

Eschatology. Part 1, The Times of the Gentiles.

Preface.

A study on Eschatology, the study of the end times.

This essay on Eschatology (*consisting of seven parts and sub-essays*) will discuss the prophecies concerning the coming times of the present world, as much as possible in chronological order, as revealed in the Bible. The purpose of this essay is to give the reader clarity about your coming future, and the earth on which you and the author now live. It also provides the timeline of the Biblical God regarding humanity to make this clear. The basis of this essay is the Bible. Everything written in this essay comes from the Bible.

The author has come across a great deal of information about Eschatology online. However, very little good (partial) information is available, and mostly (*well-intentioned*) nonsense. Nonsense that distracts from the seriousness of the information. This study provides complete information about the coming time in (as far as possible) chronological order, based on the four laws of interpretation (*see chapter 1*) and fully substantiated by the only book in the world that has and provides information about the coming time: The Bible.

Introduction.

This essay **is not** a Bible study (*although the information comes from the Bible*), but rather **knowledge about the near future** of the earth. The Bible is the only book that speaks about events related to the near future of this earth and the people who live on it. Buddhist, Islamic, or other spiritual books do not contain this information either. Why not? Because these are human writings whose authors (Buddha, Muhammad, etc.) are deceased and therefore part of mortality, not immortality. This is in contrast to Jesus and the God of the Bible. They are immortal and author of the future and into an immortal future. This series of essays explains this.

This essay is not a book review of some science fiction novel. This essay explains the future using the Bible. The Bible calls this period "the end of the time of the Gentiles." Therefore, there are relatively many references to biblical texts in this study. Gentiles means non-Jews. For ease of reading, the Bible passages cited in each essay, if not integrated into the text, have been added as an addendum at the end of the essay. Links have also been included for references. This essay is not only a biblical explanation but also a glimpse into the near future of this earth and its inhabitants. Luke 21:34-36 states who this will affect ("*for it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth*"). **Everyone, that is. No one is excluded.** And the Bible calls this period "The Great Tribulation."

This study is called Eschatology; gaining insight/knowledge about the coming time. This coming time is called "The Great Tribulation" in the Bible, or the great destruction. Who is this series of essays on Eschatology intended for? These are four groups of people who together make up all the inhabitants of this earth:

- **Unbelievers.** This applies in any case to all people who do not believe in the Bible at all or are atheists. It also applies to people who worship other gods or religions (Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc.) or who have other beliefs/spirituality and worship or believe in powers such as (reiki, nature, stones, trees, mountains, etc.).

- **Christians.** Those Christians who lack the most important biblical characteristic of their faith, namely faith in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, and who do not have water baptism by immersion and the filling of the Holy Spirit. They too will experience the events of this future end time. This will be explained later.

- **Jews.** Secular (non-believing) Jews who reject or do not know the God (YHWH Adonai) of their ancestors. But also religious Jews who reject Jesus as the Messiah and still live and act according to the Sinai covenant of Moses.

- The "bride of Christ." This study on the end times also includes the rapture of the bride of Christ. In the essay "Eschatology part-essay Wedding as a Shadow Image 1.0," you can read what this is, who belongs to it (and therefore also who does not), how you too can belong to this bride, and how this event will take place. The time of this event is known only to God. However, the Bible does establish that it will take place before the great tribulation. This is addressed in the part-essay "[Eschatology, Start essay The Rapture of the Church](#)" You can follow the link at the end of this essay.

This study is therefore about **every** person.

Even if you have no connection to the Bible and have no faith in it whatsoever, that does not change what is to come. This is about you and your future on this earth. You have no choice in the matter. You are **not a spectator but part** of the coming time, which will be explained in more detail in the following numbered essay sections.

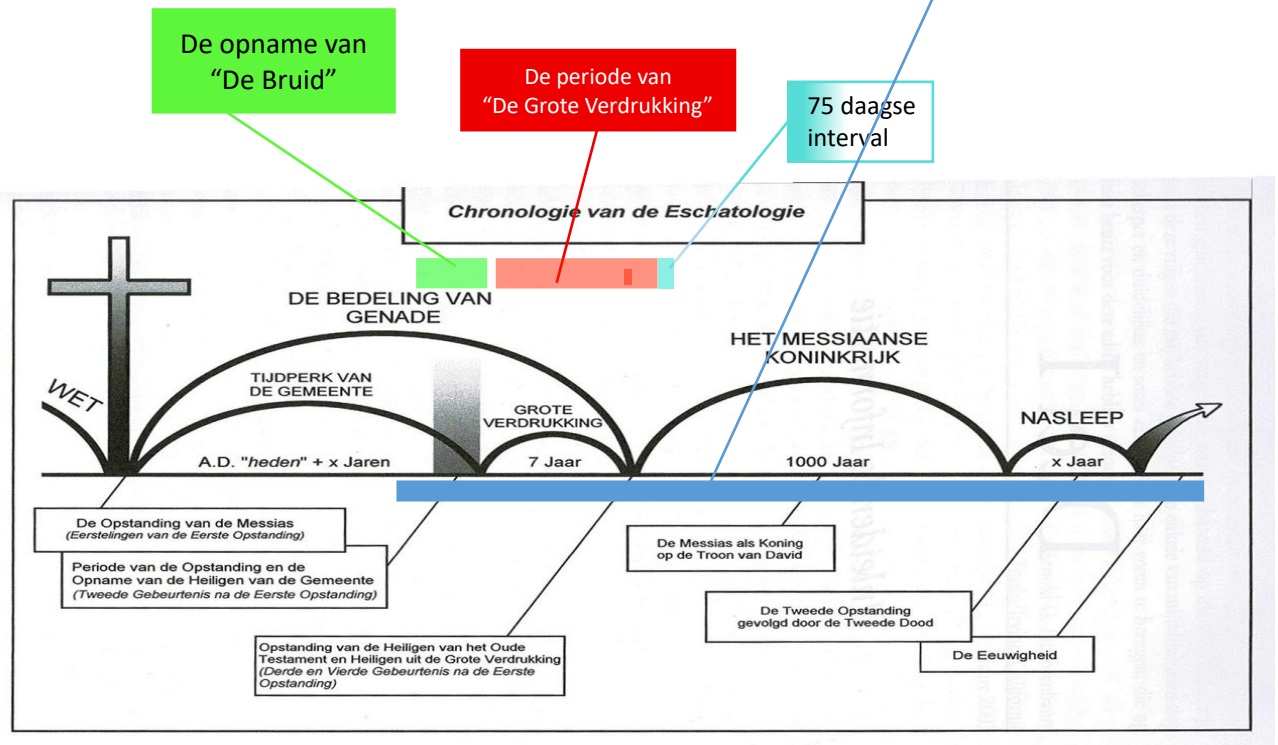
How to read the essays:

Because all the information about the coming time is so extensive, the author has decided to compile it into multiple essays, numbered in order, to describe the events as chronologically as possible. This allows the information to be read in the correct order, providing a coherent, comprehensive picture of the coming time. Parts 1 through 7 are arranged consecutively in order of events. In addition, there are separate essays intended to further elucidate topics within the study of eschatology; the so-called "part-essays."

Table of Contents	page
Foreword.	1
Introduction	1
Chapter 1. Chronology of Eschatology in Outline.	3
Four Laws of Interpretation.	4
Chapter 2. The Times of the Gentiles.	7
Chapter 3. The Course of This Age.	9
Chapter 4. Sequence of Events Preceding the Great Tribulation.	11
A. The First and Second World Wars.	
B. The Restoration of Israel.	
C. Jerusalem Under Jewish Rule.	12
D. The Invasion of Israel by the Northern Alliance.	
E. The One World Government.	13
F. The Ten Kingdoms.	
G. The Rise of Antichrist.	14
H. The Period of Peace and False Security.	
I. The Seven-Year Covenant.	
Chapter 5. Other Events Preceding the Great Tribulation.	14
A. Eclipses.	
B. The Return of Elijah.	
C. The Third Temple. When?	
Chapter 6: The Eschatology of the Invisible Church.	15
A. Definition.	15
B. The Rapture of the Church.	16
C. The Judgment Seat of the Messiah.	18
Crowns of Reward.	19
D. The Marriage of the Lamb.	20
Addendum.	21

Note: The rapture of the Church/wedding of the Lamb is discussed in detail in a separate essay in the Eschatology series, "[Eschatology, Start essay The Rapture of the Church](#)" (you can follow the link).

This study describes the period indicated in the chart by a red bar. The green bar is a general outline, as the timing of the rapture of the bride is known only to God the Father. This essay concludes with the second coming of Christ, the 75-day interval period, and the start of the millennial reign of peace. The chart below clarifies what is meant by Eschatology. This chart represents the entire Eschatology study as it can be found on this website.



As mentioned, the information in this series of essays concerns every person in every country worldwide (believer or not).

Why? Because it describes and explains the future of the earth. To familiarize every person with the coming earthly time in the correct order, understandable to everyone. And you live on this planet. Even if you don't believe the Bible and don't care about the God of the Bible, this is the near future you'll experience, because the God of the Bible does have a message for you. This website gives you that message.

In summary: The information about the coming time in the correct chronological order, in Biblical context, from Hebrew source texts, Hebrew thought, the laws of interpretation have been applied, and because the events on earth have been placed within Biblical context/prophecy.

Four laws of interpretation.

Biblical commentators, whether "renowned" or not, have already written extensively on this. Entire websites are devoted to it. However, few of them are good, and often only partially. So, unfortunately, there is a lot of noise "on the line." The problem is that many explanations of current events attempt to place them within the framework of end-time prophecies from the Bible. And whether the Antichrist has already been, is now, or will never come. Something for every gullible believer. This is very often incorrect because the *Four Laws of Interpretation*¹ are often violated or not applied, leading to misinterpretations, wrong understandings, and even erroneous doctrines. The inaccuracy on the internet is particularly great and very distracting.

¹ (*Law 1; The Golden Rule of Interpretation, Law 2; The Double Reference, Law 3; The Double Fulfillment, Law 4; Law of Repetition)

The God of the Bible (YHWH Adonai) has already foretold the order of upcoming events. There is no person, power, force, authority, or government that has the power to change this. The Eternal One (YHWH Adonai) is the God of Heaven and Earth and stands outside of our linear time. But humanity stands within linear time and knows it as a dimension. And the times and events have been foretold thousands of years ago. And it is about to begin.

The signs that have been given are unmistakable. The (globalistically oriented) unbeliever thinks they can create the future themselves without God and fails to recognize these signs. The agenda of events for the coming time is set by God. No human can change this. Billions of people will experience and suffer this. Although the events are foretold by God in His order toward the ultimate goal (*the Messianic Kingdom of Peace and the New Heaven and New Earth*), it is evil people, the Antichrist/the Beast, and demons who, during the Great Tribulation, inflict unspeakable suffering on others, wage wars, and have tens of millions of deaths on their conscience.

Nature also turns against humanity. Knowing humanity, God will surely be blamed. But this period is the judgment of evil. People who prefer evil fall into this judgment. The judgment comes from God. Nature is used in this judgment. But evil is also the human being who loves evil, and has chosen it. All of this will be explained later.

Reliability.

The Bible contains an enormous number of prophecies. More than 600 written prophecies. These can be divided into various categories. Many prophecies concern Jesus. These have since been fulfilled with his birth, life, death, and resurrection. Many prophecies concern the people of Israel in ancient times. These have also been fulfilled. But many prophecies about Israel are yet to be fulfilled in the future. The common denominator among all these fulfilled prophecies in the Bible is that they have all been fulfilled exactly. They have all been fulfilled 100% correctly and accurately.

Prophecies recorded in the Bible are not the product of divination, mind-altering substances, or human interpretation. They are knowledge given by the God of the Bible Himself to specially appointed people to teach people about God and His Son Jesus. But also often as a warning. Because of the proven 100% reliability (of already fulfilled prophecies), they are the ultimate source of knowledge and insight. This essay primarily presents knowledge and insight about a coming time that has already begun. A significant portion of the prophecies presented concern this time and the years to come. These prophecies have yet to be fulfilled. Due to the reliability of prophecies already fulfilled in the past (verifiable in history), the author dares to label the reliability of future prophecies as 100% reliable. The First and Second World Wars, the Jewish state of Israel in 1948, and Jerusalem under Jewish rule in 1967 are not just three events from recent history, but events foretold thousands of years ago. These foretold events marked the beginning of the coming time that this essay addresses. All (partial) essays describe the same coming time from different perspectives, namely the role of the Antichrist, non-Jews, Jews, and from Heaven in the coming great tribulation.

The hatred of the nations.

Many people hate the state of Israel and the Jewish people. Arabs, Muslims, Western countries, the Middle East, Asian countries, the UN, the International Court of Justice, etc., etc. They condemn this people and would love to see this people and their land disappear from this planet. Many don't even know why. Then all sorts of things are brought up, such as genocide, it being the Palestinians' land, the invisible power behind everything (money, etc.). However, it is the state of Israel and the Jewish people that will be the center of events in the coming period. Why is this? The God of Heaven and Earth has chosen one place on earth for himself, one city, one people. That is the land of Israel, the city of Jerusalem, the Jewish people. And the people of earth begrudge God this without realizing that they begrudge God this. They hate without knowing why they hate. The why will be discussed later in part five.

Readability of this essay.

There are two main reasons for the multiple volumes on this topic of eschatology.

1. The readability and clarity of the study. All essays are numbered and sequential.

The essays contain cross-references.

2. Sub-essays that elaborate on a topic.

Because readability and the sequence of events are paramount in this essay, much detailed information has been omitted. This sometimes makes it seem as if assumptions have been made.

Everything written in the essays is biblically grounded. The author of this essay has attempted (without detailed information) to write a clear and coherent whole about the future time that awaits humanity on earth. This essay should enable the reader to gain insight into the course of the coming years of this world until the second coming of Christ on earth with His physical presence. And to be able to make choices about their own future.

This second coming on earth should not be confused with the coming of Christ in "the clouds." This is not a return to earth but in "the clouds" and is the rapture of "The Church" (*The Bride of Christ, all the Saints from all nations*) from the earth and is discussed in the essay "[Eschatology, Start essay The Rapture of the Church](#)" (*You can follow the link*)

Warning.

The Bible calls the coming time the time of judgment. A time of judgment for people who do not want to know the God of the Bible, deny Him or hate Him, curse Him and want to know nothing of God. But it will also be a time of judgment for the "Christians" who believe as a form of understanding God. And experience their faith as an understanding that there must be something between heaven and earth, but never come to Jesus himself. And have no repentance/reversal of their lives. They profess to "believe," but without the repentance (*faith in Jesus Christ as the Messiah, adult baptism for the putting off of sins and without the baptism/filling with the Holy Spirit*) that Paul speaks of.

Only those who acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God, believe in Him, are baptized in water and filled with the Holy Spirit, and love Him wholeheartedly escape judgment and, together with other believers, form His bride and escape judgment. They do NOT fall into the judgment that is to come.

This is an important distinction, not made by the author, but by Jesus Himself. He determines His bride. He knows whose heart is completely devoted to Him. He knows the heart. He knows in your heart the difference between religious awareness and truly believing in Him and loving Him. He determines who is taken up into the clouds. And this is not determined by whether you live a good life (through love for nature, membership in nature organizations, or bank transfers, or faithfully attending church on Sundays, or... fill in the blank).

The secret.

Access to belong to His bride is determined by His "Seal". The Holy Spirit must have "dwelt" in you. And adult water baptism. Not infant baptism (*this fabrication from the early Roman Catholic Church and adopted by other church movements is unknown to the Bible*), but a conscious, adult act of faith through immersion. Like the Mikveh in Judaism. Baptism is not a symbol. It is the prayer of your faith. It is your ticket to the Heavenly Bride.

Nor does your (Christian) work/leisure activities determine who belongs to His bride. This is explained by Jesus in Matthew 24:40-41. So, not a fabrication of the author. Access to eternal life is guaranteed by your faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Access to "The Bride" is the seal of the Holy Spirit. Only obtainable through faith in Jesus, baptism by immersion, and then the filling/baptism with the Holy Spirit. In that order. Not what you've been taught, what your pastor thinks, or what you believe yourself. The Bible is the guiding principle. Matthew 24 is about whether you belong to His bride and escape the impending judgment by being taken up into the clouds. God not only promises

salvation from this judgment, but Jesus himself has secured the way out of it with His death and resurrection. You can now determine where you stand with these conditions from the Bible.

Preaching in the churches.

There are also many Christians who believe there is no rapture in the clouds, nor will there be one. That they will go through the same judgment as unbelievers (pagans) before the physical second coming of Christ. Or that the judgment will come later, with or after the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Or that the rapture will occur after the second physical coming of Christ. Or even later, after the millennium. Or they don't know this at all.

There are Bible commentators, church leaders, and pastors who preach the aforementioned doctrines or parts thereof and misinform believers. Either they teach the church members nothing at all or are very vague because they don't know it themselves or don't dare speak about it because it's in the Book of Revelation (Revelation 22:18-19).

Or they teach that they will be helped and spared by God in these times. They speak and teach in churches and congregations, but have no idea of the mental and physical horrors that await Christians when demons, evil spirits, and mentally deranged people have unhindered free rein over Christians and unbelievers after the bride is taken from the earth. The author has an idea of what should and should not be addressed in the upcoming sermon(s) in churches and congregations:

Yes: Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Adult baptism and fulfillment of the Holy Spirit, worshipping Jesus. Taking the Bible seriously. Speaking about the impending judgment (you can use this study as input).

No: Preaching the world in churches. Jesus as a good feeling, the daily news, politics, the world we live in, the new pope, the Middle East, etc.

And why? The time of grace is almost over. **God's urgency** must be and become the urgency of the church. The times ahead are catastrophic for people, especially Christians and Jews who are left behind. And the "birth pangs" for this end time are becoming increasingly clear and continue unabated. After birth pangs come birth... The Great Tribulation, the day of disaster, of vengeance, distress, the advancing scourge, destruction, devastation, darkness. Wrath. Etc. Etc.

The names in the Bible leave no doubt about what this near-coming time will look like. The definition of God's urgency for now is (author's opinion): bringing people to faith in Jesus Christ, baptism by immersion, filling with the Holy Spirit. The time for the evangelists to arise.

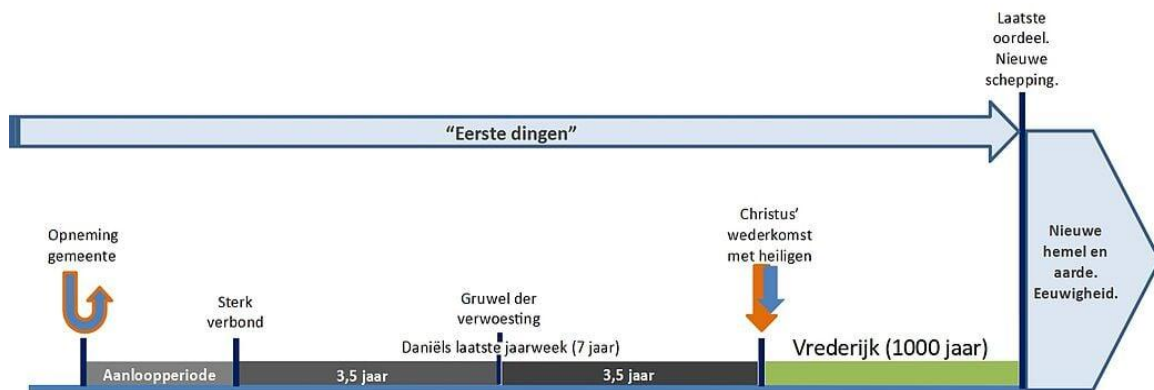
The current thinking.

An increasingly common thinking (also among Christians) is that there must be a truth from God in all religions and faiths, and that the truth lies somewhere in the middle. So whatever you believe doesn't matter much, you will still arrive at the same God. Everyone has their own god and their own truth. A belief of satanic excellence. A belief devised by Satan himself. The prelude to a one-world religion. Many faiths lead to all sorts of idols. Buddhas in all shapes and sizes, idols, images in stone or wood or other natural products, candlelight altars, mantras, beaded necklaces, trees, mountains, nature, reiki, powers in (precious) stones, etc. There's a god in or attached to everything. The list of idolatry not only seems endless, but it is. Every person has their own god. This is also a growing conviction and expression among Christians. And the list of excuses among Christians is also long: I don't worship it, it's merely decoration, coziness, ambiance, art, I help people, etc.

However... there is only one faith that leads to the throne of the God of Heaven and Earth and Eternal Life. Faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. And there is only one bride of Jesus... whose heart is completely devoted to Him and full of love for Him, and baptized in water and the Holy Spirit.

And only His bride will escape the coming judgment of the people on earth.

(This chart shows the period from the Rapture of "The Church" to the New Heaven and Earth).



To conclude this introduction.

An anecdote from the author.

Two rabbits are sitting on a country road at night. A car with headlights is coming towards them. One rabbit says to the other, "Move aside, save yourself, there's a car coming!" And this rabbit jumps to the safety of the shoulder. It recognizes the car's headlights. The other rabbit doesn't know what the lights mean and thinks, "Whatever, I never hear about this. Why do you think you know this?" And stays put.....!!
This study on Eschatology is the headlights warning of the car's approach.

The author makes no judgment on your faith or disbelief.

The author is already familiar with all the reasons for disbelieving the Bible. Accepting or rejecting something is your personal decision. The author merely provides the biblical framework. You can accept or reject it. It is entirely up to you. The same applies to the remainder of the essay. You can decide for yourself where you stand in your faith or rejection. Whether you belong to His bride or will fall into judgment is not the author's responsibility. The author simply lets the Bible speak for itself.

Chapter 2.

The Times of the Gentiles.

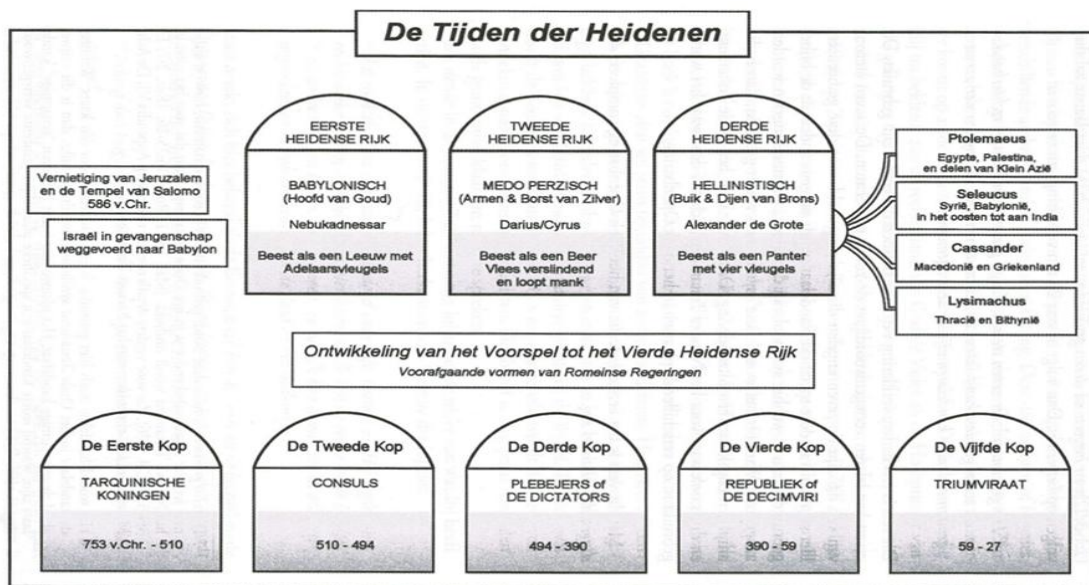
A preliminary explanation. The biblical term "Gentile" refers to the non-Jew. A term about origins, not whether you are a sinner or anything like that. The Times of the Gentiles can best be defined as the long period from the Babylonian Empire to the Second Coming of Jesus. The period in which the non-Jew rules the earth.

In Figures 1 and 2 below, this period is shown schematically and explained below.

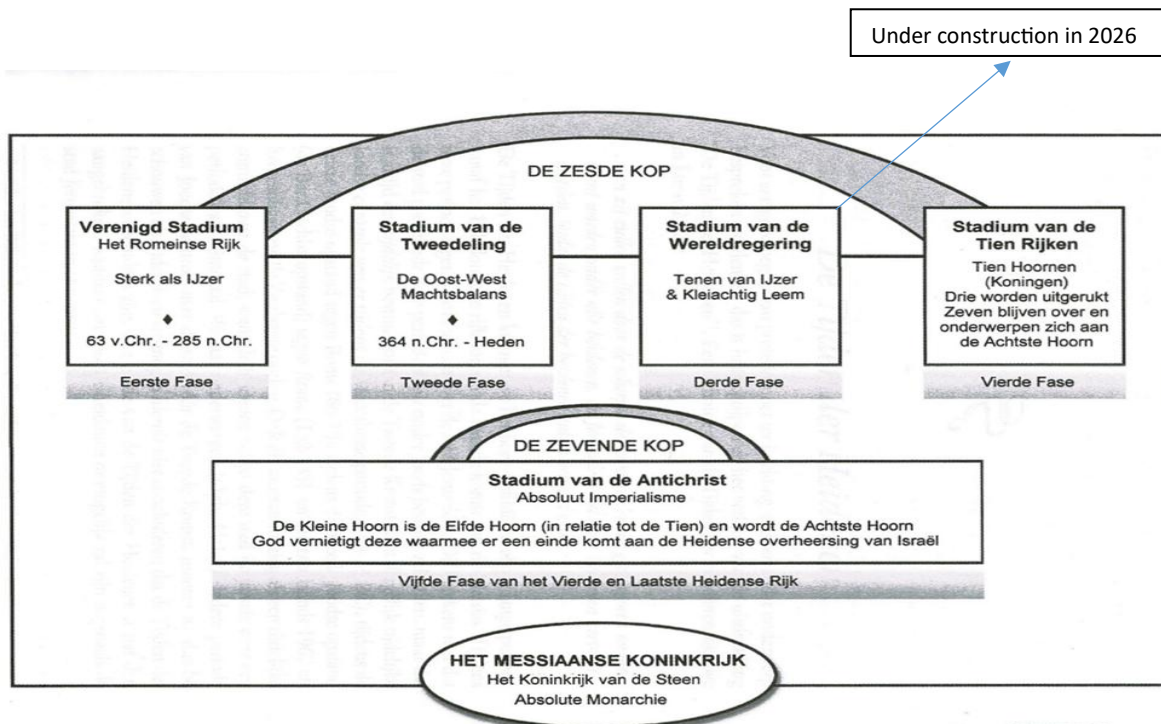
Figure 2 covers this essay from the end of the Stage of the Division.

The construction of the third stage (the stage of world government) is in full swing.

Figuur 1



Figuur 2



First, a brief summary of the first three empires in Figure 1, and then we look at the fourth empire. Further details can be found in the visions of Daniel in the book of Daniel.

The *first* pagan empire is the Babylonian Empire, which had a head of gold and the appearance of a lion. Various aspects of this empire are explained in Daniel 1:1-5:30 and 7:4.

The *second* pagan empire is the Medo-Persian Empire, which had arms and a chest of silver and the appearance of a bear (Daniel, chapter 2).

The *third* pagan empire, the Hellenistic Empire, is represented by a belly of bronze and the appearance of a panther. It began as a unit under Alexander the Great but was divided into four after his death (Daniel, chapter 2).

The *fourth* pagan empire. The first three empires are succeeded by the fourth pagan empire. Clearly different from the previous three empires. Daniel describes this empire in chapter 2, chapter 7, and chapter 11.

The main difference is the form of government. This form is called imperialism. While the three preceding empires were governed by local rulers, in the fourth empire, Rome sent its own rulers to govern the conquered territories (e.g., Pontius Pilate and Herod). This was the policy of imperialism. Therefore, a better term for the Fourth Empire is the Imperialist Empire rather than the Roman Empire, because Rome was only the first of the five phases of the Fourth Imperial Empire.

There are 5 stages in the Fourth Pagan Imperial Empire, namely;

- a. The United Stage – Rome
- b. The Stage of Partition (East-West division)
- c.** The Stage of World Government
- d.** The Stage of the Ten Empires
- e.** The Stage of Antichrist.

The author does not discuss stages A and B in this essay. It is history and can be read in history books. It becomes important from stage **C** of the Fourth Imperial Empire onwards. More about this later in this essay.

First, for the sake of clarity, a general overview.

1. The Babylonian Empire
2. The Medo-Persian Empire
3. The Hellenistic Empire
 - a. The United Stage
 - b. The Divided Stage (the prelude to the Fourth Pagan Empire)
4. The Fourth Empire (The Imperial Empire) with its 5 stages.
 - ~~a. The United Stage (Roman Empire)~~
 - b. The stage of division (East-West power balance)
- C.** The stage of world government
- D.** The stage of the Ten kingdoms (ten horns = 10 kingdoms)
- E.** The stage of the Antichrist – the 7th head (the eleventh horn and then the 8th horn)
5. The Messianic kingdom

Current situation 2026

Under construction 2026

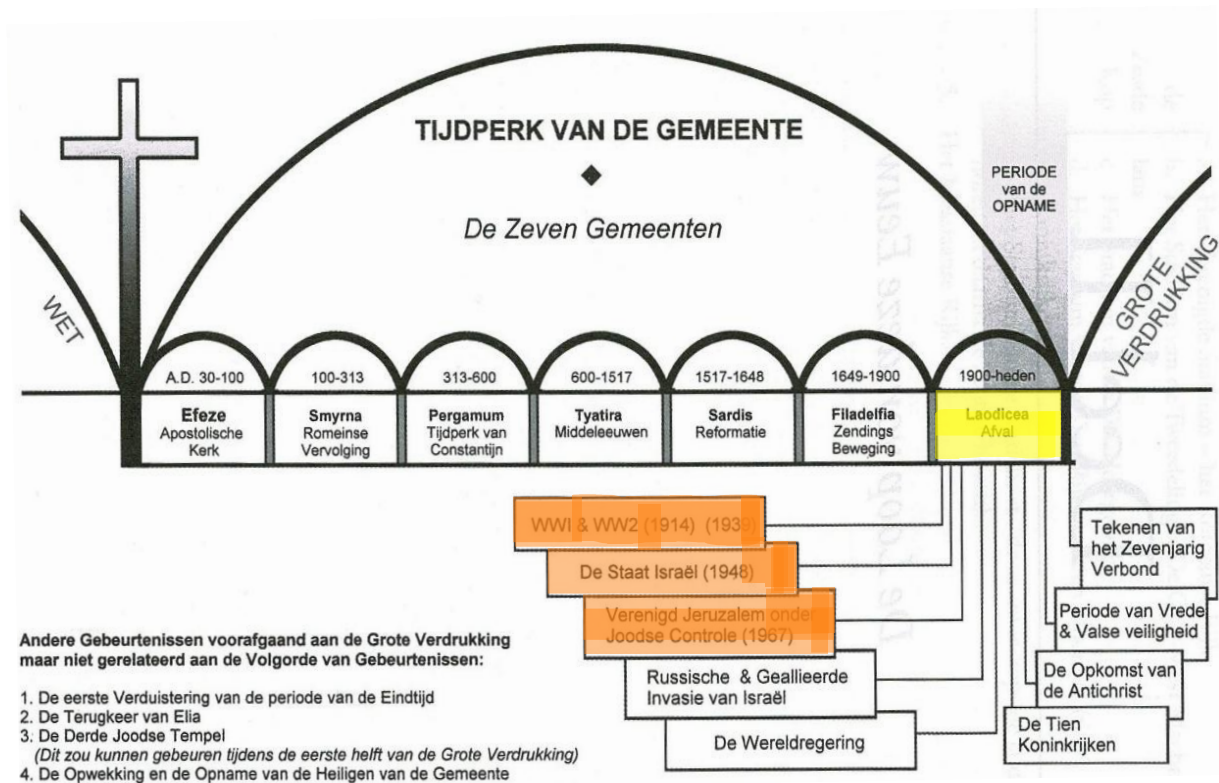
Chapter 3.

The Course of This Century.

It is schematically illustrated below in Figure 3.

It is called "the Age of the Church."

Figure 3.



The last two thousand years are described in the Bible book of Revelation of Jesus Christ as written letters to seven churches. The general explanation is that this requires a historical prophetic interpretation. Historical because the churches actually existed and these letters were also intended for them. Prophetic because the type of images of the seven churches is observable and recognizable throughout church history to this day. These seven characteristics will still exist during the rapture of the church.

From 1900 to the present.

The yellow portion represents the phase you and the author are currently in: the period of apostasy. All events schematically depicted above from the yellow portion are events that PRECEDE the Great Tribulation, with the orange events having already occurred.

What has happened:

- WWI & WWII (1914-1945)
- Establishment of the State of Israel (1948)
- United Jerusalem under Jewish rule (1967)

What will happen before the Great Tribulation, in chronological order:

- Russian & Allied Invasion of Israel
- The World Government
- The 10 Kingdoms
- The Rise of the Antichrist
- Period of Peace & False Security
- Signing of the Seven Year Covenant by Israel with the Antichrist

What will take place in NOT chronological order before the Great Tribulation are;

- The first eclipse of the end time period
- The return of Elijah - The Third Jewish Temple
- The resurrection and rapture of the saints of the Church.

Because the time is unknown (known only to God) this cannot be placed chronologically. What can be done is that it will take place between now (2025) before the Great Tribulation.

Chapter 4.

Sequence of Events Leading Up to the Great Tribulation.

This chapter presents the chronological order of events leading up to the Great Tribulation.

World Wars I and II (WW1 & WW2), the State of Israel, and a united Jerusalem are already over and historically a fact. The Bible prophesied about these events many centuries ago, and they have come to pass. The State of Israel and a united Jerusalem, in particular, were predicted and fulfilled up to the exact date of their occurrence. All other future prophesied events leading up to the Great Tribulation will come to pass.

A. World Wars I and II.

The question often asked is whether we are living in the year 2025 in the last days. The disciples asked Jesus this question using the phrase "What will be the sign of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:1-8). The answer can be found in the expression Jesus used. This passage lists events that will take place in those days. One of the events is the expression "nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom." In Jesus's day, the expression "*nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom*" was a typical Jewish description of a world war that would precede the coming of the Messiah. This would be accompanied by world wars, famines, and earthquakes. World Wars I and II began in 1914 and increased in earthquakes. Until the 19th century, there were 2,110 earthquakes. From the 20th century (WW1), there have been 900,000 to date (2025).

Due to improved measuring techniques and technology, this number has significantly increased compared to previous centuries and is more difficult to compare with the preceding centuries. Nevertheless, there is an undeniable, very large increase in earthquakes and famines. This is in connection with both world wars, which were essentially one world war with a pause. The conclusion is justified and alarming that the Bible (Jesus) speaks of this as the beginning of the birth pangs of the end times. The time in which we now live.



B. The restoration of Israel.

When it comes to Biblical prophecy regarding the state of Israel, four distinct views are often presented from different perspectives. This will be a brief summary without going into detail. The author himself adheres to a fifth view¹.

- View 1: The replacement theory. Israel is finished with God, and the "church" is the new Israel.
- View 2: A final restoration of Israel. Based on the literal interpretation of prophecies that do not apply to modern-day Israel.
- View 3: This view claims that what is happening today is the final restoration of Israel; it is the beginning of the fulfillment of all these prophecies.

View 4: This assumes two types of gathering: a gathering in unbelief and a gathering in faith. View four states that it cannot be assumed with certainty that the current Jewish state as we see it today can fulfill the prophecies that speak of the gathering in unbelief. It assumes a multi-phase gathering in unbelief. Isaiah chapter 11 does not allow for such a multi-phase view.

Therefore, View 5¹. There are two types of gathering: a gathering in unbelief and a gathering in faith. Both come from the four corners of the earth. First, there is a worldwide gathering of Jews in unbelief. Then, the gathering of Jews in faith.

- In unbelief in preparation for judgment during the Great Tribulation.
- Following this, the gathering in faith in preparation for the blessing of the Messianic Kingdom.

The restoration of the Jewish state in 1948 is a fulfillment of the prophecies that speak of the gathering in unbelief in preparation for judgment. It is one of the events that brings the Great Tribulation closer and sets the stage for several other events preceding the Great Tribulation, as well as the conditions for the Great Tribulation itself. The starting point of the Great Tribulation is NOT the rapture of the church. This is a common misconception among Bible interpreters and Christians. The establishment of the Jewish state in 1948 marks this event as one of the birth pangs of the last days.

Note: The starting point of the Great Tribulation is the signing of the seven-year covenant between the leaders of the state of Israel and the Antichrist (*and therefore NOT the rapture of the church*). This signing can also be considered a birth pang for the Great Tribulation.

C. Jerusalem under Jewish Control.

The third event preceding the Great Tribulation is Jewish control of the entire city of Jerusalem. During the 1948 War of Independence, part of Jerusalem came under Jewish control, and another part (the Old City and the Temple complex) fell into Jordanian hands. In the 1967 war, Jerusalem came entirely under Jewish control, including the Old City and the Temple complex.

Four passages in the Bible speak of a restoration of the third temple. This temple is also called the temple of the Great Tribulation. It is mentioned once in Daniel and three times in Revelation. Although it is unclear at what time (*before or during the Great Tribulation*) this temple will be rebuilt, the verses clearly indicate that it will be rebuilt and will function like the previous temples, including sacrificial rituals, etc.

And although the Six-Day War is not predicted anywhere in the Bible, its outcome is foretold: Jewish control of the Old City and the Temple complex. Clearing the way for the third temple, this event becomes the third birth pang. This is the third major event preceding the Great Tribulation. While the first three events (AC) have already been fulfilled and are now part of history, the next six events (DI), which also precede the Great Tribulation, take place in the future.

Author's note: The Rapture of the Bride will occur sometime between events D and I, but has no temporal relationship to any of these events. The timing is known only to God.

D. The Invasion of Israel by the Northern Alliance.

This invasion is described in Ezekiel 38:1–39:16. The names mentioned here in this alliance are ancient nations, whose names can be interpreted as referring to modern-day countries.

These are Russia, Iran, Ethiopia, Somalia, Germany, and Armenia. They form an alliance with Russia, which takes the lead in this invasion. The author has some difficulty with some of the names and expresses some reservations. The invasion itself is a prophetic event. The purpose and outcome of this invasion are described in this same Bible passage. There is little debate about this among Bible commentators. What is debated is when it will occur.

There are different views. But first, the fundamental considerations (conditions), found in Ezekiel.

The when.

1. Israel must be a state again.
2. The enduring wilderness of the past centuries must be repopulated.
3. Living in unfortified towns. (Present-day kibbutzim). Hamas invaded such an open kibbutz on October 7th.
4. Living in peace/confidence. Through trust in the strong army. (Unlike living in safety).

Modern-day Israel meets all these conditions, and from this perspective, an invasion could quickly occur. There are five different views on when this will happen.

- a. The invasion in the middle of the Great Tribulation.
- b. The Armageddon view. Invasion at the end of the Great Tribulation.
- c. Intermezzo view. Invasion after the Great Tribulation.
- d. End of the Millennium. Invasion at the end of the millennial kingdom of peace.
- e. Before the Great Tribulation.

All views have pros and cons. However, the objections to views a-d are that they contain impossibilities. Human views with biblical impossibilities.

This leaves view 5: Before the Great Tribulation. Here too, there are caveats. However, not impossibilities, and therefore remains the best explanation of the question of when.

For this essay, the biblical fact of an invasion as the fourth birth pang before the Great Tribulation is sufficiently factual and substantiated by the Bible. An invasion led by Russia.

E. The World Government.

The fifth birth pang, which will lead to the Great Tribulation, is the establishment of a one-world government. What is still being denied (through manipulative media) by Western democracies, megalomaniac empires, societies and organizations like the WEF, and other interested parties, is already prophesied in the Bible as birth pangs. The aforementioned invasion will, with the fall of the Russian army and its Muslim allies, also destroy Russia itself. This will end the power balance between East and West and open the door to a world government. The Bible doesn't specify the nature of this government. It will, of course, be a form of imperialism. But whether this will be a select leadership or something like the UN is unknown. But that this world government will come and *devour the entire world* is clear. And this is the fifth birth pang.

F. The Ten Kingdoms

This world government will eventually be split into ten kingdoms. (Daniel 7:24a) Bible commentators on end-time topics who "explain with a newspaper in hand" try to prove their point with the latest world developments. But the Scriptures do not speak of the Ten Kingdoms in this way. According to the Bible, only after the world is under the control of the world government, and only then, will this world government be split into ten kingdoms. At best, the EU will be one of the ten kingdoms, but certainly not all ten. Beginning before the Great Tribulation, this Age of the Ten Kingdoms will continue until the middle of the Great Tribulation, and it will be the sixth birth pang.

G. The Rise of the Antichrist

There are different views on the Antichrist. Various people in history have already been given the label "antichrist." Think of Hitler, for example. Or the popes. While it is understandable that some individuals have been labeled as the "antichrist" in their actions, this is not the antichrist spoken of in Daniel and Thessalonians 2:1-3. There will be two events before the Great Tribulation.

The *first* is the apostasy (see chapter 3, figure 3. Period from 1900 to the present).

The *second* is the revelation of the man of lawlessness and the son of perdition. This revelation of the Antichrist's identity will occur before the Great Tribulation and will occur at the time when the world is divided into ten kingdoms. This will be the seventh birth pang. How the Antichrist will be

recognized is unclear. But he will be recognized. The emergence of the Antichrist before the Great Tribulation is a biblical necessity. Because the Great Tribulation begins with the signing of the seven-year covenant between Israel and the Antichrist, it is necessary that the Antichrist have gained sufficient political power to sign such a covenant.

H. The Period of Peace and False Security.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3. Here it says that "the day of the Lord" will come like a thief in the night. This expression refers to "The Great Tribulation." So, God or Jesus will not come unannounced and unexpectedly. Rather, the Great Tribulation is foretold and intended here. When the entire world comes under the power of the Ten Kingdoms and the Antichrist, there will be and experience a period of false peace and security. However, nothing is as it seems. This false feeling will be destroyed by the Great Tribulation. Described as a sudden destruction. This is the eighth birth pang as a prelude to the Great Tribulation.

I. The Seven-Year Covenant.

The ninth birth pang. This marks the beginning of the Great Tribulation. And not the rapture of the church. A covenant between the leaders of Israel and the Antichrist. It's hard to imagine God's people making a covenant with God's enemy. This signing of this covenant takes place *after* the church of saints has been taken up into heaven.

Chapter 5.

Other Events Preceding the Great Tribulation on Earth.

This chapter lists the events that will occur before the Great Tribulation, but not in chronological order. These events can be placed in order as they actually occur. One of these events is the rapture of the church.

A. Eclipses.

During the end times, including the last days of the Church Age, as well as during the Great Tribulation, Scripture speaks of five different eclipses that will occur. Egypt experienced one in Exodus 10:21-23. During Jesus' crucifixion, there was darkness.

Note: An eclipse means that the light from the sun, moon, and stars suddenly disappears, so that the earth receives no light from these light sources. There will be total darkness.

We know the expression "can't see your hand before your face." Literally, as in Exodus 10:23.

No one could see anything or be moved from their place.

Joel 2:31 predicts: *The sun will be darkened and the moon will turn to blood before the Great Tribulation.* At some point before the Great Tribulation, one of the global eclipses will occur.

B. The Return of Elijah

Another event clearly predicted to occur before the Great Tribulation is the return of Elijah in Malachi 4:5-6. There is considerable confusion about the relationship between Elijah and John the Baptist. However, they are not one and the same person. Elijah was never promised before the first coming of Jesus. The promise is that Elijah will return before the second coming of Christ. Before the first coming of Jesus, a messenger was predicted in Isaiah 40:3-5, and this is also made clear in Matthew and John. John himself, in response to questions from the Israelites, states that he is NOT the expected Elijah.

What is further explained in the Scriptures is that John will fulfill his task in the spirit of Elijah. Just as John was the messenger of Jesus' first coming, Elijah will be the messenger of Jesus' second coming. This will occur before the Great Tribulation.

C. The Third Temple. When?

Why the question mark? There is insufficient information in the Bible about whether the construction of this third temple will take place before or during the Great Tribulation. The third temple is mentioned in four places in the Bible: Daniel, Matthew, Thessalonians, and Revelation. That this temple will come to be is a biblical given. The exact date is unclear. Currently, at the time of writing this essay, preparations in Israel are in full swing and may even be completed. As far as the author is aware, Israelites descended from the tribe of Levi have now been fully initiated into the sacrificial traditions and temple rituals. Furthermore, all the temple objects have already been made.

Chapter 6.

The Eschatology of the Invisible Church.

The invisible or universal church consists of all true believers, while the visible church can consist of both believers and non-believers. In churches and congregations, true believers, believers, and non-believers can all occupy a chair.

A. Definition.

A clear definition of the invisible church and its actual composition can be derived from five Bible passages. The author limits himself to a summary.

1. Christ is the head of the Church.
2. The Church, the Body of the Messiah, consists of a combination of Jews and Gentiles united through faith in Jesus. Until the Messiah died, there were two entities: Israel (Jews) and Gentiles. But now there is a third new entity, the new man, described as one body, which is the Church, consisting of believing Jews and believing Gentiles in Jesus, united in a new entity. Yet, they retain their own identity.
3. The Church is the Body of the Messiah, composed of Jewish and Gentile believers.
4. Entering/belonging to the Body occurs through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13). This spiritual baptism can only be received through faith in Jesus.

*Note: The author addresses this point for the churchgoer. Many churchgoers think that doing good, doing church work (actively or less actively), and attending church on Sundays is sufficient to belong to God. This idea is human, but certainly not God's. This idea assumes that you will be saved by your works and that God will be gracious. This human assumption is found nowhere in the Bible. Something that is not in the Bible is unbiblical and certainly does not suddenly become biblical through human thinking. We as humans must follow the Bible, not the other way around. The author wants to make this clear. Such thoughts invalidate the Passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. If you could do it yourself, Jesus' coming to earth would not have been necessary. The Bible teaches us that "all fall short of the glory of heaven." Only through faith in Jesus is there access to Heaven. The Bible speaks very clearly about first having faith in Jesus, then an adult baptism by immersion (this is your prayer), and then a baptism/filling with the Holy Spirit. This last can happen spontaneously or by requesting it in prayer. The outcome is the same. God gives. Jesus demonstrated this in His own life with His baptism in the Jordan River and then the filling/baptism with the Holy Spirit (dove). The New Testament repeatedly describes this as the ultimate scenario. This ensures the true believer's rapture with Jesus in the clouds. The seal (baptism/filling) of the Holy Spirit is the ticket to your rapture in the clouds. Don't let pastors tell you otherwise. Preachers or anyone else are fooled. The Bible is leading. And this is what the Bible teaches. **In summary: Only faith in Jesus is your salvation for your place in Heaven, but it does not save you from the Great Tribulation. The Holy Spirit within you (received after your adult baptism) is your salvation, through pre-rapture in the clouds, from the Great Tribulation.** The author does not write this to convince you. Not at all! It is up to you what you do with it. The author simply shows you the biblical path.*

5. The beginning began at Pentecost. Before that, the Church could not yet exist. Jesus used the future tense when He spoke about building His church. The necessary conditions (resurrection, ascension, spiritual gifts) were not yet present at that time.

B. The Rapture of the Church.

The Rapture of the Church is a birth pang. It is not numbered chronologically because the Rapture cannot be placed in chronological order, as the time is unknown. However, it can be placed between May 2025 (the date of the essay) and the signing of the covenant between Israel and the Antichrist. The signing of this covenant marks the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

There are two separate topics regarding the Rapture:

1. The events surrounding the Rapture;
2. The timing of the Rapture. Re 1. The Events. John 14:1-3 gives the promise that Jesus will return to take us to Heaven. No details about the Rapture, but the promise. Where? To Heaven, NOT (back) to earth. No return trip from Heaven to earth. Here, Jesus is not speaking about His return to earth. For whom is the promise? For His saints. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 describes the program of the Rapture.

In chronological order, it reads as follows:

- first: The Lord himself will descend from heaven.
- second: With a shout. The Greek word used here means to issue a command.
- third: With the shout of an archangel. The archangel Michael is used in the case of the rapture. He repeats the Lord's command and his task is to initiate the rapture.
- fourth: With a trumpet call from God¹. (1 Cor. 15:50-58). The starting signal. Think of the Feast of Trumpets in Israel (Rosh Hashanah), the Jewish New Year.
- fifth: Those who have died in Christ will rise first. The expression "in Christ" also indicates that only those baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body will rise at the moment of the Rapture.
- sixth: Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds in the twinkling of an eye. Their bodies will be changed to "imperishable." This means immortal. This is necessary because flesh and blood became mortal through the Fall. (See also the essay ["Eschatology, Start essay The Rapture of the Church"](#)) (you can follow the link).
- Seventh: To meet the Lord in the air to be united with Him and to be and remain with Him permanently, and to return to Heaven.

¹There is confusion among interpreters about this trumpet because Revelation also mentions trumpets. Interpreters who place the Rapture in the middle or after the Great Tribulation often say that it refers to the 7th trumpet from the Book of Revelation. However, it is impossible that this is meant by the last trumpet because at the time 1 Corinthians was written, the Book of Revelation had not yet been written by John. The Corinthians could not have known anything about the seven trumpets. Yet, it is referred to as "the last trumpet." Briefly explained: Here Paul refers to the last trumpet during Rosh Hashanah. During this festival, a series of short blasts on the horn are heard each year. This culminates in a long blast called the tekiah gedolah. This is what Paul means here by the last trumpet.

Ad 2. The Time of the Rapture.

And that is the key question for many believers. They increasingly experience that the days are becoming more oppressive and society, both in the Netherlands and worldwide, is becoming more unpleasant. The saying "Maranatha, Lord Jesus, come quickly" is widespread within Christianity. But what does "soon" mean?

The Bible is very clear that the time of the Rapture **precedes** the time of the Great Tribulation. One term the Bible uses to describe the Great Tribulation is the Wrath of God. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10 explicitly states that true believers are children of the light and the day. They are not appointed to wrath but to obtain salvation. And the Bible does not contradict itself. Throughout the New Testament, you find the same message. The true believer does NOT experience the judgment that

comes upon the unbeliever in an unbelieving world. Although the Bible is very explicit about this, there are nevertheless multiple views on this matter. These can all be Scripturally refuted as incorrect and misinterpreted. It is what it is. And what the Bible says and means is decisive.

When we read and understand that the true believer is not destined for the wrath of God (Great Tribulation), much becomes clear when we know and understand that the beginning of the Great Tribulation (the wrath of God) begins **after** the Rapture. For only then will the true believer not enter into judgment (the wrath of God). This is destined for the unbelieving world and everyone who lives in it. In Revelation 3:10, the Church (the invisible church of true believers) is promised that she will be preserved from the period of temptation that will come upon the whole world.

This verse does not say that the Church will only be safe during the temptation, but that she will be kept from the hour of temptation that will come upon the whole world to try those who dwell on the earth. It is imperative that she, the Church, be taken away before the Great Tribulation occurs.

Necessary because saints will be killed on a large scale during the Great Tribulation (Rev. chapters 6, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18). If these saints are the saints of the Church, then they will not be safe, and Rev. 3:10 is meaningless. Only when the saints of the Church are kept separate from the Great Tribulation, only then is Revelation 3:10 correct. And it is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, not of John. It is not a human revelation but of Jesus the Messiah.

John, Romans, James, and Revelation state that the Rapture is imminent. So, regarding the question of when the Rapture will occur, we can conclude two things.

-First, that the Rapture will occur before the Great Tribulation. Because the Great Tribulation begins with the signing of the seven-year covenant (pact) with the Antichrist, The final moment at which the Rapture will occur could be the moment this covenant is signed. The Rapture will not occur after this moment.

-Second, we can expect the Rapture at any moment. It can occur at any time and is not dependent on the signing of the seven-year covenant. It must be clear that "imminent" does not mean it will happen soon. It simply means that nothing else needs to precede it and that it can therefore happen at any moment. Without announcement or placement between events preceding the Great Tribulation.

Combining all the information, the conclusion is that the Rapture will occur between May 2025 (*the writing of this essay*) and the signing of the seven-year covenant.

C. The Messiah's Judgment Seat.

This is an important piece of teaching for you as a believer to read carefully.

The author also provides text references below, for you as a believer to substantiate.

We are still in this section with the invisible church. After the definition and the Rapture, we have now arrived in Heaven as true believers, part of the invisible church. And then suddenly there is the Judgment Seat of the Messiah. And that's what you stand for

Luke 21:34-36 Be prepared for that. Don't be distracted by parties or booze, nor by everyday problems. Do not be surprised when the Son of Man suddenly comes. Pay close attention and keep praying. Ask God for strength so that you can escape all the terrible things that are going to happen. Ask for strength, so that you can stand confidently before the Son of Man."

For what confident?

The answer is found in Romans 14:10-12.

But you, what do you judge your brother? Or you, too, what do you despise your brother? For we will all be brought before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, "As I live, the Lord says, Every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess God." So now each of us will give an account to God for himself.

You read that right. This is what the Bible teaches. After your rapture into Heaven, you arrive at the judgment seat of Jesus. No applause, no heavenly choir, no worship band, not even your pastor or pastor who can put in a good word. Just you and Jesus on the judgment seat. And all your works are laying there on the floor in a pile. Everything! Open and exposed. I can imagine Jesus looking at you and then at the pile and then at you again. That could just be an awkward moment.

2 Cor. 5:10 For we must all be made manifest before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive recompense for what he has done through his body, whether good or evil.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15 Paul explains it in detail.

According to the grace of God that has been given to me, I have laid the foundation like a wise builder, and another is building on it. However, everyone must see to it how he builds on it.

For no one can lay any other foundation than what has been laid, that is Jesus Christ.

Whether someone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or straw, everyone's work will be made manifest. The day will make it clear, because it appears in fire.

And how everyone's work is, the fire will test.

If a man's work, which he has built on the foundation, endures, he will receive a reward.

If a person's work burns, he will suffer damage. But he himself will be saved, but in such a way, as through fire.

Take a look with the author and imagine this scene.

You have followed Jesus through the clouds. And you arrive in Heaven enthusiastically. You are happy and excited, along with those tens of thousands of others. Very happy that you are at the Rapture.

And then the deception. There are no green lawns, beautiful views, flowers, picnic tables, etc.

No, there is a chair. A judgment seat. And suddenly you walk there alone to that chair. And Jesus sits on that chair. And before that seat there are your works of the earth before the judgment seat. You in front of it and Jesus behind it, on the judgment seat. And then suddenly a scorching hot fire comes and sets fire to your pile of works. And then the fire goes out as quickly as it came. What is still there? Better asked, is there anything left at all? You bend over slightly and take a good look to see if there is anything left..... Do you see anything lying around? Or you only see the floor. You look up to Jesus, and He looks back at you.

Ask you; what do you want Him to say and do to you..... Do you want Him to get up from the chair, walk over to you and give you a hug and say to you; look, I see gold and silver and precious stones; Well done I am happy and proud of you and come along, here I have your crown of reward or..... He points to the side door, says nothing and gets up and walks away. And you may leave through the side door empty-handed, without a crown.

Of course, this is a fantasy of the author. But the core is there in the aforementioned Bible passage. Receive a reward or suffer damage. And that is really entirely up to you how you live and act here on earth. And you can't blame anybody else at all when you're standing there. **Because they are your works. Now and here on this earth.**

The crowns of reward.

Paul does not write anything about the character of the reward in this passage, but other passages do. They speak of the reward as being crowns.

In Greek, there are two words that mean "crown".

The first word is diadem and this is the crown of a king. A crown of a ruler, of someone who is of royal descent by birth and who carries out his kingship. This is the crown that Jesus wears.



The second word is stephanos. This is a crown of a victor, a champion who has won a match.

These are the crowns that are ready for the believers because they have conquered in the spiritual battle, and are now crowned before the judgment seat of the Messiah.

There are five of these crowns that the Bible speaks of;

1. The crown of self-control. It is for those who have conquered the old man. For those who have learned to let the Holy Spirit guide their lives. (1 Corinthians 9:24-25).
2. The crown or wreath of honor for those who win souls for Jesus. Available to all who do evangelistic work . (1 Thessalonians 2:19)
3. Crown or wreath of righteousness. For those who have retained their faith, both in doctrine and morally despite difficult circumstances. For those who are longing for the return of the Messiah. (2 Timothy 4:7-8).
4. Crown of life. For those who endure trials (James 1:12)
Crown to those who have to suffer as martyrs for their faith. (Rev. 2:10)
5. Crown or wreath of glory. This is a crown for faithfully feeding the flock of God. This is available to pastors, elders, and others who have fed the sheep with "milk and meat"; the Word of God.

There may be other crowns available, but these are the only crowns that are spoken of in the Word of God. The reward by means of these crowns is for the purpose of determining the degree of authority in the Messianic Kingdom and not for the position in eternity. In eternity, all believers will be equal, but not during the Kingdom (1000-year kingdom of peace), where believers will have varying degrees of authority. We find this truth in the form of a parable in Luke 19:11-27

In summary.

The foundation is Jesus Christ. Your works will be judged. Not your faith. Otherwise you wouldn't be there, hospitalized and well. Did you build on the foundation of Jesus? Your works are judged by fire when you stand before the judgment seat.

This is about your work. And this is serious business. It's not about the quantity of your works, but the quality.

It is not a question of how much gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or straw, but was it gold, silver and precious stones. Or was it wood, hay and straw? It's about quality and not quantity.

This assessment is only about whether the believer has done what was God's will for his or her life or not. When the believer does the will of God, obeys His commands, and performs the duties for which he has received his spiritual gifts, then he builds on the foundation with gold, silver, and precious stones and receives a reward; crown/wreath.

This will affect the kingdom of peace for the next 1000 years, how you will experience it and what you may do with what responsibility. Otherwise, your works will become fuel for the fire. While the believer's sins are not covered by this judgment, they still play an indirect role in this judgment.

Because the works that stand up give a reward. Works that are digested cause damage. Damage here has to do with rewarding and nothing else.

As an example: A skater who doesn't make it to the podium. He loses a reward. He gets nothing at all. He has crossed the finish line (in the 1000-year kingdom of peace) and that's it. He leaves the course without any reward, no honor, no applause, with nothing.

Let no one conclude from this that these people are losing their salvation. The works do NOT determine salvation. Salvation is based on trust in the Messiah, and salvation is grace through faith, and this is completely separate from works. But without a reward, without a crown, he/she will spend the time in the Kingdom of 1000 years, while during this period he/she will not be able to show any result/reward from his/her spiritual life.

This reward is explained in more detail in the Millennium government structure in the seventh part of this study "[Eschatology. Part 7 The-Messianic-Kingdom-Aftermath-and-Eternity](#)". You can follow the link.

Finally.

After the rapture of The Church into Heaven, the events that take place during the first 3 1/2 years of The Great Tribulation follow. These are described in the subsequent essay "[Eschatology. Part 2 Events during the first half of The Great Tribulation](#)". You can follow the link

The numbered parts of this study Eschatology are not separate independent parts.

It is one long study from the Bible about the coming end times. It has been divided and numbered solely by the author to keep it readable and manageable. The study is chronologically structured and follows the Bible book of Revelation and is numbered as such.

The author invites you to read the other parts for a complete overview of the coming end-time events. Therefore, there is no usual closing and contact details here.

Addendum.

The Bible texts are included in Dutch. You can find them in your own Bible.

Mattheus 24:1-8

1En Jezus ging de tempel uit en vertrok. En zijn discipelen kwamen tot Hem om Hem op de gebouwen van de tempel te wijzen. 2En Hij antwoordde en zeide tot hen: Ziet gij dit alles niet? Voorwaar, Ik zeg u, er zal hier geen steen op de andere gelaten worden, die niet zal worden weggebroken. 3Toen Hij op de Olijfberg gezeten was, kwamen zijn discipelen alleen tot Hem en zeiden: Zeg ons wanneer zal dat geschieden, en wat is het teken van uw komst en van de voleinding der wereld? 4En Jezus antwoordde en zeide tot hen: Ziet toe, dat niemand u verleide! 5Want velen zullen komen onder mijn naam en zeggen: Ik ben de Christus, en zij zullen velen verleiden. 6Ook zult gij horen van oorlogen en van geruchten van oorlogen. Ziet toe, weest niet verontrust; want dat moet geschieden, maar het einde is het nog niet. 7Want volk zal opstaan tegen volk, en koninkrijk tegen koninkrijk, en er zullen nu hier, dan daar, hongersnoden en aardbevingen zijn. 8Doch dat alles is het begin der weeën.

Mattheus 24:40-41

Dan zullen er twee in het veld zijn, één zal aangenomen worden en één achtergelaten worden; 41twee vrouwen zullen aan het malen zijn met de molen, één zal aangenomen worden, en één achtergelaten worden.

Openbaring 22:18-19

Ik betuig aan eenieder, die de woorden der profetie van dit boek hoort: Indien iemand hieraan toevoegt, God zal hem toevoegen de plagen, die in dit boek beschreven zijn; 19en indien iemand afneemt van de woorden van het boek dezer profetie, God zal zijn deel afnemen van het geboorte des levens en van de heilige stad, welke in dit boek beschreven zijn.

Daniel 7:24a

4En de tien horens – uit dat koninkrijk zullen tien koningen opstaan, en na hen zal een ander opstaan; die zal van de vorige verschillen en drie koningen ten val brengen.

! Thess. 5:1-10 Maar over de tijden en gelegenheden, broeders, is het niet nodig, dat u geschreven wordt: 2immers, gij weet zelf zeer goed, dat de dag des Heren zó komt, als een dief in de nacht. 3Terwijl zij zeggen: het is (alles) vrede en rust, overkomt hun, als de weeën een zwangere vrouw, een plotseling verderf, en zij zullen geenszins ontkomen. 4Maar gij, broeders, zijt niet in de duisternis, zodat die dag u als een dief overvallen zou: 5want gij zijt allen kinderen des lichts en kinderen des dags. Wij behoren niet aan nacht of duisternis toe; 6laten wij dan ook niet slapen gelijk de anderen, doch wakker en nuchter zijn. 7Want die slapen, slapen des nachts en die zich bedrinken, zijn des nachts dronken, 8maar laten wij, die de dag toebehoren, nuchter zijn, toegerust met het harnas van geloof en liefde en met de helm van de hoop der zaligheid; 9want God heeft ons niet gesteld tot toorn, maar tot het verkrijgen van zaligheid door onze Here Jezus Christus, 10die voor ons gestorven is, opdat wij, hetzij wij waken, hetzij wij slapen, tezamen met Hem zouden leven. 11Vermaant daarom elkander en bouwt elkander op

2Thessalonicenzen 2:1-3

Maar wij verzoeken u, broeders, met betrekking tot de komst van [onze] Here Jezus Christus en onze vereniging met Hem, 2dat gij niet spoedig uw bezinning verliest of in onrust verkeert, hetzij door een geestesuiting, hetzij door een prediking, hetzij door een brief, die van ons afkomstig zou zijn, alsof de dag des Heren (reeds) aanbrak. 3Laat niemand u misleiden, op welke wijze ook, want eerst moet de afval komen en de mens der wetteloosheid zich openbaren, de zoon des verderfs, 4de tegenstander, die zich verheft tegen al wat God of voorwerp van verering heet, zodat hij zich in de tempel Gods zet, om aan zich te laten zien, dat hij een god is.

Maleachi 4:5-6

Zie, Ik zend u de profeet Elia, voordat de grote en geduchte dag des Heren komt. 6Hij zal het hart der vaderen terugvoeren tot de kinderen en het hart der kinderen tot hun vaderen, opdat Ik niet kome en het land treffe met de ban.

1 Kor. 9:24-25

Weet gij niet, dat zij, die in de renbaan lopen, allen wel lopen, doch dat slechts één de prijs kan ontvangen? Loopt dan zó, dat gij die behaalt! 25En al wie aan een wedstrijd deelneemt, beheerst zich in alles; zij om een vergankelijke erekrans te verkrijgen, wij om een onvergankelijke.

1 Kor. 12:13 want door één Geest zijn wij allen tot één lichaam gedoopt, hetzij Joden, hetzij Grieken, hetzij slaven, hetzij vrijen, en allen zijn wij met één Geest gedrenkt.

2 Timotheüs 4: 7-8.

Ik heb de goede strijd gestreden, ik heb mijn loop ten einde gebracht, ik heb het geloof behouden; 8voorts ligt voor mij gereed de krans der rechtvaardigheid, welke te dien dage de Here, de rechtvaardige rechter, mij zal geven, doch niet alleen mij, maar ook allen, die zijn verschijning hebben liefgehad.

Lucas 19:11-27 11Toen zij daarnaar luisterden, sprak Hij nog een gelijkenis uit, omdat Hij dicht bij Jeruzalem was en zij meenden, dat het Koninkrijk Gods terstond openbaar zou worden. 12Hij zeide dan: Een man van hoge geboorte trok naar een ver land om voor zich de koninklijke waardigheid in ontvangst te nemen en (daarna) terug te keren. 13En hij riep tien van zijn slaven en gaf hun tien ponden en zeide tot hen: Drijft handel, totdat ik terugkom. 14Doch zijn burgers haatten hem en zonden hem een gezantschap achterna met de boodschap: Wij willen niet, dat deze koning over ons wordt. 15En het geschiedde, toen hij terugkwam, nadat hij de koninklijke waardigheid verkregen had, dat hij die slaven, aan welke hij het geld gegeven had, bij zich liet roepen om te weten, wat ieder met zijn handel bereikt had. 16En de eerste verscheen en zeide: Heer, uw pond heeft tien ponden winst gemaakt. 17En hij zeide tot hem: Voortreffelijk, goede slaaf; omdat gij in het minste getrouw geweest zijt, heb gezag over tien steden. 18De tweede kwam en zeide: Uw pond, heer, heeft vijf ponden opgebracht. 19Hij zeide ook tot hem: En gij, wees heer over vijf steden. 20En de volgende kwam en zeide: Heer, hier is uw pond, dat ik in een doek weggeborgen en bewaard heb. 21Want ik was bang voor u, omdat gij een streng mens zijt; gij neemt weg wat gij niet hebt uitgezet en gij maait wat gij niet gezaaid hebt. 22Hij zeide tot hem: Uit uw eigen mond zal ik u oordelen, slechte slaaf. Gij wist, dat ik een streng mens ben, die wegneemt wat ik niet heb uitgezet en maai wat ik niet gezaaid heb. 23Waarom hebt gij dan mijn geld niet bij de bank gegeven? Dan zou ik het bij mijn komst met rente opgevraagd hebben. 24En hij zeide tot degenen, die bij hem stonden: Neemt hem het pond af en geeft het hem, die de tien ponden heeft. 25En zij zeiden tot hem: Heer, hij heeft al tien ponden. 26Ik zeg u, aan een ieder, die heeft, zal gegeven worden, en hem, die niet heeft, zal ontnomen worden ook wat hij heeft. 27Doch die vijanden van mij, die niet wilden, dat ik over hen koning werd, brengt hen hier en slacht ze voor mijn ogen.

Jacobus 1:12

Zalig is de man, die in verzoeking volhardt, want, wanneer hij de proef heeft doorstaan, zal hij de kroon des levens ontvangen, die Hij beloofd heeft aan wie Hem liefhebben.

Opb. 2:10

Wees niet bevreesd voor hetgeen gij lijden zult. Zie, de duivel zal sommigen uwer in de gevangenis werpen, opdat gij verzocht wordt, en gij zult een verdrukking hebben van tien dagen. Wees getrouw tot de dood en Ik zal u geven de kroon des levens.

Opb. 3:10. “

Omdat gij het bevel bewaard hebt om Mij te blijven verwachten, zal ook Ik u bewaren voor de ure der verzoeking, die over de gehele wereld komen zal, om te verzoeken hen, die op de aarde wonen.

Ezechiël 38:1 – 39:16

De overwinning over Gog

1Het woord des Heren kwam tot mij: 2Mensenkind, richt uw aangezicht tegen Gog in het land Magog, de grootvorst van Mesek en Tubal; profeteer tegen hem, 3en zeg: zo zegt de Here Here: zie, ik zal u, Gog, grootvorst van Mesek en Tubal! 4Ik zal u komen halen, haken slaan in uw kaken en u doen uittrekken met uw gehele leger: paarden en ruiters, allen volledig uitgerust, een grote schare, met grote en kleine schilden, allen vertrouwd met het zwaard; 5ook Perzen, Ethiopiërs en Puteeërs, allen met schild en helm; 6Gomer en al zijn krijgsbenden; Bet-Togarma ver in het noorden met al zijn krijgsbenden – vele volken met u. 7Maak u gereed en rust u toe, gij met al de scharen die zich bij u gevoegd hebben; wees gij hun tot een leidsman. 8Na geruime tijd zult gij een bevel ontvangen; in toekomstige jaren zult gij optrekken tegen het land dat zich van de krijg hersteld heeft, (een volk) dat uit het gebied van vele volken bijeengebracht is op de bergen Israëls die tot een blijvende wildernis waren geworden, maar het is uit de volken uitgeleid; allen wonen zij in gerustheid. 9Dan zult gij optrekken als een opkomend onweer; gij zult zijn als een wolk die de aarde bedekt, gij met al uw krijgsbenden, en vele volken met u.

10Zo zegt de Here Here: Te dien dage zullen er plannen in uw hart opkomen; gij zult een boze aanslag beramen, – 11gij zult zeggen: ik zal optrekken tegen een land van dorpen, een overval plegen op vreedzame lieden, die in gerustheid wonen, allen zonder muur, grendels of poorten – 12om buit te maken en roof te plegen, om uw hand te keren tegen de weer bewoonde puinhopen en tegen een natie die uit het gebied der volken bijeengebracht is, die have en goed heeft verworven, die op de navel der aarde woont. 13Seba, Dedan, de handelaars en al de machtigen van Tarsis zullen tot u zeggen: Komt gij om buit te maken; hebt gij uw schare bijengeroepen om roof te plegen, om zilver en goud weg te slepen, om have en goed te bemachtigen, om een grote buit te maken?

14Daarom, profeteer, mensenkind, en zeg tot Gog: Zo zegt de Here Here: zult gij het niet gewaarworden, te dien dage als mijn volk Israël in gerustheid woont? 15Dan zult gij komen uit uw woonplaats uit het verre noorden, gij en vele volken met u, allen ruiters, een grote schare en een talrijk leger, 16en gij zult optrekken tegen mijn volk Israël als een wolk die het land bedekt. In toekomstige dagen zal het geschieden, dat Ik u doe optrekken tegen mijn land, opdat de volken Mij leren kennen, wanneer Ik Mij voor hun ogen aan u, o Gog, de Heilige betonen zal.

17Zo zegt de Here Here: Zijt gij het, van wie Ik in vroegere dagen gesproken heb door de dienst van mijn knechten, de profeten van Israël, welke in die dagen jarenlang geprofeteerd hebben, dat Ik u tegen hen zou doen optrekken? 18Maar te dien dage, wanneer Gog komt in het land van Israël, luidt het woord van de Here Here, dan zal mijn grimmigheid opstijgen in mijn neus, 19en in mijn naijver, in het vuur mijner verbolgenheid, zal Ik spreken: Waarlijk, te dien dage zal een zware aardbeving het land van Israël teisteren. 20Ja, beven zullen voor Mij de vissen der zee, het gevogelte des hemels, het gedierte des velds en al het kruipend gedierte dat op de aardbodem kruipt en alle mensen die op de aarde leven; de bergen zullen neerstorten, de bergwanden zullen vallen, elke muur zal ter aarde storten. 21Dan zal Ik op al mijn bergen het zwaard tegen hem oproepen, luidt het woord van de Here Here; het zwaard van de een zal tegen de ander zijn. 22Ik zal met hem in het gericht treden door pest en door bloed; stromende regen en hagelstenen, vuur en zwavel zal Ik doen neerregenen op hem, op zijn krijgsbenden en op de vele volken die met hem zijn; 23Ik zal Mij groot en heilig betonen en Mij doen kennen ten aanschouwen van vele volken; en zij zullen weten, dat Ik de Here ben.

1Gij nu, mensenkind, profeteer tegen Gog en zeg: Zo zegt de Here Here: zie, Ik zal u, Gog, grootvorst van Mesek en Tubal! 2Ik zal u komen halen en u voortdrijven, u doen optrekken uit het verre noorden en brengen op de bergen van Israël. 3Dan zal Ik de boog uit uw linkerhand slaan en de pijlen uit uw rechterhand doen vallen. 4Op de bergen van Israël zult gij vallen, gij met al uw krijgsbenden en de volken die met u zijn; aan roofvogels, vogels van allerlei gevederte, en aan het gedierte des velds zal Ik u tot voedsel geven; 5op het open veld zult gij vallen, want Ik heb het gesproken, luidt het woord van

de Here Here. 6Ik zal vuur werpen in Magog en onder hen die in gerustheid de kustlanden bewonen; en zij zullen weten, dat Ik de Here ben. 7Ik zal mijn heilige naam bekendmaken onder mijn volk Israël; Ik zal mijn heilige naam niet meer laten ontheiligen; en de volken zullen weten, dat Ik de Here ben, heilig in Israël. 8Zie, het komt, het zal geschieden, luidt het woord van de Here Here; dit is de dag, waarvan Ik gesproken heb.