indeed converge on that location and be met in battle by God Himself.⁴

Some famous events and battles in Jezreel Valley

- Jezreel's rulers killed Ahab's 70 sons, put their heads in baskets, and brought them to Jehu (2 Kings 10:1–11).
- Queen Jezebel murdered Naboth in his own vineyard in Jezreel (1 Kings 21:1–23)
- ...and later died after being thrown from a palace and devoured by dogs.
- Pharaoh Neco killed King Josiah in the Jezreel Valley (2 Kings 23:30)
- Deborah and Barak trounced Sisera at the base of Mount Tabor at the eastern end of the valley (Judges 4–5)
- The Philistines attacked and defeated the Israelites on Mount Gilboa on the valley's southeastern side, and King Saul killed himself there (1 Samuel 29:1; 31)
- Gideon defeated the Midianites, Amalekites, and their allies from the east just north of Mount Gilboa (Judges 6–7)
- The Crusaders fought four separate battles in the twelfth century
- Napoleon Bonaparte crushed the Ottomans in 1799
- General George Allenby fought the Ottoman army for control of the area in 1918⁵

The grand finale. Read Revelation 19:19-20:6a

Scripture provides plenty more details of this great battle. Some include:

Isaiah 34:1-3 Come near, you nations, and listen! Pay attention, you people! The earth and everything it contains must listen, the world and everything that lives in it. For the Lord is angry at all the nations and furious with all their armies. He will annihilate them and slaughter them. Their slain will be left unburied, their corpses will stink; the hills will soak up their blood.

Ezekiel 39:3-4, I will knock your bow out of your left hand and make your arrows fall from your right hand. You will fall dead on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the people who are with you. I give you as food to every kind of bird and every wild beast. v7 I will make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; I will not let my holy name be profaned anymore. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, the Holy One of Israel.

Next up is preparing the earth for the millennium.

Read Ezekiel 39:9-20 (or until end of the chapter) for further details.

Daniel 2:44 In the days of those kings the God of heaven will raise up an everlasting kingdom that will not be destroyed and a kingdom that will not be left to another people. It will break in pieces and bring about the demise of all these kingdoms. But it will stand forever.

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1. The Sign. Robert Van Kampen. Second Revised Edition. Pg. 215.
 2. Posted on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/prewrathraptureview>. Unfortunately, I didn't note the poster's name.
 3. The Sign. Robert Van Kampen. Second Revised Edition. Pg. 395.
 4. <https://www.compellingtruth.org/battle-of-Armageddon.html>
 5. <https://blog.logos.com/is-the-jezreel-valley-the-stage-for-the-final-battle/>