

1 Thessalonians 4: 12-18

# The Return of the King

# How many references to the Lord's First Coming in the Scriptures?

**Over 300**  
**Three Hundred**  
**Plus**

**Scholars**  
**identify**  
**574 references**  
**to his ministry**

# How many references to the Lord's Second Coming in the Scriptures?

**Over 2,400**  
**Two Thousand**  
**Four Hundred**  
**Plus**

**That's**  
**8x as many**  
**as for his**  
**First Coming**

# Every chapter in 1 Thessalonians ends re *The Coming*

<sup>9</sup> For they themselves report ... how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and **to wait for his Son from heaven**, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. **1 Th 1**

<sup>19</sup> For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before **our Lord Jesus at his coming**? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy. **1 Th 2**

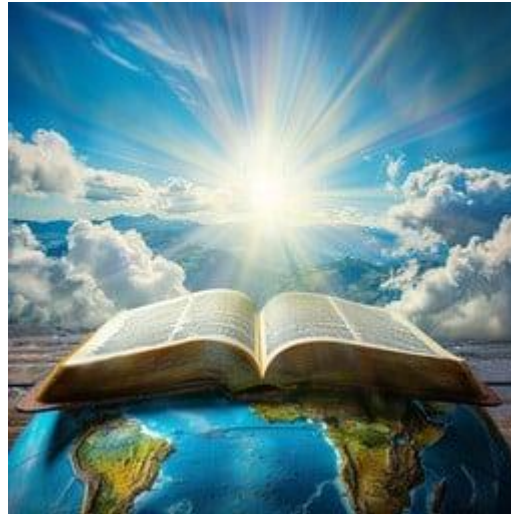
May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup> so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at **the coming of our Lord Jesus** with all his saints. **1 Th 3**

<sup>16</sup> **For the Lord himself will come down from heaven.** **1 Th 4**

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at **the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. **1 Th 5**

# Tonight's passage

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



<sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

<sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

<sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

<sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.  **1 Thessalonians 4**

# The Great Hope of the Church

<sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about **those who sleep in death**, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

<sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that **God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.**

<sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's word, we tell you that **we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.**

**... we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.**

1. Those who die in Christ are said to have *fallen asleep in Him*.
2. The *dead in Christ* will return with Him.
3. We will be caught up (raptured) to the clouds to be with them.
4. We ... who are still alive ... will meet the Lord in the air.
5. We will be with the Lord forever.

The  
Dead

\*\*\*\*\*

The  
Living

**Who** is coming back?

**How** is He coming back?

**Where** is He coming back to?

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**When** is He coming back?

**Why** is He coming back?

**What** happen when he comes back?



**WHO** is coming back?

**JESUS**

# WHO is coming back again? ... this same Jesus

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, **he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.**

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “**why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus**, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back** in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

**ACTS 1**

# WHO is coming back again? ... this same Jesus

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

<sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going. **John 14**

“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?” **Matthew 24**

<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. **1 Corinthians 15**

**WHO** is coming back?

**JESUS**

with the *bodiless* saints

# WHO is coming back? ... the saints

<sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that **God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.**

<sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For **the Lord himself will come down from heaven**, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, **and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

<sup>17</sup> **After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** And so we will be with the Lord forever.

**His Return is Personal  
and Pastoral**

**HOW** will he return?

# HOW is he coming back? ...same way

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, **he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.**

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? **This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**”

**ACTS 1**

# HOW is he coming back? ...heavenly sign

<sup>30</sup> “**Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven.** And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. **MATTHEW 24**

<sup>26</sup> “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. **MARK 13**

<sup>27</sup> At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. **LUKE 21**

# HOW is he coming back? ...clouds

<sup>30</sup> “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see **the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven**, with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. **MATTHEW 24**

<sup>26</sup> “At that time people will see **the Son of Man coming in clouds** with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. **MARK 13**

<sup>27</sup> At that time they will see **the Son of Man coming in a cloud** with power and great glory. **LUKE 21**

# HOW is he coming back? ...clouds

<sup>13</sup> ‘In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, **coming with the clouds of heaven**. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. <sup>14</sup> **He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.**

**DANIEL 7**

The high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”  
<sup>62</sup> “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see **the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.**”

**MARK 14**

<sup>7</sup> “Look, he is **coming with the clouds,**”  
and “**every eye will see him**, even those who pierced him”;  
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”

So shall it be! Amen.

**REVELATION 1**

# HOW is he coming back? ...power/glory

<sup>30</sup> “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, **with power and great glory**.<sup>31</sup> And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

**MATTHEW 24**

<sup>26</sup> “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds **with great power and glory**.<sup>27</sup> And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

**MARK 13**

<sup>27</sup> At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud **with power and great glory**.

**LUKE 21**

# HOW is he coming back? ...angels

<sup>30</sup> “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> **And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.** **MATTHEW 24**

<sup>26</sup> “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> **And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.** **MARK 13**

In the same way that He left  
**in the clouds ...**

but this time with great power & glory  
preceded by a sign,  
accompanied by angels ...

**Let's look again at the passage**

# HOW is he coming back? ... loud command

Firstly ... with a loud command

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God **1 Thessalonians 4**

**The Loud Command** - 3x Jesus raises his voice & it is followed by a resurrection. (John 11, Matthew 27, 1 Thessalonians 4)

[John 5:28-29](#)

Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice / and come out—those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

## Revelation 1

<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet.

# HOW is he coming back ...archangel

Secondly ... with the voice of the archangel

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God **1 Thess 4**

Only the angel Gabriel and the archangel Michael are named in Scripture.

<sup>9</sup> But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgement, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." **Jude**

[Daniel10:13,21](#)

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia...

[Daniel12:1](#)

"At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. 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. <sup>2</sup> Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

[Revelation12:7](#)

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels, fought back. <sup>8</sup> But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.

# HOW is he coming back?

Key Aspects of Jewish Angelology:

with the voice of the archangel

Archangels: The four primary archangels—Michael, Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael—are often described as the angels surrounding the Throne of God. They are sometimes referred to as Sarim (princes)... cf. Michael

Angelic Hierarchy (Maimonides' List - Highest to Lowest):

1. [Chayot HaKodesh](#) (Holy Beings): The highest rank; they support God's throne and possess the deepest understanding of the Divine.
2. [Ophanim](#) (Wheels): Associated with the "wheels" in Ezekiel's chariot vision.
3. [Erelim](#) (Valiant Ones): High-ranking celestial beings.
4. [Chashmalim](#) (Electric/Glowing Ones): Radiantly energetic beings.
5. [Seraphim](#) (Fiery Ones): Often depicted as burning, they are closely associated with praising God.
6. [Malachim](#) (Messengers): Angels that directly convey messages.
7. [Elohim](#) (Mighty/Divine Ones): Divine forces or "mighty ones".
8. [Bene Elohim](#) (Sons of the Mighty): Powerful angelic beings.
9. [Cherubim](#) (Keruvim): Often seen as guardians of the divine presence.
10. [Ishim](#) (Human-like Beings): Angels closest to human understanding and those appearing in prophetic visions.

Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of **angels**, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind... [Colossians 2:18](#)

# HOW is he coming back? ...trumpet

Thirdly ... with the trumpet call of God

<sup>16</sup> For **the Lord himself will come down from heaven**, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and **with the trumpet call of God**

**1 Thessalonians 4**

## Revelation 1

<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> **I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet.**

The voice of Jesus is like a trumpet in Revelation

# The Trumpet Call of God

Trumpets in the Bible ... appear from Exodus to Revelation

**Symbolize God's presence, his power and his warnings of judgment:**

Exodus 19 <sup>16</sup> On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and **a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. ...**

<sup>18</sup> Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because **the LORD had descended on it in fire.** The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly.

<sup>19</sup> And **as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.**

<sup>20</sup> **The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.**

# The Trumpet Call of God ...**presence, power, judgment**

Trumpets in the Bible ... appear from Exodus to Revelation

Matthew 24:30-31 .... **PRESENCE & POWER**

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. / And **He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.**

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 ... **POWER**

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— / in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet.** For **the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**

Revelation 11:15 ... **JUDGMENT (SEALS, TRUMPETS, BOWLS)**

**Then the seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and loud voices called out in heaven:**

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.”

# The Trumpet Call of God ... judgment

Trumpets in the Bible ... appear from Exodus to Revelation

Symbolize God's presence, his power and his warnings of judgment:

The Seven Trumpets of Revelation

In Revelation 8-11, seven angels are given seven trumpets, which serve as judgments on the earth. Each blast is a call to repentance and brings increasing disasters:

**1st:** Hail, fire, and blood burn one-third of the earth.

**2nd:** A burning mountain is thrown into the sea, destroying a third of it.

**3rd:** The star Wormwood falls, poisoning a third of the fresh water.

**4th:** A third of the sun, moon, and stars are darkened.

**5th:** The first woe—demonic locusts rise from the abyss.

**6th:** The second woe—four angels release a massive army, killing a third of humanity.

**7th:** Announcement that "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord".

# The Trumpet Call of God ... judgment

Trumpets in the Bible ... appear from Exodus to Revelation

The Day of the LORD

**2 Blow a trumpet in Zion;**

**sound an alarm on my holy mountain!**

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

**for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,**

**<sup>2</sup> a day of darkness and gloom,**

**a day of clouds and thick darkness!**

Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains

a great and powerful people;

their like has never been before,

nor will be again after them

through the years of all generations.

Joel 2

## Trumpets in the Bible ... appear from Exodus to Revelation

**Worship and Festivals:** The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) was established in Leviticus 23:23-25, and they were used in temple worship and to celebrate, as in Numbers 10

**10** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> “**Make two silver trumpets (Chatzotzrah)**. Of hammered work you shall make them, and you shall use them for **summoning the congregation and for breaking camp**. ...

**9** And when you go to war in your land against the adversary who oppresses you, then **you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets**, that you may be remembered before the LORD your God, and you shall be saved from your enemies.

**Military Signal:** Used by the Israelites to gather, move camp, and in battles, notably at the fall of Jericho (Joshua 6). **Shofar (Ram's Horn)**

## Trumpets for relationship ... God's Presence

**10** On the day of your gladness also, and at your appointed feasts and at the beginnings of your months, **you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings**. They shall be a reminder of you before your God: I am the LORD your God.”

**BURNT OFFERINGS**

Dedication to God

**PEACE OFFERINGS**

Fellowship with God

(Relational sacrifices)

# Trumpets for repentance

**The Festival of Trumpets**, or Yom Teruah (known as Rosh Hashanah), marks the first day of the seventh Hebrew month and is a biblically ordained "day of rest, a holy convocation commemorated with trumpet blasts". (*Leviticus 23:23/25*) It signifies **a wake-up call for repentance** leading up to the Day of Atonement, a remembrance of God's covenant, and a prophetic foreshadowing of the return of Jesus Christ, often associated with the "last trumpet".

## Key Aspects and Significance:

- **Call to Repentance and Introspection:** The blowing of the shofar (ram's horn) acts as a wake-up call, initiating the "Ten Days of Repentance" or "Days of Awe" that culminate in Yom Kippur.
- **The Coronation of God:** The day is traditionally recognized as a time to proclaim God as King, acknowledging His sovereignty and reign.
- **A "Remembrance" of Covenant:** It is a time to "remind" God of His promises and for Israel to recall their covenant with Him.
- **Prophetic Fulfilment (Return of Messiah):** Many Christians interpret the **Festival of Trumpets as the prophetic feast representing the future return of Jesus**, the resurrection of the dead, and the rapture of the church, as it is heralded by the "trumpet of God" (1 Thess 4:16-17).

# So, we see how his coming will be...

|            |                                             |
|------------|---------------------------------------------|
| PERSONAL   | the Lord himself will come down from heaven |
| POWERFUL   | with a loud command                         |
| PUBLIC     | with the voice of the archangel             |
| PEREMPTORY | with the trumpet call of God                |

(The presence, the power & the judgment of God)

**1 Thessalonians 4**

**WHERE** is he returning?

# WHERE is He returning? ... promise

<sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, (*eastern slopes of Mount of Olives*) he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God. **LUKE 24**

<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? **This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**” **ACTS 1**

**It is reasonable to infer that he returns to the same place.  
He left from the Mount of Olives. He returns to the Mount of Olives.**

# WHERE is He returning? ... prophecy

14 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. <sup>2</sup> For **I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle**, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. <sup>3</sup> Then **the LORD will go out and fight** against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. <sup>4</sup> **On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives** that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and **the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley**, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. ... **Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.** <sup>6</sup> On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. <sup>7</sup> And there shall be **a unique day**, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light. <sup>8</sup> **On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem**, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter. <sup>9</sup> And **the LORD will be king over all the earth**. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.

**Zechariah 14**

**It would appear that ...  
the Lord Jesus**

**comes** in the clouds.

**is visible** to all people.

**returns** to Jerusalem

**... specifically, the Mount of Olives.**

**Who is coming back?**

**How is He coming back?**

**Where is He coming back to?**



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**When** is He coming back?

**Why** is He coming back?

**What** happen when he comes back?

*Let's take*  
**A BREAK**

**Who is coming back?**

**How is He coming back?**

**Where is He coming back to?**



\*\*\*\*\*

**When** is He coming back?

**Why** is He coming back?

**What** happen when he comes back?

**WHEN** is he returning?

# WHEN is He coming back? ... AFTER

<sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

<sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

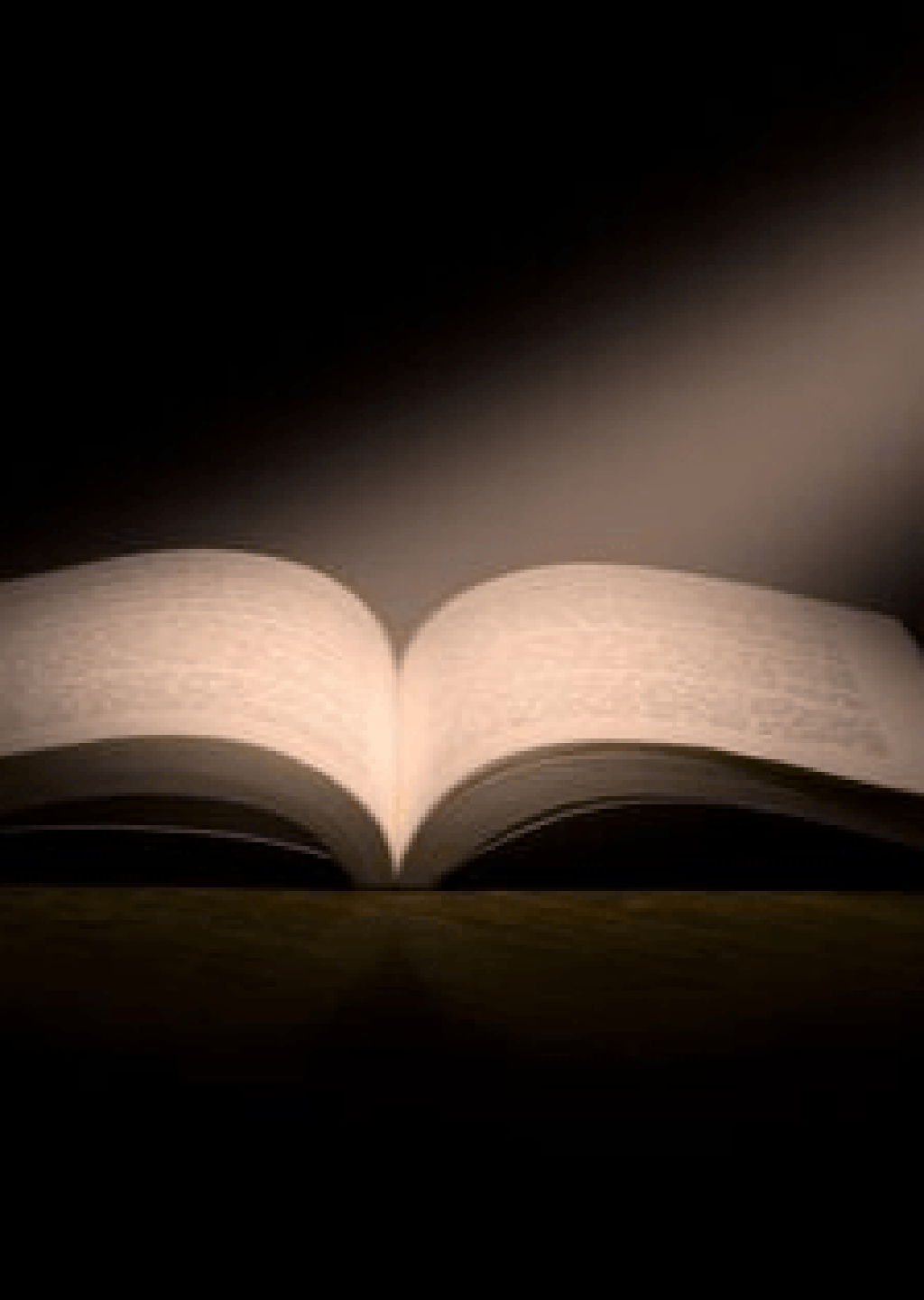
**AFTER SOME BELIEVERS HAVE DIED,  
WHILE OTHER BELIEVERS ARE STILL ALIVE.**

# WHEN is He coming back? ... NOT UNTIL?

2 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup> not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you in any way. For **that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,** <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

2 Thessalonians 2

**AFTER THE ANTICHRIST HAS BEEN REVEALED ???**



# Excursus

[ɪk'skə:səs,ɛk'skə:səs]

Derivation - Latin

Detailed discussion of a specific point  
in a book, a digression

# 2 Thessalonians 2

is a highly scrutinized text because it presents a major theological challenge to the **Pre-Tribulation Rapture** doctrine:

John Nelson Darby and the early Plymouth Brethren pioneered **Dispensationalism**, teaching that Jesus will secretly return to "rapture" the Church away before a seven-year period of global tribulation begins. Opponents of this view frequently use **2 Thessalonians 2** to argue against a secret rapture, forcing Brethren writers to construct highly complex, specific interpretations of this text to safeguard their theology.

## The Core Problem: The Order of Events

Critics use 2 Thessalonians 2:1–3 to argue that Christians *must* witness the arrival of the Antichrist. The text states:

*"Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him... That day will not come **until** the rebellion occurs and the man of **lawlessness is revealed**..."*

To a standard reader, this verse explicitly says the "gathering" (**Rapture**) cannot happen until **after the Antichrist is revealed**.

If true, the Brethren's core doctrine of an any-moment Pre-Tribulation Rapture falls apart.

## How the *Brethren (et alia)* reconcile 2 Thessalonians 2

To defend their theology, Brethren scholars like Darby and William Kelly developed several key textual defences:

- **Separating the "Day of the Lord" from the Rapture:** The Brethren emphasize that the phrase "That Day" in verse 3 refers strictly to the **Day of the Lord**—a distinct period of earthly judgment and wrath.

**They argue Paul is reassuring the Thessalonians that the *Tribulation* has not started yet, because the Antichrist hasn't appeared. They maintain the Rapture itself remains a separate, earlier event.**

- **The Identity of "The Restrainer":** In verses 6–7, Paul speaks of a restraining force holding back the Antichrist. The Brethren interpret this Restrainer as the **Holy Spirit indwelling the Church**.

**They argue Antichrist *cannot* be revealed 'til the Church is completely removed from the earth via the Rapture.**

- **The "Apostasia" Translation Argument:**

**Some Dispensational writers argue that the Greek word *apostasia* (commonly translated as "rebellion" or "falling away") should actually be translated as a physical "departure".**

- apo=away from; stasis=standing/position... standing away/departure from a previous position; military desertion.

**Under this highly specific reading, verse 3 would mean:**

***"That day will not come until the Departure [the Rapture] occurs first."***

**While the Brethren heavily utilize 2 Thessalonians 2 to map out their complex end-times timelines, it requires precise grammatical manoeuvring to keep the Church out of the Tribulation.**

# WHEN is he coming back? ... UNKNOWN

<sup>36</sup> “But **concerning that day and hour no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, **nor the Son** (\*), **but the Father only**. (\* not all MSS)

<sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

<sup>45</sup> “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? <sup>46</sup> Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing **when he comes**. <sup>47</sup> Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. <sup>48</sup> But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed’, <sup>49</sup> and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, <sup>50</sup> **the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him** and at **an hour he does not know** <sup>51</sup> and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**Matthew 24**

**AT AN UNEXPECTED HOUR**

# WHEN is he coming back? ... signs

<sup>3</sup> As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be **the sign of your coming** and of the close of the age?”

Matthew 24

# How many of these are prevalent today?

|                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| The political sign    | wars & rumours of wars            |
| The nature sign       | plagues and famines               |
| The social sign       | lawlessness, violence, immorality |
| The religious sign    | apostasy                          |
| The geological sign   | earthquakes                       |
| The intellectual sign | increased knowledge               |
| The demonic sign      | doctrines of demons               |
| The economic sign     | unstable riches                   |
| The Palestine sign    | the Israeli nation                |
| The Jerusalem sign    | Gentile domination ended          |
| The evangelistic sign | Missions and Mass Media           |

Certainties of  
Christ's Second Coming

J. Oswald Sanders

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

[Matthew 24:14](#)

# WHEN is he coming back?

Should we expect him at Tabernacles?

**Messiah is associated with & expected at Tabernacles**

*“And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain. If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain...”*

(Zechariah 14:16-18a)

**He was likely born at Tabernacles:**

**Jesus born 15 months after Z. (*Abijah*) serves at Temple**

## Why Scholars Suggest Tabernacles

- **"Tabernacling" Among Us:** The Gospel of John states, "*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us*" (John 1:14). The original Greek word for "dwelling" is *skēnoō*, which means to pitch a tent or tabernacle—the exact action performed during the Feast of Tabernacles.
- **Shepherds in the Field:** The presence of shepherds tending flocks outdoors at night (Luke 2:8) suggests a warmer season, as winter in Judea is typically too cold for flocks to remain in the pastures overnight.
- **The Census Timeline:** The Roman census (Luke 2:1-5) required people to travel to their ancestral homes. This was generally done after the harvest, making early autumn a practical and likely time for such travel.
- **The Priestly Schedule:** Based on the service schedule of the temple priests (the division of Abijah) during the time of John the Baptist's conception, some researchers calculate a likely birth date for Jesus during the Tishri festivals

**Many** Christians and theologians **believe that Jesus will return** during the Autumn Feasts, **specifically the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)**, as it is seen as a prophetic foreshadowing of His second coming. While the exact timing is unknown, **this feast symbolizes God dwelling with humanity and the establishment of His kingdom.**

### **Key Prophetic Connections:**

- **The Second Coming:** The Feast of Tabernacles is widely viewed as pointing to Jesus **returning to establish his millennial kingdom**, a time of peace and worship as described in **Zechariah 14:16**.
- **The Autumn Feasts:** Many interpret **the three Autumn feasts**—Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles—as representing **the final stages of redemption**, with Tabernacles representing the culmination of Christ's return.
- **Symbolism of Dwelling:** Just as God **"tabernacled" (dwelt)** among Israel in the wilderness, the Feast represents Jesus returning to **tabernacle (dwell)** with humanity.
- **Timing:** Some argue that, just as Jesus died on Passover (fulfilling the first spring feast), He will return on a Feast day, Tabernacles, (fulfilling the last autumn feast).

**HOWEVER, THE BIBLE ALSO STRESSES THAT "NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR" OF HIS RETURN, ENCOURAGING BELIEVERS TO BE PREPARED AT ALL TIMES.**

# The Three Great Jewish Feasts Filled Out

|             |                                                                                 |                    |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Passover    | Release from Egypt/Sin                                                          | Crucifixion/Easter |
| Pentecost   | Giving of the Law/Spirit<br>(cf. symbolism of 3000)                             | Pentecost          |
| Tabernacles | Final Harvest Feast/Atonement<br>(symbolism of harvest (Matthew 13) & dwelling) | Return?            |

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and *dwelt (tabernacled)* among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1**

**WHY** is he returning?

# WHY is he coming back?

Based on biblical texts and teaching, the key reasons for Jesus's return are:

- **To Fulfil Prophecy and His Promise**
- **To Judge the World and Restore Justice**
- **To Reward His Followers**
- **To End Evil and Suffering**
- **To Rule as King**
- **To Reunite with His People**

Let's look at one aspect of that

To rule: to reign over his kingdom  
alongside his people

# WHY is he coming back?

The rule of Christ and His kingdom represent the central theme of Christian theology, encompassing both **His present spiritual reign in the hearts of believers** and **the future, literal restoration of all creation**. It is characterized by **divine justice, peace**, and the ultimate **victory of God over sin**. The nature and timeline of this kingdom unfold in a few distinct ways:

- 1. Already, but Not Yet:** The kingdom is **currently a spiritual reality**. It broke into the world through Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Christians believe **Jesus reigns as King right now** over the Church and the lives of those who submit to His teachings.
- 2. The Millennial Reign:** Many Christian traditions interpret biblical prophecies (such as Revelation 20) to point toward **a future, visible 1,000-year reign of Christ on Earth**. During this time, creation will be restored, Satan will be bound, and peace will prevail.
- 3. The Eternal Kingdom:** Ultimately, the kingdom will be **fully established in the "new heavens and new earth"**. Evil, suffering, and death will be permanently eliminated, and **God's rule will be absolute for eternity**.
- 4. Nature of the Rule:** Unlike earthly kingdoms that rely on political force, **Christ's rule is based on truth, love, and grace**. Believers are called to participate in this kingdom now by living out its principles, which include humility, service, and seeking God's righteousness.

# **WHAT** happens next?

**The Tribulation ?**

**The Destruction of Antichrist ?**

**The Binding of Satan ?**

**The Millennium ?**

**Armageddon ?**

**New Heavens New Earth ?**

# WHAT happens next?

## The Tribulation ?

1. Will there be a Great Tribulation (Big Trouble)?
2. Do Christians go through any of it?
3. How long does it last?
4. Does it include a second chance of salvation for those who *miss* the rapture?

# **Three Main Views re the Tribulation:**

**Pre-Tribulation**

**Mid-Tribulation**

**Post-Tribulation**

# Pre-Tribulation

Standard teaching of the Brethren Movement  
& American Conservative Evangelicalism

It's based on Dispensationalism:

the idea that God confines Himself to working in certain ways during different dispensations (successive periods of time).

For example, Gifts of the Spirit no longer available/necessary after the full cannon of Scripture approved in 367 AD.

It was popularised in 19<sup>th</sup> century by J.N. Darby and through the work of his friend & colleague in the Scofield Reference Bible.

# Pre-tribulation order of events

## 1. *The rapture of the church.*

Christ comes in the clouds to “snatch away” all those who trust in Him ([1 Corinthians 15:52](#)). At this same time, the “dead in Christ” will be resurrected and taken to heaven, too. From this perspective, this is the next event in the eschatological timeline. The [rapture](#) is imminent; no other biblical prophecy needs to be fulfilled before the rapture happens.

## 2. *The rise of the Antichrist.*

After the church is taken out of the way ([2 Thessalonians 2:7–8](#)), a satanically empowered man will gain worldwide control with promises of peace ([Revelation 13:1](#); [Daniel 9:27](#)). He will be aided by another man, called the false prophet, who heads up a religious system that requires worship of the [Antichrist](#) ([Revelation 19:20](#)).

## 3. *The tribulation.*

A period of seven years in which God’s judgment is poured out on sinful humanity ([Revelation 6–16](#)). The Antichrist’s rise to power is associated with this time period. During the [tribulation](#) on earth, the Church will be in heaven. It is thought that at this time the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will occur in heaven ([2 Corinthians 5:10](#); [Revelation 19:6–10](#)).

# Pre-tribulation order of events

## 4. *The Battle of Gog and Magog.*

In the first part of the tribulation, a great [army from the north](#), in alliance with several other countries from the Middle East and Africa, **attacks Israel and is defeated by God's supernatural intervention** ([Ezekiel 38–39](#)). (Some commentators place this battle just before the start of the tribulation.)

## 5. *The abomination of desolation.*

At the midway point of the seven-year tribulation, the Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and shows his true colours. The Jews are scattered, and many of them turn to the Lord, realizing that Jesus is their Saviour. A great persecution breaks out against all those who believe in Christ. ([Daniel 12:11](#); [Mark 13:14](#); [Revelation 12:17](#)).

## 6. *The Battle of Armageddon.*

At the end of the tribulation, Jesus returns with the armies of heaven ([Mark 14:62](#)). He saves Jerusalem from annihilation and defeats the armies of the nations fighting under the banner of the Antichrist ([Revelation 19:11–21](#)). The Antichrist and the false prophet are captured and thrown alive into the lake of fire ([Revelation 19:20](#)).

# Pre-tribulation order of events

## 7. *The judgment of the nations.*

Christ will judge the survivors of the tribulation, separating the righteous from the wicked as “sheep” and “goats” ([Matthew 25:31–46](#)). (It is thought that at this time the Old Testament saints will be raised from the dead.) The righteous will enter the Millennial Kingdom; the wicked will be cast into hell.

## 8. *The binding of Satan.*

Satan will be bound and held in a bottomless pit for the next 1,000 years ([Revelation 20:1–3](#)).

## 9. *The Millennial Kingdom.*

Jesus Himself will rule the world, and Jerusalem will be the capital. This will be a 1,000-year period of peace and prosperity on earth ([Revelation 20](#); [Isaiah 60–62](#)). **Memorial sacrifices will be offered in a [rebuilt temple](#) in Jerusalem ([Ezekiel 40–48](#)).**

# Pre-tribulation order of events

## 10. *The last battle.*

At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan will be released from his prison for a short time. He will deceive the nations once again, and there will be a rebellion against the Lord that will be quickly defeated ([Revelation 20:7–10](#)). Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, never to reappear.

## 11. *The Great White Throne Judgment.*

All those in hell will be brought forth, and all the wicked from all eras of history will be resurrected to stand before God in a [final judgment](#) ([Revelation 20:11–15](#)). The verdicts are read, and all of sinful humanity is cast into the lake of fire.

## 12. *The new creation.*

God completely remakes the heavens and the earth. It is at this time that God wipes away all tears and there will be no more pain, death, or sorrow. The [New Jerusalem](#) descends from heaven, and the children of God will enjoy eternity with Him ([Revelation 21–22](#)).

# Do Christians go through any of it?

## The Man of Lawlessness

**2** Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup> not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you in any way. For **that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,** <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

**2 Thessalonians 2**

**Paul appears to say that we will at least be here when Antichrist is revealed.**

# Mid Tribulation Order of Events

Mid-tribulationism is an eschatological view that places the Rapture of the Church at the midpoint of the seven-year Tribulation period, rather than before (Pre-tribulation) or after (Post-tribulation). In this view, the church experiences the first 3.5 years of persecution but is removed before the "Great Tribulation" or the intensification of God's wrath.

The order of last things according to this perspective is:

1. [The First 3.5 Years \(The Beginning of Sorrows\)](#): The Antichrist rises to power, establishing a seven-year covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:27) and initiating a time of relative peace and prosperity, which later breaks down.
2. [The Two Witnesses and Increased Tribulation](#): The Two Witnesses prophesy for 1,260 days (3.5 years) during the first half of the tribulation.
3. [The Midpoint Transition \(The Abomination of Desolation\)](#): At the 3.5-year mark, the Antichrist breaks his covenant, stops the temple sacrifices, and commits the "abomination of desolation" (Matthew 24:15, Daniel 9:27) by declaring himself God.
4. [The Mid-Tribulation Rapture \(The Seventh Trumpet\)](#): Many mid-tribulationists align the rapture with the sounding of the "last trumpet" in 1 Corinthians 15:52, identifying it as the seventh trumpet in Revelation 11:15. This is when the saints are caught up.

# Mid Tribulation Order of Events

## **5. The Great Tribulation (The Second 3.5 Years):**

The second half of the 7-year period, where the Antichrist has power over the world (42 months, Rev 13:5), and God's wrath is poured out through the bowl judgments.

## **6. The Battle of Armageddon:**

At the end of the seven years, the Antichrist and his forces gather to fight against Christ at His return.

## **7. The Second Coming:**

Jesus returns with the previously raptured saints to defeat the Antichrist, setting up the 1,000-year Millennial Kingdom.

## **8. Judgment and Restoration:**

This includes the binding of Satan, the judgment of the nations, and the restoration of Israel.

# Post-Tribulation Viewpoint

The Post-Tribulation view holds that the Church endures the Tribulation, with the Rapture and Second Coming occurring simultaneously at its end.

Believers are caught up to meet Christ in the air and immediately escort Him to earth, defeating the Antichrist and establishing the 1,000-year Millennial Kingdom.

- **The Tribulation:** A period of intense suffering and divine wrath, where the church is present on earth but protected from God's wrath.
- **The Second Coming/Rapture:** Immediately after the Tribulation, Christ appears in the clouds, the "last trumpet" sounds, and believers are resurrected/raptured to meet Him.
- **The Battle of Armageddon:** Christ returns with His saints to defeat the Antichrist and his armies.
- **Judgment of Nations:** Christ judges survivors of the Tribulation.
- **Binding of Satan:** Satan is imprisoned for 1,000 years.
- **The Millennial Kingdom:** Christ reigns on earth for 1,000 years.
- **Final Rebellion and Judgment:** Satan is released, defeated, and cast into the lake of fire, followed by the Great White Throne Judgment.
- **New Heaven and New Earth:** The establishment of the eternal state.

This perspective argues that the Rapture is not a separate, secret event occurring before the tribulation, but the moment the church meets the returning King.

# SO... either we ...

- **PRE-TRIBULATION**

Escape the whole 7-year period of Antichrist & Tribulation of the Jews

- **MID-TRIBULATION**

Escape after 3.5 years of Antichrist rule before he persecutes the Jews

- **POST-TRIBULATION**

Go through the whole Tribulation period before the Rapture

WHICH WOULD  
YOU CHOOSE?

# **WHAT** happens next?

The Tribulation ?

**The Destruction of Antichrist ?**

The Binding of Satan ?

The Millennium ?

Armageddon ?

New Heavens New Earth ?

# Who is Antichrist?

someone who seeks to replace Jesus and defies God

The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw **a beast coming out of the sea**. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. <sup>2</sup> The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. <sup>3</sup> **One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed**. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. <sup>4</sup> People worshipped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and **they also worshipped the beast** and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?” <sup>5</sup> The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. <sup>7</sup> **It was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them**. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. <sup>8</sup> **All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast**—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. **REVELATION 13**

**THE DRAGON IS CLEARLY SATAN.**

**THE SEA IS A PICTURE OF *THE NATIONS* - ANTICHRIST WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE A GENTILE.**

# Who is the False Prophet?

someone who promotes the worship of Antichrist

**The Beast out of the Earth**

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw **a second beast, coming out of the earth.** It had **two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon.** <sup>12</sup> It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, **and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.** <sup>13</sup> And **it performed great signs,** even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. <sup>14</sup> Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, **it deceived the inhabitants of the earth.** It ordered them to set up an image in honour of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. <sup>15</sup> The second beast was **given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.** <sup>16</sup> It also forced all **people,** great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, **to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads,** <sup>17</sup> so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is **the name of the beast or the number of its name.** <sup>18</sup> This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. **That number is 666.**

**THE EARTH OR LAND** IN HEBREW IS HA ERETZ ... THE LAND OF ISRAEL. **WILL THE FALSE PROPHET BE A JEW?**

THE MOSLEMS AWAIT A MAHDI - A MESSIANIC FIGURE AND A DESCENDANT OF MUHAMMAD.

**WILL THE FALSE PROPHET BE A MOSLEM?**

# THE SATANIC TRINITY



"THE DRAGON"  
THE "ANTI-GOD"  
REV. 12:7-17



"THE BEAST"  
THE "ANTI-CHRIST"  
REV. 13:1-10

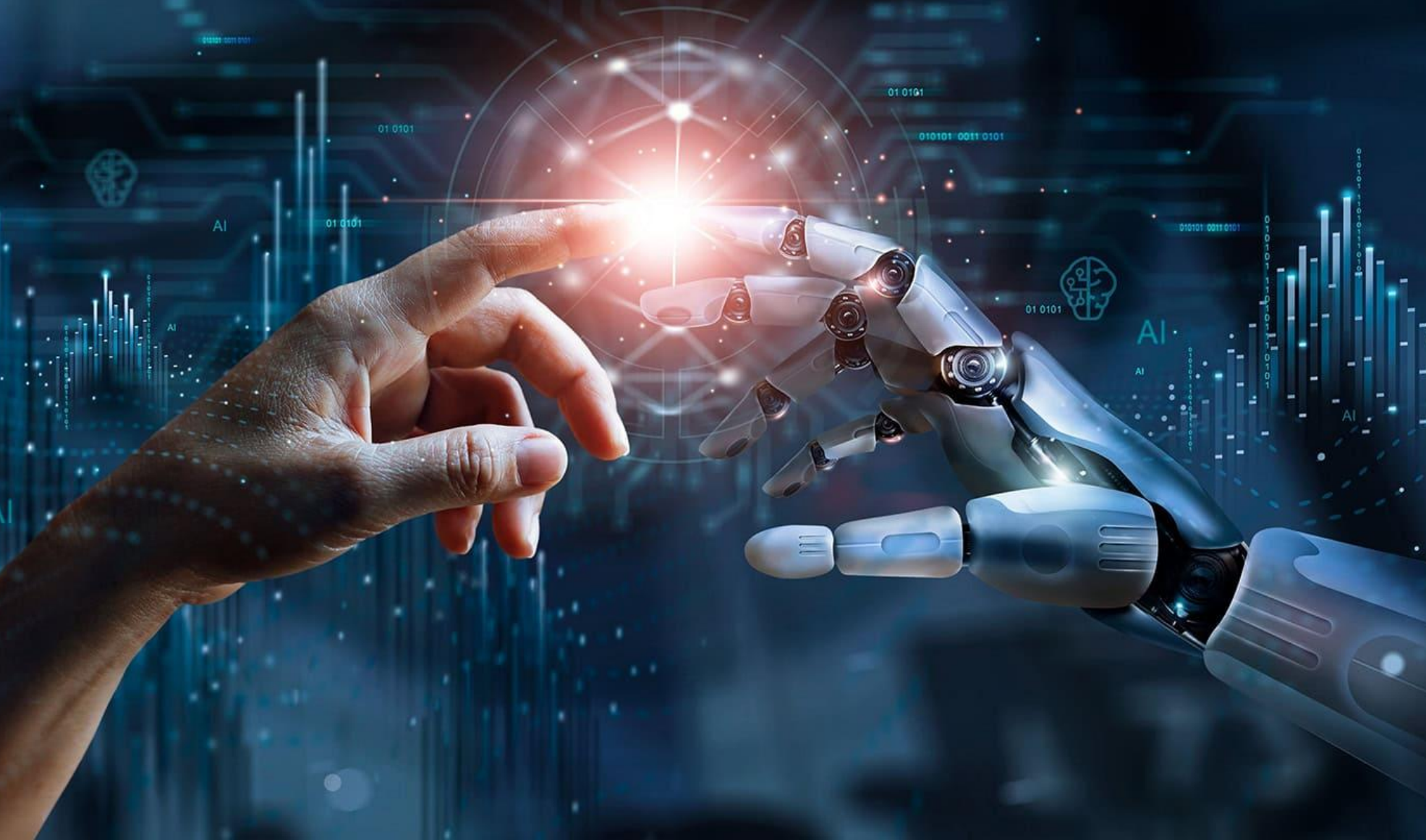


"THE FALSE PROPHET"  
THE "ANTI-SPIRIT"  
REV. 13:11-17

## An unholy trinity:

- SATAN  
GOD the Father
- ANTICHRIST  
GOD the Son
- FALSE PROPHET  
GOD the Holy Spirit

# Is AI the Antichrist?



# AI SNAKE OIL

What Artificial Intelligence  
Can Do, What It Can't,  
and How to Tell the Difference

ARVIND NARAYANAN  
& SAYASH KAPOOR

## AI AND THE ANTICHRIST

Power, Prophecy & the Rise of Technology

Pluto Return - 24-USA

Uranus Return - 2027

Saturn • Neptune -  
Pluto • Uranus

2026



**Vogue's August  
Issue Includes AI-  
Generated Model**

# **WHAT** happens next?

The Tribulation ?

The Destruction of Antichrist ?

The Binding of Satan ?

**The Millennium ?**

Armageddon ?

New Heavens New Earth ?

# WHAT happens next?

## The Millennium ?

1. Will there be a Millennium (1000-year reign)?
2. Is it literal or figurative?
3. Is it, rather, a picture of the Church through the ages?
4. If literal, are we here for it?
5. What part do the Jews play in it?
6. Does it include a second chance of salvation for those who *miss* the rapture?

# Three Views of the Millennium

Christ returns before  
the Millennium.



Premillennialism

Christ returns after  
the Millennium.



Postmillennialism

'The Millennium' is the  
entire gospel age.



Amillennialism

# Will there be a Millennial Kingdom?

## The thousand years

**20** And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. <sup>2</sup> He seized the dragon, that ancient snake, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. <sup>3</sup> He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations any more until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

<sup>4</sup> I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.



## The Defeat of Satan and Judgment before the Great White Throne

<sup>7</sup> When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth – Gog and Magog – and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. <sup>9</sup> They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup> Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. <sup>15</sup> Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.



# What have we learnt?

Jesus is coming back again to reign.  
We will be forever with the Lord.

There will be a judgment of the nations.  
Satan will be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

# Characteristics of the Return:

## **Visible & Public:**

Unlike his humble first coming, the second coming will be an event visible to all.

## **Sudden & Unexpected:**

Often compared to a thief in the night or lightning, emphasizing the need for alertness.

## **With Power and Glory:**

Jesus is described as returning as a King to judge and reign.

## **Judgment and Restoration:**

The return will involve the judgment of the world and the final establishment of God's kingdom.

# What sort of people ought we to be?

## Ready to receive him:

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,  
<sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions,  
and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,  
<sup>13</sup> **waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of  
our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ,**  
<sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify  
for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

**Titus 2:12-14**

**Who** is coming back? ... **this same Jesus**

**How** is He coming back? ... **on the clouds**

**Where** is He coming back to? ... **Jerusalem**

**When** is He coming back? ... **Unknown but**

**Why** is He coming back? ... **to reign et alia**

**What** happen when he comes back?

... all sorts of things 😊



1 Thessalonians 4: 12-18

# The Return of the King