

## **What Must Take Place After This!** (A Vision of the Lamb in Heaven)

**Text:** Revelation 5

**Main Idea:** Jesus is the only one worthy to take back the earth and overturn the curse!

### **1. What is the seven-sealed \_\_\_scroll\_\_\_\_\_ in God the Father's hand? (v. 1)**

- 3 characteristics: 1) In the right hand of God (prominence), 2) written on both sides (comprehensive), 3) closed with 7 seals (sequential decrees).
- It is the \_\_\_**will**\_\_\_\_\_ & testament that God the Father is giving to Jesus Christ, with particulars on how Jesus is going to rightfully regain the earth & set up His Kingdom on the earth. (Ps 2:8-9, Ez 2:9-10)
- It contains the secret and is the key which opens the entire book of revelation & determines the \_\_\_**judgments**\_\_\_\_\_ of the Tribulation.

### **2. Why was there so much \_\_\_drama\_\_\_ surrounding this scroll? (v. 2-4)**

- The strong angel with a loud voice is unidentified but is most likely \_\_\_**Gabriel**\_\_\_\_. (Daniel 8-10)
- The pronouncement was given to highlight the insufficiency of every being in the universe including angels, humans, & the to highlight the \_\_\_**supremacy**\_\_\_\_ of Christ! (v. 3)
- John \_\_\_**weeps**\_\_\_ to show the significance of the scroll. (4)

### **3. Who is the only \_\_\_worthy\_\_\_ one to open the scroll? (5-7)**

- The elders knew who was worthy because they had already been redeemed by Jesus.
- Only Jesus was worthy because of who He is: Lion of Judah (Gen 49:8-10, Heb 7:14), the Root of David (Is 11:1, 10, Jer 23:5-6), the overcomer of sin, death & the forces of hell! (Rom 8:3, Heb 2:14-15, Col 2:15)
- Jesus is a Lion, the all-conquering Davidic King but first He is a \_\_\_**Lamb**\_\_\_\_\_ who takes away the sin of the world. (Jn 1:29)
  - 1) Victory over death: He was standing alive as if He had been slain.
  - 2) Perfect (7) Power & Strength: He had seven horns.

3) Perfect (7) Knowledge: He had seven eyes.

4) The taking of the scroll by Jesus is the signal the **\_\_end\_\_** of age, and the ultimate goal of redemption for Christ to take back what is rightfully His! (Dan 7:13-14)

4. **\_\_Who\_\_ worships the worthy Lamb?** (v. 8-14)

- The living creatures & the **\_24 elders\_** worship Jesus. (8-10)
- Innumerable **\_angels\_** also worship the Lamb. (v. 11-12)
- All of **\_\_creation\_\_** worships the Lamb. (v. 13-14)

the  
**REVELATION**  
of JESUS CHRIST

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Session 12 - Revelation 5

(5:1) **“I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.”**

John continues reminding us that his recording of Revelation was based on a very tangible event in which he was present. Here the use of “I saw” is yet another reminder of his eyewitness account. Chapter 4 introduced us to the throne room of heaven and all of the power, majesty and authority that it represented. God’s sovereignty is supreme and fixed in the midst of all that is about to be unleashed on the earth. The right hand is always symbolic of total authority and the throne is the Father’s throne.

### What is the “book”

The word “biblion” or book does not refer to a codex (a book made up of bound cut pages), but instead would be a scroll. Scrolls were long pieces of continuous substrate that were either a papyrus or animal skin. These scrolls were only smooth on one side and therefore writing was only done on the one side. It was common Roman practice to “seal up” agreements or contracts in this way. The full agreement was written on the inside and a very brief description on the outside as it was sealed seven times. The similar Hebrew contract of this type was more specifically a ***title deed***; a portion of the contract would be written down, folded over, sealed and then signed by a witness at each seal.

The prophet Jeremiah was instructed by God to purchase land from Hanamel at Anathoth just outside of Jerusalem (Jer 32). To all it would seem obvious that this was futile as the Babylonians had already begun to sweep in. It was God’s way, however of guaranteeing Jeremiah of the future return of Israel to the land. The scroll involved in this transaction would be the same kind of scroll in mind here.

This scroll is the title deed to the earth and only God has the authority to release the scroll to the rightful owner. Future chapters will reveal that each seal unleashes a “stage” of judgement that the whole earth will go through leading up to the time of the complete unveiling of the title deed. Ezekiel also gazed upon this scroll in his vision of heaven and describes the “lamentations, mourning and woe” that it contained (Ezek 2:9-10). The remainder of chapter 5 ***searches*** for the worthy one, ***reveals*** the worthy one and ***praises*** the worthy one.

### Who is worthy to take the scroll?

(5:2-4) **“And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no *man* in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.” (KJV)**

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### • **God's intent for man:**

We have seen previously that the intended role for man was to carry out the mediated kingship over the earth. This was decreed by God at creation:

*"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth. "'*  
Gen 1: 27,28 (NASB)

### • **The stolen inheritance:**

Satan was the original rebel against God's authority. Satan caused the fall of Adam and Eve rendering the intended mediated role given to man over the earth greatly inhibited under the curse. Satan has been the usurper of what is rightfully man's ever since. 2 Corinthians calls him "the god of this world" (4:4). All Christians and creation itself longs for redemption from the curse (Eph 1:14; Rom 8:19-22).

Satan's long war on God's people and all mankind will have its climax in his false christ who will be given power to rule the earth for a time. It will be his greatest effort yet in his attempt to render God's plan for the restoration of Israel, mankind and all of creation obsolete.

The strong angels voice is loud enough to penetrate all realms of existence, yet no man came forth. This caused John to weep uncontrollably when he realized that the restoration of the created order was at stake... would Satan and sin rule forever over the realm of man?

### • **The law of redemption and the Kinsman Redeemer:**

Adam's realm could only be restored by the one who had the judicial right to do so. This is best understood through the example of the "kinsman redeemer" establish by God and illustrated in the book of Ruth. The book of Ruth is another great example of a "model" or "type" in prophecy and perfectly illustrates the story of the redemption of Israel and redeemed Gentiles.

Typically when land was lost or sold for means to live, it could only be restored by what was called the "kinsman - redeemer" or "goel". The land rights had an even larger implication of inheritance and posterity. The kinsman redeemer had to be a **blood relative** to the party seeking restoration and also had to be willing to restore the land which would also include **all debts and liabilities** associated with the beneficiary. The story of Ruth paints a vivid picture of love and redemption. It portrays Israel's restoration through the Law of Redemption (Lev 25:23-25) and the grafting in of the Gentile bride through the Law of the Levirate Marriage (Deut 25:5).

- **Boaz the kinsman of Naomi** took on the role of "goel" - **Jesus the kinsman of Israel and man kind** took on the role of Israel's goel and fulfilled the law of the Levirate Marriage to Gentiles.
- Ruth, a Gentile, only meets Naomi, a Jew because Naomi is out of her land (Israel); **both need redemption.**

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- ***Ruth meets Boaz through Naomi*** - Jesus is the root of David; the gospel originated in Israel and has gone out to the Gentiles.
- ***Naomi's heritage restored through Ruth, the Gentile bride*** - Paul states in Romans 11 that the gospel privilege given to the Gentiles will make Israel "jealous" and that they will eventually through the same gospel be grafted back into the vine.

### Jesus is the Worthy Kinsman

(5:5-7) **"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah , the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne." (KJV)**

The elders quickly stop the weeping of John who must not have yet realized that there was indeed a kinsman of man who had "*prevailed*" and now meets all of the judicial requirements to open the scroll. He is the "*Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David*" both of which are Jewish messianic titles:

*"Judah, your brothers shall praise you; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's sons shall bow down to you. Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, And as a lion, who dares rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him {shall be} the obedience of the peoples."* Gen 49:8-10 (NASB)

*"Then in that day The nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; And His resting place will be glorious."* Is 11:10 (NASB)

*"Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called {as} an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,"* Rom 1: 1-3 (NASB)

Both Matthew and Luke reveal that Christ was a descendant of David. Luke's focus is on the blood line through Mary while Matthew focuses on His legal line through Joseph. Matthew often refers to Christ as the "Son of David" which is a direct messianic reference (9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9,15; 22:42.).

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The Jews often thought that there were two messiah's because they could not resolve the suffering servant verses the ruling King. Israel and the majority of the world "missed" the first coming of Christ when He established His legal claim to purchase back the earth and men as He paid the ultimate price through His perfect sacrificial death. It is through His death that He overcame:

- **Sin** (Rom 8:3).
- **Satan** (1John 3:8; John 12:31; 16:11; Rom 16:20; Heb 2:14)
- **Death** (Heb 2:14-15)
- **Hell and the spirits of darkness** (Col 2:15; 1Pet 3:19)

And by His grace believers overcome as well:

*"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"*

### • **The Lion who is the tender Lamb:**

In the midst of the glory of God, His throne and the announcement of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah stood a Lamb. "Agnion" is best understood not just as a domesticated lamb, but more along the lines of a family pet. The Jews would take their chosen sacrificial lamb into their house to inspect it for 4 days before it was offered up for sacrifice at Passover. Christ entered into Jerusalem at His appointed time (Luke 19) and was thoroughly inspected for 4 days by both Jew and Gentile and at the end of it all the verdict was rendered:

*"Pilate came out again and \*said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him." Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. {Pilate} \*said to them, "Behold, the Man!" So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate \*said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.""* John 19: 4-6 (NASB)

### • **His eternal badges of honor:**

Although He is the eternal, exalted King of creation, He stands as the lamb who "*had been slain*". The scars on Jesus's body will serve as permanent reminders of His worthy sacrifice; the "badges of honor" for the only perfect Son of Man. Just as those who are lost in their sin will suffer for all of eternity, the sins of the redeemed are eternally hidden in the scars of Christ.

Horns are symbolic of **strength** and the number seven represents **perfection**. The fact that the Lamb is seen with "*seven horns*" speaks to His absolute power. His omniscience is seen through His Holy Spirit and He possesses all wisdom and knowledge. The Holy Spirit that goes out "*into all the earth*" and is able to judge the hearts of all men and discern who they are.

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The ultimate climactic event in the build from John's arrival in heaven until now takes place as the Lamb "took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne". This event is also seen in Daniel 7: 13-14 and it ushers in the only possible response from all of those who have been waiting for the worthy One.

### The Worship of the Worthy One

(5:8-12) **"And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four [and] twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, "Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.""**

Harp in scripture are associated with worship (2 Sam 6:5; 1 Chron 15: 16, 20, 28; 16:5; 2 Chron 5:12; 29:25; Pss 33:2; 71:22; 92:1-4; 149: 9; 150:3 and in Rev 14:2; 15:2). They also are associated with prophecy in many cases (1 Sam 10:5; 2 Kings 3:15; 1 Chron 25: 1, 3, 6).

Ephesians 1:20-22 depicts the glory that Christ has been exalted to the right hand of the Father. But He is not yet on His throne (Rev 3:21) as He will be when the scroll is completely opened and the time arrives for Him to return to the earth. His future earthly inheritance is spoken of throughout the OT. Psalm 2 speaks to this future reality:

*"But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain. I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the {very} ends of the earth as Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.' Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. Worship the LORD with reverence and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish {in} the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!"*  
Ps 2: 6-12 (NASB)

#### 24 MANUSCRIPTS VS. CODEX ALEXANDRINUS

24 ancient manuscripts use the first person "us" and "we". Codex Alexandrinus is the only ancient manuscript that renders the 24 elders as speaking of the redeemed in the third person "them" and "they". Many of the new English translations of the bible use Codex Alexandrinus here. Using the third person does leave the option to say that the 24 elders could be angels that are speaking of the redeemed although it does not make it an absolute. Beyond this point of contention there is a greater point of proof that the elders are not angels. Notice the distinction between the many angels, the living creatures (beasts) and the 24 elders. The elders sing the song of the redeemed. Redemption is something not needed by the holy angels.

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The “**golden bowls of incense**” are in the OT connected with the **altar** ( 1Kings 7:40, 45, 50; 2 Kings 12:13-14; 1 Chron 28:17; 2 Chron 4:22; Jer 52:19; Zech 14:20) and symbolize the priestly work of **intercession for the people**. The burning of incense is also associated with the prayers of the saints (Ps 141:2; Luke 1: 9-10; Rev 8:3-4; 6:9-10).

All together the harps, the golden bowls of incense and the prayers of the saints speak to the prophecies of scripture and the hopes and prayers of all of the righteous throughout history. The desire of the righteous and the created order are about to be satisfied as Christ will begin to initiate the events leading to His return.

Added to the sounds of the living creatures and the twenty-four elders is the voice of “**many angels**”. Myriad means ten thousand, but here we have ten thousand times ten thousand which denotes an uncountable host (Heb 12:1).

### Every Knee Will Bow

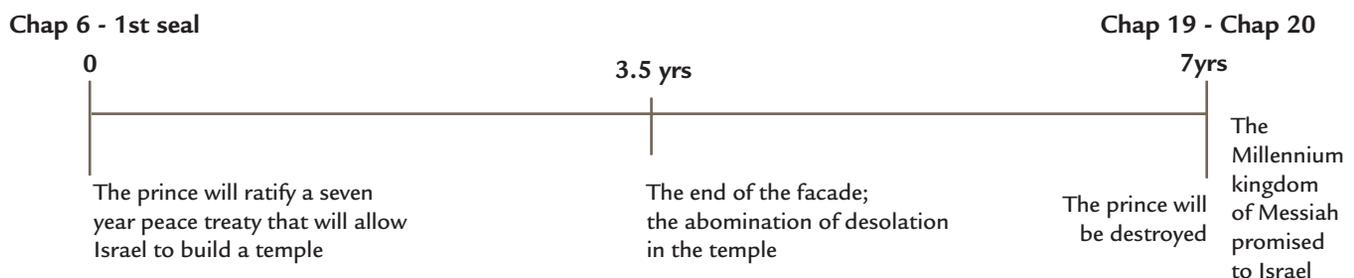
(5:13-14) “**And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, [be] unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four [and] twenty elders fell down and worshipped Him that liveth for ever and ever.**” (KJV)

Suddenly the scene is thrust forward to the time when “**every created thing**” acknowledges that God and His Christ, the Lamb are worthy of blessing and honor and glory and power. This will include the willing and the unwilling as Paul writes in Philippians 2:9-11. The worthy Lamb who was slain is about to receive His inheritance and that will impact all of creation.

### Introduction to Rev 6-19; the 70th week

*“Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end {will come} with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations {will come} one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.” Dan 9: 26 - 27 (NASB)*

#### One Week (seven years)



## The Olivet discourse vs. the Temple discourse Matthew 24 and Luke 21 compared

It is quite easy to assume that these two accounts are identical with maybe some minor differences. Closer examination reveals that although they have a same group of signs as a point of reference, they are actually two different accounts.

*"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"*  
Matt 23:37-39

### Matthew 24:

*"Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down." As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" "*  
vv.1-3

### Luke 21:

*"And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, "As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down." They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" "*  
vv.5-7

### The same reference point of signs that will be the "birth pangs" prior to the end of the age

- 4) And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.
- 5) For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.
- 6) You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.
- 7) For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.
- 8) But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

- 8) And He said, "See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not go after them.
- 9) When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately."
- 10) Then He continued by saying to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom,
- 11) and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.

### The differences in the accounts

**Matthew profiles the conditions leading up to and including Daniels 70th week**

- 9) **"Then** they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.
- 10) At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.
- 11) false prophets will arise and will mislead many.
- 12) Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.
- 13) But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

**Luke profiles the conditions leading up to and including the destruction of the temple by the Romans in 70 A.D.**

- 12) **"But before all these things,** they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake.
- 13) It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony.
- 14) So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves;
- 15) for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.

2Thes 2

The ACTS account of the spread of the Gospel

The differences in the accounts (cont.)

Matthew 24:

Luke 21:

Dan 9:27; 11:31; 2Thes 2:3,4; Rev 13:14,15

14) This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

*From v15 through 28 the second 3.5 year period of Daniels 70th week is profiled. It will include the full fury of the man of sin being unleashed against Gods people with Israel as the epicenter; Note the reference to Daniels prophecy.*

15) Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

16) then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

17) Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.

18) Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.

19) But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

20) But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.

21) For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

22) Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect (Israel) those days will be cut short.

23) Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or ' There He is,' do not believe him.

24) For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

25) Behold, I have told you in advance.

26) So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them.

27) For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

28) Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

16) But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death,

17) and you will be hated by all because of My name.

18) Yet not a hair of your head will perish.

19) By your endurance you will gain your lives.

20) But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.

21) Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city;

22) because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.

23) Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people;

24) and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Historic accounts record that when the Roman legions began to surround Jerusalem, there was a time of pause as General Vespasian went back to Rome to take over as Caesar. His son Titus was later ordered to carry out the task and did so in 70A.D. with the 5th, 10th, 12th and 15th legions when about 1.2 million Jews were slaughtered in the sacking of Jerusalem. Some 97,000 more were taken as slaves. In the time leading up to the final siege, the Christians fled as a result of this warning in Luke and the historic records of that time indicate that they were not among those slain. \*NOTE: no mention of a great tribulation as in Matthew 24:21

## The return of Christ to the earth to establish His Millennial kingdom

### Matthew 24:

29) But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL From the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30) And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

31) And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect (the remaining diaspora) from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

### Luke 21:

25) There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves,

26) men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27) Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory.

28) But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."