

Intro to End Times

Note: I did not try to identify real public figures that fulfill these roles...so much speculation is out there about who the anti-Christ is, whether it's the pope or someone who arises out of the United Nations or European Union. I did not try to identify the Harlot Babylon. Again, so much speculation, & these entities have not been revealed yet. No one really knows, & no one is expected to know. God has revealed to us key events to watch out for, & has described these entities by the spirits at work in them, & that's most important. God wants us to use SPIRITUAL discernment (vs. what's the identity of the anti-Christ) in the end times so we won't be deceived. So whatever we see displaying these spiritual perversions...we know we must guard against it. We must be grounded in our faith no matter what, even if it means being persecuted. Tips: The book of Daniel chapter 2 & 7 to 12 is effective for getting a general idea of timing. The statue of different metals refers to how many kingdoms rise & fall before the Kingdom of God is established.

End-Time- Related Scriptures: Daniel, Zechariah, Isaiah, Matthew 24: 1-51, Matthew 13: 24-30 & 36-43, 1 Thessalonians, entire book of Revelation (the last book in the Bible).

Terms & Concepts:

Mystery Babylon, The Great Harlot: (Revelations 17: 3-8) The civilization and end-time spiritual entity thriving off of & driving the beast, or anti-Christ. It is characterized by an arrogant, rebellious, unfaithful, sensual, and manipulative spirit. She's a mystery because her sins, filth, perversions, blood-thirst & disdain for God's Truth are hidden by her false virtue, glamour, appeal, prosperity, and luxury. She entices world leaders to buy into her and uses them like pawns for her own agenda. Previous types in the Bible: Potiphar's wife (in the Genesis story of Joseph), Jezebel (the corrupt Canaanite queen of Israel in 1st Kings), and Herodias (Herod's wife in the Gospels, who had John the Baptist killed). This spirit is busy & active in our world today. Women were often used to symbolize a church or spiritual entity. Beasts represent kingdoms, or political systems.

Labor Pains: Turbulence & instability are the signs of the Times displayed in nature, society, & global politics, intensifying up to the birth of the Kingdom. (Matt 24: 4-14, 2 Timothy 3:1-5)

The Great Tribulation: An intense period of strife when a world war is born out of the Euphrates River (flowing through Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait), killing a third of humankind, and believers are later severely persecuted by the corrupt, lawless world government that emerges out of this war. Period when the anti-Christ has full reign on the earth. The Gospel will be preached with a price...some believers will pay the ultimate price for the Gospel in martyrdom.

The Beast: A.K.A. "The anti-Christ" / "The Dragon" / "Man of Sin" / "Son of Perdition". (2 Thess. 2: 3-4, Revelation 13, Daniel 7:19-25, Daniel 8: 23-25, Daniel 9:27, Daniel 11) A counterfeit of Christ, but just as Yeshua was the physical embodiment of God on earth, the anti-Christ will become the physical embodiment of satan on earth. He will be a genius in worldly wisdom & intrigue, with military might. He'll cause mass deception, duping nearly all the earth into believing he is the way out of hardship. The kings of the earth will give their authority to him and he will be the head of a one world government.

He will be lawless, exalting himself above things of God & will claim to be God. He will have a hatred of God's covenant people, and will command that all worship him. The Beast will be recognizable (identity will be revealed) about half-way through the Tribulation period. The "mark of the beast" on the forehead or hand will be required to buy or sell in the system.

Mark of the Beast: "666" is the mark of the beast. In the end times, those who have not been sealed by the angel of the Lord for salvation will be deceived into taking the mark of the beast on their forehead and hand, & will have basically signed up to catch God's judgment. (Revelation 7:1-3). There's debate about what this mark will be ... some say a micro-chip embedded in the skin. Others say the mark is spiritual...in that it's the spiritual mark of being against Christ in your thinking (forehead) and actions (hand). Only time will tell. Knowing the difference between the meanings of 6 & 7 is key in defending ourselves against the influence of the beast world system, which is marked by "666" according to Revelation 13:18. In 6 Days, God created the world. The 6th day is when land beasts and man were created, & on the 7th, God rested and blessed that day [Genesis 1-2:3]. Six (6) represents all that withers away: the Era of man, flesh & blood, a limited life based on physical senses, a life that makes us no different than the rest of the created 'beasts' of nature. Seven (7) is the perfection or everlasting "shalom" (fullness, wholeness) of God. Those who live according to '6' live as beasts...to be born, to live life ruled by survival & pleasure-seeking, and finally, to die & return to dust. In a time of turmoil & intense hardship, these people will be easily deceived & led to destruction by the anti-Christ, b/c he presents to them a limited human solution that appeals to their flesh. He's "Mr. Right Now". Those who live according to '7' aim to live a life that pleases God...it's a life of confident trust and rest in God, which allows them to wait patiently to the end for His complete & FINAL solution, no matter what the cost.

The Harvest: The culmination of all things...everyone who could ever come to salvation (Wheat) will take the Gospel to heart & be saved. Yeshua (Jesus) will separate them from those who practice wickedness & rebellion (Straw). Matthew 13: 24-30 & 36-43

The Glorious Return ("The 2nd Coming"). The return of Yeshua, Jesus, at the darkest hour when God's people appear defeated. "They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and glory" (Matthew 24:30). Though He was the sacrificial Lamb (Suffering Servant), He will return as the Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, King of Kings, Commander of Heaven's Armies, to gather His faithful ones from the 4 winds of the earth (the 'catching away' of the 'bride').

Catching Away (AKA "The Rapture"): The deceased faithful will arise in new immortal bodies, and the living faithful will be transformed into immortal bodies and join the Lord Yeshua (Jesus) in the heavens for the Marriage Supper. Occurs after the Great Tribulation (1 Corinthians 15:51-52) (1 Thess 4: 15-17)

The Bride (Barley Bride): A.K.A: "The Elect". The Pure, Humble & Faithful Believers who are a group among those who simply call themselves believers. They are the true Believers who have washed off the corruption of worldliness and are transformed &

‘caught away’ with the Lord in Heaven before God’s wrath is unleashed on the earth.
(Psalm 45, Revelation 19:7-9)

The Great & Terrible Day of the Lord (Day of YHWH): The Wrath of God. Judgment Day. This is when man is judged and the era of man & humanism comes to an end. God will topple everything that is of “the pride of man” (including lofty buildings & civilizations, economy, corporations, false religions, the lawless). When Yeshua returns, and gather’s His Bride, He will wipe evil off the face of the earth. The destruction of the anti-Christ and false prophet finally occurs. It will be clear that it’s God’s divine, supernatural judgment because it will come from heaven (like, lightning & fire raining down from heaven) and will NOT be disaster caused by human evil & corruption. (Zephaniah 1:14-18, Joel 2:28-32).

End of the Age: Also refers to the final end or judgment of the nations & the restoring of the Kingdom to Israel (the one new body of believers made of believing Jews, and non-Jews who have been grafted into Israel through faith in Jesus). Jesus (Yeshua) will rule from the throne of David in Jerusalem. (Matthew 21:43) (Acts 1:6-7)

Millennial Reign: The period of 1000 years after wickedness is wiped away, when Christ’s throne is established on the Earth, & He will physically be among us again, reigning as King. Marked by perfection, like the Garden of Eden before the fall of man. It’s the 7th era, the period of rest.

Signs of the End Times “Labor Pains” leading up to Yeshua’s Return:

Physical Signs of the Times

- Earthquakes in diverse places with higher rate of occurrence.
- Natural Disasters
- Famine
- Pestilence

Socio-political Signs

- Wars & Rumors of Wars (Matt. 24:6)
- Increased Lawlessness, Decreased Compassion (Matt.24:12)
- Materialism, profane speech, disrespect to parents, insubordinace, humanist outlook, arrogance, perversion of God’s gift of sex (lust, perversions) ungratefulnesss, recklessness rule the age, (2 Timothy 3: 1-5)
- Society overrun with cults, false saviors, people being misled by people w/ God complex. (Matt. 24: 4-5)
- Outpouring of God’s Spirit on His people (Joel 2:28-32)