

The End of the Tribulation

Last week I made an observation on the Christian life that in retrospect was profound. Christians are supposed to be “superheros.” I would not have come up with that on my own, so it must have been from the Holy Spirit. No one, not even a Christian, can on his own or her own abilities achieve anything like a superhero, able to leap buildings in a single bound, etc. But, the normal Christian should be walking by faith dependence upon the Holy Spirit at all times. By doing that, God can work through us to achieve amazing things, all the while manifesting the characteristics of Christ’s person.

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

Ephesians 5:2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Now these things may not be stupendous to human viewpoint. Indeed, the Jews during Jesus lifetime expected a king who would defeat the Romans and cause Israel to be independent of outside influences. But as we know, this did not happen. The King will not return until the end of the Tribulation and reign during the Millennium.

John 6:14 Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

The End of the Tribulation
Zephaniah 3:8

John 6:15 So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

As some say, the cross comes before the crown.

Hebrews 2:9 But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

So now we who were and currently are called “little Christs” or Christians live in bodies lower than angels yet we are positionally in Jesus Christ higher than angels.

This leads me to an emphasis of my teaching:

Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.

Hebrews 4:2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

This is the heart of the faith-rest life: doctrine plus faith.

Let me diverge here a little and quote from an R. B. Thieme booklet titled “Christian Integrity.” He starts the first chapter:

The End of the Tribulation Zephaniah 3:8

“NEVER BEFORE IN HISTORY has every believer in Jesus Christ possessed two royal warrants—his priesthood directed toward God and his ambassadorship directed toward man and circumstances. Never before in history has every believer been indwelt simultaneously by God the Son, Jesus Christ, and by God the Holy Spirit.”

“Never before in history has so much personal responsibility been delegated to every believer as in the present era—the Church Age. Never before in history has a body of believers received all its instructions in writing—the completed canon of Scripture. Never before in history has the ritual in worship been replaced by the protocol of divine dynamics.”

Responsibility. Great is our salvation after believing in Jesus Christ as our Savior. But with that salvation comes great responsibility. We are not to remain idle in our Christian walk. Per Hebrews 4:1-2, we need to 1) know the promises of God, in other words, Bible Doctrine, and 2) be filled with the Holy Spirit by faith. We need to be empowered to live the Christian life. Divine dynamics. We are not to be spectators. The angels are spectators eagerly watching believers during the Church Age. God has a plan and has given each of us a mission with assets to perform that mission. Each person has a spiritual gift and the potential for empowering it through faith dependence on the Holy Spirit.

OK, enough. Now let us proceed to Zephaniah.

Zephaniah 3:8 is the end of the Tribulation. Chapter 3 verse 8 is an unusual verse. According to one commentator it has all the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. No other verse can claim that. All I can verify is that indeed, all of the Hebrew letters are contained in this single verse. It is also another verse that connects to the book of Revelation. Zephaniah found yet another way to get our attention in his writing. It is perhaps another way of transitioning from the Tribulation to the Millennium.

The End of the Tribulation
Zephaniah 3:8

Zephaniah 3:8 “Therefore wait for Me,” declares the Lord, “For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.

Wait for Me. Wait is a word for faith. God says wait. If we stop what we are doing and “wait” for God to act, that is an act of faith. In the interim, verse 7 expected “you” to grab instruction (Bible Doctrine). Doctrine plus faith. Hebrews 4:1-2.

We do not know when the rapture will happen. We just have to wait. It might happen in our lifetimes or maybe not. But we wait on the Lord for all things.

Psalm 37:5 Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

Psalm 37:6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday.

Psalm 37:7 Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.

Declares the Lord. (Zephaniah 3:8) This is the phrase that the Young’s Literal Translation (YLT) translates as “an affirmation of Jehovah.” I prefer something like “declaration of Yahweh” or even “pronouncement of Yahweh.” It is a noun not a verb. I understand this phrase is like “a

The End of the Tribulation
Zephaniah 3:8

done deal.” This is based on the character of God, His faithfulness. He can do it and He will.

For the day when I rise up as a witness. This reminds me of the Christmas jingle “Santa is coming to town” in which it says, “He's making a list And checking it twice; He's gonna find out who's naughty and nice Santa Claus is comin' to town.” Jesus Christ will be coming to town and he has a list of those whose names are in the book of Life. At the end of the Tribulation, unbelievers will be removed in preparation for the judgment at the Great White throne in which the book of Life is opened. Is your name in it? As Paul and Silas told the Corinthian jailer, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.” Are you saved?

God sees everything. So anything people think they are doing in secret is not hidden from God.

Revelation 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.

Throughout the first two chapters of Zephaniah, God has said He will destroy those on the earth:

Zephaniah 1:2 “I will completely remove (emphatic) all (things) From the face of the earth,” declares (declaration of) the Lord.

Zephaniah 1:18 ...And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will

**The End of the Tribulation
Zephaniah 3:8**

**make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one,
Of all the inhabitants of the earth.**

At the end of the Tribulation, there will be “Armageddon.” Here are some helpful quotes from Robby Dean. He is talking about Revelation 19:15/Psalm 2/Revelation 14:19:

“That is referred to by another popular term, the Battle of Armageddon, but is more correctly understood by a phrase that is used in Revelation 16:14 as the battle or campaign—polemos/πολεμος, a word that doesn't refer specifically to one individual battle but to a series of battles or military campaign: the campaign of the great day of God Almighty. This is the focal point of the day of the Lord when God brings judgment into time, brings judgment upon the nations, judgment upon sin and evil in time. There is the judgment of sin at the cross; this is the judgment in time on the nations, the human race, and it brings about a cleansing of the planet through the three successive judgments—the seal, trumpet and bowl judgments—that prepare for the establishment of the millennial kingdom.”

**Joel 3:9 Proclaim this among the nations:
Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men! Let all
the soldiers draw near, let them come up!**

**Joel 3:10 Beat your plowshares into swords
And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the
weak say, “I am a mighty man.”**

**Joel 3:11 Hasten and come, all you
surrounding nations, And gather yourselves
there. Bring down, O Lord, Your mighty ones.**

**The End of the Tribulation
Zephaniah 3:8**

Joel 3:12 Let the nations be aroused And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, For there I will sit to judge All the surrounding nations.

“This is described in several passages in the Old Testament. Some of these passages are somewhat general and don't deal with the specifics of the Armageddon campaign. One is Joel 3:9-11. This is the Lord calling the nations to battle, the same thing we see in Revelation 14. NASB "Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men! Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up! Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears..." Notice the reversal there of the well known passage in Isaiah chapter two that during the Millennial kingdom they would beat swords into plowshares, etc. because of the peace that is established by the reign of the Messiah. This is the opposite, a call for man to come out with all of their weapons of war against God. "... Let the weak say, 'I am a mighty man.' Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, And gather yourselves there. Bring down, O LORD, Your mighty ones."”

Psalm 2:1 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing?

Psalm 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

Psalm 2:3 “Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!”

The End of the Tribulation
Zephaniah 3:8

**Psalm 2:4 He who sits in the heavens laughs,
The Lord scoffs at them.**

**Psalm 2:5 Then He will speak to them in His
anger And terrify them in His fury, saying,**

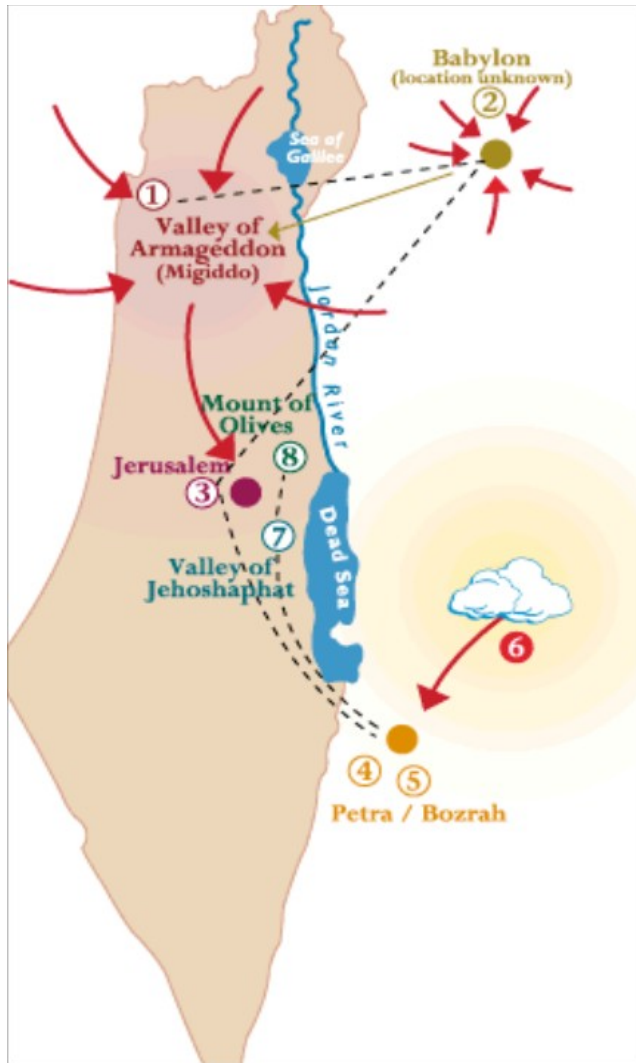
**Psalm 2:6 “But as for Me, I have installed My
King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”**

“Then in Psalm two. Psalm 2:1 NASB "Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth [a phrase seen again and again in the details of Revelation 14-19] take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed [Messiah], saying, 'Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!'" Then the scene shifts in verse 4ff to God's response to their attempts to break out from under the control of God. "He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain." So these first five verses of Psalm two refer to that battle as God laughs in derision at these puny human leaders who think that they can somehow rule the planet on their own and cast aside the sovereign authority of God. This comes to be called the battle of Armageddon because Revelation 16 describes it as such, but more specifically it is the campaign of the great day of God the Almighty.”

“The eight stages of Armageddon. There is the gathering of the armies of the Antichrist at the Valley of Megiddo, followed by the destruction of Babylon, the fall of Jerusalem, the Antichrist attacks the remnant of believing Jews in Bozrah, Israel's regeneration as a nation, Jesus returns—not to the Mount of Olives (that comes later)—to rescue the remnant in Petra, and then leads them on a campaign back to Jerusalem, defeating the armies of the Antichrist along the way, going to the Mount of Olives

The End of the Tribulation Zephaniah 3:8

which then splits in two allowing the remnant that is trapped in Jerusalem to escape. Then He destroys the Antichrist, his armies, and the false prophet. He casts the false prophet and the Antichrist into the lake of fire and Satan into the abyss where he is chained for 1000 years.¹”



The Campaign of Armageddon

THE EIGHT STAGES

1. Gathering of the Armies of the Antichrist
2. Destruction of Babylon
3. The Fall of Jerusalem
4. The Armies of the Antichrist at Bosrah
5. Israel's Regeneration
6. Second Coming of Christ
7. End of Fighting at the Valley of Jehoshaphat
8. Victory Ascent Upon the Mount of Olives

From Robby Dean's lesson 222 on the book of Revelation
<https://deanbible.org/dbmfiles/slides/2004-Revelation-222.pdf>

¹ <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/matthew-menuitem/message/11-baptism-of-the-holy-spirit-and-fire-b/read>

The End of the Tribulation
Zephaniah 3:8

When the Armageddon campaign has been won, Herman says concerning the “Baptism of Fire”:

“The Baptism of Fire is The Judgment by Jesus that comes when Jesus returns to earth and has won the Armageddon campaign. In this judgment *all unbelievers are cast off the earth* and all believers on earth will go into the millennial kingdom.²”

There is a very readable account of the Baptism of Fire given on gracenotes.info website:

“A judgment is coming at the second coming of Christ when all nonbelievers are taken from the earth. They will join the rest of the unbelievers in torments also called Sheol, Hades and Hell to wait for the last judgment also called the great white throne judgment described in Revelation 20 at the end of the millennium. This removal of unbelievers for judgment is the baptism of fire.”

“Fire is a symbol for judgment all through the Bible. Examples are the fire which burned the sacrifice on the Hebrew altar and the fire from God which burned the watered down sacrifices of Elijah and the prophets of Baal.”

“The doctrine of the baptism of fire is stated in Matt. 3:11, 12; Luke 3:16, 17; and 2 Thess. 1:7-9.”

“The Lord Jesus taught several parables regarding the end times when believers and unbelievers will be separated. The believers are to go into the millennium, the unbelievers are cast off into fire. These parables are analogies to the baptism of fire.”

Wheat and tares - Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43.

Good and bad fish - Matt. 13:47-50.

The wise and foolish virgins - Matt. 25:1-13

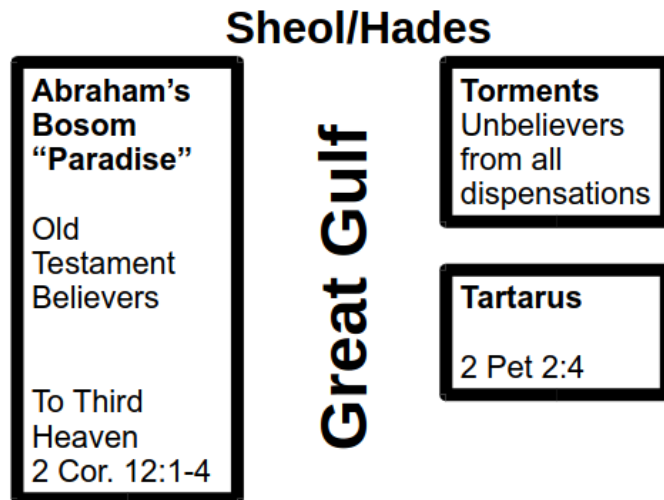
² <https://www.springvalleybiblechurch.org/Audio/Matthew/notes/2015-05-31-Sunday.pdf>

The End of the Tribulation
Zephaniah 3:8

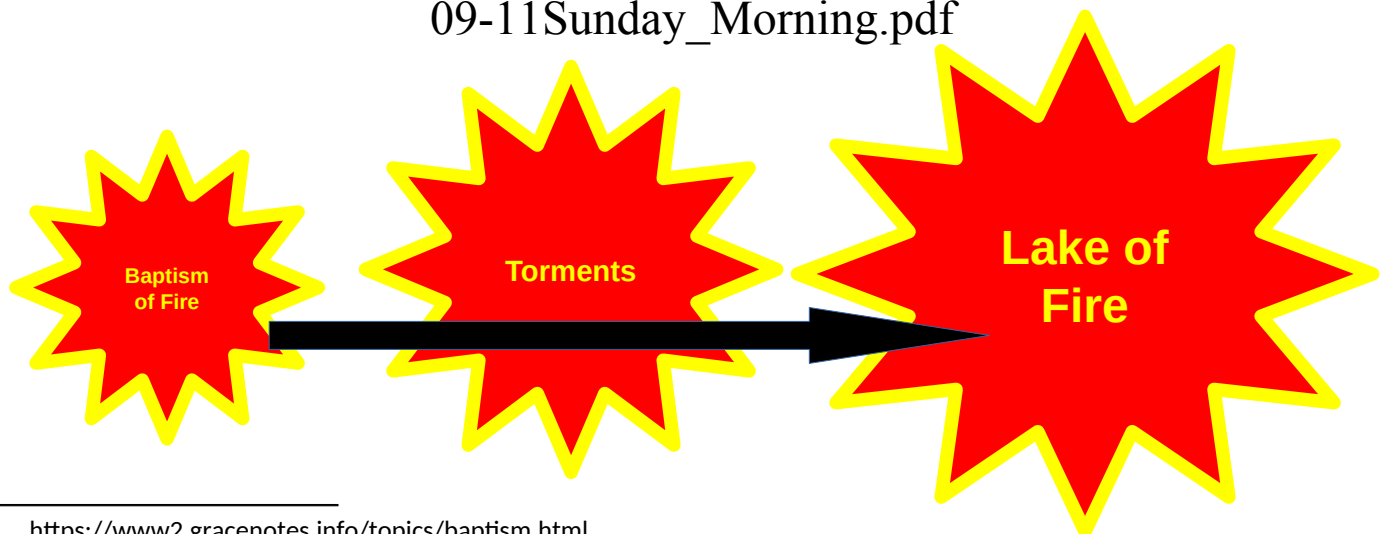
The sheep and the goats - Matt. 25:31-46³

Psalm 37:39 But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength in time of trouble.

Psalm 37:40 The Lord helps them and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, Because they take refuge in Him.



http://www.springvalleybiblechurch.org/Audio/Revelation/notes/2022-09-11Sunday_Morning.pdf



³ <https://www2.gracenotes.info/topics/baptism.html>