

The Development of the World at the End of This Age

- I. The conditions in the world as the end of this age draws near:**
 - A. Wars, famines and natural disasters will increase—Matt. 24:7-8.
 - B. Lawlessness will be multiplied—v. 12.
 - C. People will abuse eating, drinking and marriage according to the lusts of their flesh—Luke 17:26-27.
 - D. The whole earth will be corrupt and filled with violence as it also was in the days of Noah—Gen. 6:11-12.
 - E. Commerce and business will be increasing—Luke 17:28-30.
 - F. People will travel and knowledge will increase more than ever before—Dan. 12:4.
 - G. The times will be difficult because of so many living according to their flesh—2 Tim. 3:1-5a.
- II. The kingdoms of the world are like wild beasts that fight, devour and destroy—Dan. 7:3-7, 23.**
- III. The end of this age is a period of 7 years—Dan. 9:24-27.**
 - A. This period starts when a prince makes a seven-year peace treaty with the nation of Israel—v. 27.
 - B. After three and a half years he will break the treaty and invade Israel.
- IV. The period of the last three and a half years of this age is the great tribulation. During this time tribulation will come from 3 directions. It will be so intense that if it lasted longer no one on earth would survive—Mark 13:19-20.**
 - A. God will judge the earth with supernatural calamities:
 1. The sixth seal and the first four trumpets are the announcement that the great tribulation is about to begin—Rev. 6 & 8.
 2. The last three trumpets with the seven bowls are the pouring out of God's wrath on the evil and rebelliousness of mankind—Rev. 9 & 10, 15 & 16.
 - B. Satan will have great rage, especially against the people who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus—Rev. 12:13, 17.
 - C. Antichrist, the man of lawlessness, the son of perdition, will try to force people to receive his mark and worship him—2 Thes. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:15-17.
 1. His kingdom will be mainly in Europe, the western part of the Greek empire—Dan. 8:9.
 2. He will blaspheme God and exalt himself above every God—Rev. 13:6.
 3. He will destroy in an extraordinary manner—Dan. 8:24-25.
- V. The great tribulation will end with the battle at Armageddon.**
 - A. Unclean spirits will stir up the armies of the earth to invade Israel—Rev. 16:14.
 - B. Besides Antichrist with his armies, there will also be armies from east and north—Dan. 11:44.
 1. The army from the east will be two hundred million horsemen, this must be from China—Rev. 9:16.
 2. The army from the north will no doubt be from Russia.
 3. Antichrist's army will be from Europe and north Africa, the area of the revived Roman empire.
 - C. When all these armies converge in the land of Israel, the Bible likens this to them coming into the winepress—Rev. 14:19; 19:15; Isa. 63:2-3; Joel 3:13.

1. Then the Lord will appear and “tread the winepress”, destroying all those armies.
2. The river of their blood will be almost 300 kilometers long—Rev. 14:20.

VI. After that, the Lord will set up His throne to judge the people who remain on the earth—Matt. 25:31-46:

- A. The believers will have been raptured to the air before then to be judged at the judgement seat of Christ—2 Cor. 5:10.
- B. The judgement of the living unbelievers will be according to how they treated God’s suffering people during the great tribulation.
 1. Those who helped God’s people will be the sheep and will remain on the earth during Christ’s reign.
 2. Those who did not help God’s people will be the goats and cast into the lake of fire.
- C. Thus all the earth will be cleared up for Christ to reign on earth with His overcomers for a thousand years—Rev. 20:4.

VII. After the thousand years are completed, all the dead unbelievers will be resurrected to be judged at the great white throne—Rev. 20:12.

VIII. We should not lose heart due to all the lawlessness, injustice and chaos on the earth.

- A. God is on the throne; He will clear up every negative thing in the universe.
- B. The situation of the world is the right setting for Him to finish what He has planned for this age.