

1 The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ

2 Introduction

- No generation has more reasons to believe that they are the last generation before the coming of Christ than the one we live in today.
- With this in mind, I'm not advocating we sell our possessions and run for the hills.
- Nor am I wanting to make everyone so anxious that we put our heads in the sand and not do anything to make their light shine.

3 Introduction

- What I'm wanting to do is encourage everyone . . .
 - To become a student of Bible prophecy.
 - To pay attention to what is going on in the world—especially the Middle East.
 - Understand that no matter what happens, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

4 Theological Position

- To help everyone comprehend what I'm about to share tonight, I first want to outline my position and understanding on End-time events.
 - I'm a premillennialist and understand that according to the scriptures, Jesus will return before the Millennium—a 1,000 year period of peace and prosperity.
 - I believe the armies of the Antichrist will belong to a 10 Nation Confederation that will be Islamic, which will be defeated at the battle of Armageddon by the Second Coming of Christ.
 - While I believe the influence of the Antichrist will be global, his absolute control and power will be limited to the Middle East. He will use his position and power to persecute many Jews and Christians who live in that region of the world.

5 Further research

6 Major Events

- Tonight I want to emphasize a couple of events that are important for us in understanding the Second Coming of Christ and how it relates to the book of Revelation and Salvation History.
 - The first event is the Sign of the Son of Man who will come in the clouds with great glory.

- The second is a Cosmic Event that will be created by a huge earthquake, that will cause the Sun to be darkened, the Moon to turn red, and the stars fall from the sky. It will, be an event so horrific that 1/3 of all living creatures will die.

7 Book of Revelation

8 Coming with the Clouds

- Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. (Revelation 1:7–8 NIV)
- Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” (Jude 1:14–15 NIV)
- Look! He advances like the clouds, his chariots come like a whirlwind, his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us! We are ruined! (Jeremiah 4:13 NIV)

9 He is Coming

- “See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. (Malachi 3:1–2 NIV)
- “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. (Matthew 24:30 NIV)
 - When will the sign of the Son of Man appear? (See Matthew 24:29)
- Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. (Luke 21:26–27 NIV)
- “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” (Matthew 26:64 NIV)

10 He is Coming

- God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

(2 Thessalonians 1:6–8 NIV)

- Question

- How will Jesus destroy the Antichrist (lawless)?
- And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. (2 Thessalonians 2:8 NIV)

11 Summary

- To summarize the sign of the Son of Man . . .
- Jesus will return in the sky with a cloud of angels.
- It will occur immediately after the distress of those days (Seal 5 of Revelation, Matthew 24:29), and
- May be concurrent with the Cosmic Events, with the Sun darkening, Moon turning red, and the stars falling from the sky.

12 Sun, Moon, Stars

- Isaiah

- See, the day of the LORD is coming — a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger — to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. (Isaiah 13:9–10 NIV)
- Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the LORD Almighty, in the day of his burning anger. (Isaiah 13:13 NIV)

13 Sun, Moon, Stars

- Ezekiel

- When I snuff you (Egypt) out, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light. All the shining lights in the heavens I will darken over you; I will bring darkness over your land, declares the Sovereign LORD. (Ezekiel 32:7–8 NIV)

14 Sun, Moon, Stars

- Joel

- Before them the earth shakes, the sky trembles, the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars no longer shine. (Joel 2:10 NIV)

- The LORD thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty are those who obey his command. The day of the LORD is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it? (Joel 2:11 NIV)
- Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. (Joel 3:14–16 NIV)

15 Sun, Moon, Stars

•Jesus

- “Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ (Matthew 24:29 NIV)
- “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21:25–28 NIV)

16 Sun, Moon, Stars

•Revelation

- I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. (Revelation 6:12–14 NIV)
- Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?” (Revelation 6:15–17 NIV)

17 Headlines

18 Armageddon the Movie

- How many remember the science fiction disaster drama movie, Armageddon?
- While not critically acclaimed, it was an international box-office success and was the highest-grossing film of 1998.
- The basic plot of the movie was to save the earth from a giant asteroid heading to destroy the earth.
- They accomplish this by sending up deep-sea oil drillers quickly trained as astronauts in a Space Shuttle to plant a nuclear weapon on the asteroid and blow it up.
- Everyone is happy, except the asteroid and everyone who just paid \$7 to watch the movie.

19 Deep Impact

- Deep Impact was another science fiction disaster film about an asteroid hitting the earth.
- In this movie, a teenage amateur astronomer discovers an unusual object near the stars Mizar and Alcor at a star party in Richmond, Virginia.
- It turns out to be a comet, but this time nothing man does stops the comet. In fact, it breaks in two.
- One part of the comet crashes into the Atlantic Ocean and creates a megatsunami, while the other half hits western Canada and creates a cloud of dust that blocks most of the sun for two years.
- Those who survive do so by hiding in the limestone caves of the Ozark's.

20 Dinosaur Extinction

- One of the most popular theories on how the dinosaurs became extinct is the Asteroid Theory.
- According to this theory a large asteroid or comet collided with Earth about 65 million years ago.
- Scientists think that such a large collision would throw so much dust into the air that sunlight would not be able to shine and plants and animals would die.
- The dramatic changes in climate that resulted from this huge collision were too much for the dinosaurs and they were not able to survive.

21 Asteroid Collision

- If a large asteroid could hit the earth and kick up so much dirt and debris to obscure the sun, where all the dinosaurs die as a result, what would happen if a smaller asteroid would hit the earth?
- Would the sun only be partially obscured? Would we still be able to see the moon? What about the stars?

22 Asteroid Collision

- When the moon rises at sunset and sunrise, it appears reddish because the reflective sunlight has to pass through more of the atmosphere.
- The same thing happens when large volumes of dust and smoke are thrown up into the sky when a volcano erupts.
- The atmosphere is more dense and “bluer” photons become scattered and “redder” photons (those with longer wavelengths) are able to pass to our vision.
- So when you see a “Red Moon” and its not at sunrise or sunset, it either means a volcano has erupted, so something similar.

23 The Golden Censer

- Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne.
- The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand.
- Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake. (Rev 8:3–5 NIV)

24 Book of Revelation

25 The Golden Censer

- Context of the Golden Censer. (Rev. 8ff.)
 - Occurs at the beginning of the opening of the Seventh Seal, after a silence for about half an hour.
 - After the Golden Censer is thrown at the earth by the angel.
 - The seven angels with the seven trumpets prepare to sound them.

26 Comparison of Trumpets & Bowls

27 Trumpets and Bowls

28 Censer/Meteor Impact

29 Rapture

- “Immediately after the distress of those days (Seal 5) “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.” (Seal 6) (Matthew 24:29 NIV)
- “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. 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 24:30–31 NIV)

- So when does the rapture of the saints occur? It happens right after the “Great Persecution” and either right before or simultaneously of Wormwood smashing into the earth, which will start “The Day of the Lord.”

30 Daniel’s 70 Weeks

31 Middle East Empires

- According to the prophet Daniel, the last empire in the Middle East will be a 10 nation confederation.
- While it will be politically divided, it will be a major and powerful force to contend with.
- According to the book of Revelation, a “little horn” will arise out of this confederation who will subdue three of the other nations and take control of the empire.
- Breaking a peace treaty with Israel, he will promote himself to be god and unleash a war of annihilation against the Jews.

32 Middle East Empires

33 Arab Spring/Winter

- If out of this present chaos in the Middle East,
 - we start seeing a popular call for the restoration of an Islamic Caliphate,
 - and/or the formation of an Islamic confederation,
 - we may in a few years find ourselves in some very stormy weather.

34 New President in Egypt

- In a recent state election in Egypt, Dr. Mohamed Morsy was named the fifth and current President of Egypt by taking 51.7% of the vote.
- Dr. Morsy was a leading figure in the Muslim Brotherhood and was the chairman of its political party called the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP).
- The Muslim Brotherhood’s credo is . . .
 - Allah is our objective.
 - The Quran is our law.
 - The Prophet is our Leader.
 - Jihad is our way.
 - Death for the sake of Allah is the highest of our aspirations.
- It is the goal of the Muslim Brotherhood to reinstate the Caliphate (Muslim Empire) in the region and make Jerusalem its capital.

35 Historical Events

- In the past 100 years we have seen some very remarkable things in the Middle East.
 - The old Ottoman Empire (1299–1922) fell after WW1 and the Caliphate was annulled in 1925 by the Turks.
 - In 1928, the Muslim Brotherhood was formed and has for its main purpose to reorganize the muslim countries under a new Caliphate.
 - In 1948, Israel became a nation again and in 1967 Israel captured Jerusalem and made it her capital.
 - In late 2010, the secular governments of Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen started to fall to elements of the Muslim Brotherhood.
 - In 2012, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood was elected President of Egypt and on 9/11/2012 major protest broke out all over the Middle East condemning America for a bad movie and killed one of our ambassadors.
 - Waving “Black Flags,” many muslims urged for the creation of the Caliphate and death to all who insulted Islam.

36 My Point

- It seems to me that the war drums are beating in the Middle East where a reinstated Muslim Empire is seeking to position itself to destroy Israel.
- However, while they may get close, God will rise up and destroy them.
- This is the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. On that day men will be stricken by the LORD with great panic. Each man will seize the hand of another, and they will attack each other. (Zech 14:12–13 NIV)
- Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. (Zech 14:16 NIV)

37 Watch & Pray

- As we get closer to the Day of the Lord, great stress will come on the earth.
- In fact, Jesus tells his disciples, “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.” (Luke 21:34 NIV)
- Then Jesus commands them, “Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:36 NIV)

- So why should we watch and pray? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. (Mark 14:38 NIV)

38 Last Day Encouragement

- Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. (Heb 10:23 NIV)
- And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Heb 10:24 NIV)
- Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb 10:25 NIV)
- Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. (Matt 24:12–13 NIV)
- However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth? (Luke 18:8 NIV)

39 Conclusion

- With all these kinds of events going on in our world today, what should we do?
- Prepare . . .
 - Put your hope in things above (Col. 3:1–2). [Lay up for yourselves, “Treasure in heaven.”]
 - Put on the full armor of God (Eph. 6:10–18). [So that when that Day of evil comes you will be able to stand.]
 - Build your house on the rock (Mat. 7:24–25). [Don’t be a hearer only put God’s word into action.]
 - The Battle is the Lord’s (1 Thes. 4:16). [For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout.]
 - There is a New Age to come! Blessed and holy are those . . . they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. (Rev 20:6 NIV)

40 Our Exhortation

- “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” (Rev 22:12–13 NIV)
- “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.” (Rev 22:14 NIV)

- Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. (1 John 3:3 NIV)