

The background of the image is a soft-focus composition. In the upper left, a glowing, golden-yellow orb of light, resembling a sun or a celestial body, is partially obscured by a white dove in flight. The dove is positioned centrally, its wings spread as if descending or ascending. Below the dove, an open book with white pages is visible, resting on a surface. The overall color palette is dominated by light blues, whites, and the warm tones of the glowing orb. The text is overlaid on this scene in a black, cursive-style font.

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things.  
(Ephesians 3:9-10)

## 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

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16. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
17. Then we who are alive, who are left, **will be caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

# The Last Days

**WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?**

*The Tribulation is for  
Israel's Redemption*



## **The golden rule of Bible interpretation**

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**If plain sense makes common sense, seek no other sense.**

Seek the plain, literal meaning of the Scriptures first of all. Seek the figurative or allegorical meaning only when the facts demand a figurative or allegorical interpretation

We are to read the Bible just as we read any other piece of writing, not trying to force some allegorical, mystical, or figurative meaning into its plain statements.

## Deuteronomy 7:6

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For you are a people holy to the Lord your God.  
The Lord your God **has chosen you** to be a  
people for His treasured possession, out of all  
the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

## **Ezekiel 5:10**

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Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers. And I will execute judgments on you, and any of you who survive I will scatter to **all the winds**.

## **Zechariah 2:6**

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Up! Up! Flee from the land of the north, declares the Lord. For I have spread you abroad as the **four winds of the heavens**, declares the Lord.

## Isaiah 11:12

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He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah **from the four corners of the earth.**

## Isaiah 43:5-6

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5. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from **the east**, and from **the west** I will gather you.
6. I will say to **the north**, Give up, and to **the south**, Do not withhold; bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the end of the earth.

## Isaiah 27:12-13

12. In that day from the river Euphrates to the Brook of Egypt the Lord will thresh out the grain, and you will be gleaned one by one, **0 people of Israel.**
13. And in that day **a great trumpet will be blown**, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship the Lord on the holy mountain at Jerusalem.





It is important to note that every part of Jesus' statement in verse 31 of Matthew 24 comes from Old Testament statements that relate exclusively to Israel, **not the church.**

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**Renald E. Showers: The Time of Jacob's Trouble**

The Bible teaches that one day the nation of Israel will return to the Lord their God. This will occur by the end of the tribulation and is the purpose for the time of Jacob's trouble. Many passages teach the future conversion of the Jews to Jesus as their Messiah.

- Psalm 79:1–13; 80:1–19
- Isaiah 53:1–9; 59:20–21; 61:8–9; 64:1–12
- Jeremiah 30:3–24; 31:31–40; 32:37–40; 50:4–5
- Ezekiel 11:19–20; 16:60–63; 34:25–26; 36:24–32; 37:1–14, 21–28
- Hosea 6:1–3
- Zechariah 9:11; 12:10–13:9
- Joel 2:28–32
- Romans 11:25–27

## Hosea 6:1-3

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1. Come, let us return to the Lord; for He has torn us, that He may heal us; He has struck us down, and He will bind us up.
2. After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live before Him.
3. Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; His going out is sure as the dawn; He will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.

## 2 Peter 3:3-4, 8

3. knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.
4. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."
8. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.



One of the major Divine purposes for the Tribulation in relation to Israel is the conversion of the Jewish remnant to faith in Jesus as their Messiah. This will take place throughout the tribulation, but by the end of the seven-year period the entire number of the remnant will become converted to Jesus. That number is likely a third of the Jewish people as noted in **Zechariah 13:8-9**.

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**Dr. Thomas Ice: God's Purpose for Israel During the Tribulation**

## Romans 11:25-27

25. Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.
26. And **in this way all Israel will be saved**, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;
27. “and this will be My covenant with them when I take away their sins.”



The theme of Zechariah 12 to 14 is the future Kingdom with an emphasis upon the Day in which the Lord will intervene in history one last time to execute final judgment upon Israel's enemies, to administer final redemption to His people, and then to usher them into the everlasting Day of blessing and worship for which they have patiently waited, hoped, and longed, generation after generation. In short, the "burden" of Zechariah's final oracle is to reveal the final acts of God in the final stages of Salvation History.

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**Dean Davis: Jerusalem In That Day: Interpreting Zechariah 12-14**

## **Zechariah 13:8–9**

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- 8.** In the whole land, declares the Lord, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive.
- 9.** And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are My people'; and they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"



## Ezekiel 20:33-35

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- 33.** As I live, declares the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out I will be king over you.
- 34.** I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out.
- 35.** And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face.

## Ezekiel 20:36-38

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- 36.** As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, declares the Lord God.
- 37.** I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.
- 38.** I will purge out the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me. I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord.

## Malachi 3:2-3

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2. But who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.
3. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify **the sons of Levi** and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.



As a purified, believing nation, they will then turn to the Lord. Here again he speaks of worldwide regathering in unbelief in preparation for a specific future judgment, but the purpose of the judgment is to bring them to national repentance.

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**Arnold Fruchtenbaum: The Footsteps of the Messiah**

Many Christians are surprised to learn that the Second Coming is a rescue event. Jesus will return to planet earth in order to rescue the believing Jewish remnant that is on the verge of being destroyed during the Campaign of Armageddon. I think this is what Paul speaks of in **Romans 10:13-14**:

**“Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”** The Jewish people are going to have to be Believers in Jesus as their Messiah in order to be rescued by Him at the second advent. This is exactly what will happen.

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**Dr. Thomas Ice: God's Purpose for Israel During the Tribulation**

## **Hosea 5:15**

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I will return again to My place, until they  
acknowledge their guilt and seek My face,  
and in their distress earnestly seek Me.

## **Matthew 23:39**

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For I tell you, you will not see Me again, **UNTIL** you (Israel) say,  
**Baruch Ha'ba B'Shem Adonai**  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.



This, then, is the twofold basis of the Second Coming; Israel must confess her national sin and then plead for Messiah to return, to mourn for Him as one mourns for an only son. Only by faith in the Son of Man can Israel be regenerated. Only by calling upon the Name of the Lord can Israel be saved spiritually. Only by the return of the Son of Man can Israel be saved physically. Yet, that is exactly what will occur in the future in the Tribulation.

**Arnold Fruchtenbaum: The Footsteps of the Messiah**



## Acts 3:12, 17–21

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12. **Men of Israel**, why do you wonder at this?

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17. And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

18. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled.

19. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,

20. that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,

21. whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets long ago.

The Battle of Armageddon will be a real battle in the future, near the end of the Tribulation. Demonic influences will cause the kings of the earth to gather their armies for an all-out assault on Jerusalem. The Antichrist will be leading the charge (Revelation 16:13–16). Jesus Christ will return to earth with the armies of heaven (Matthew 25:31; Revelation 19:14); His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4); He will defeat the forces of evil (Revelation 19:15–16); He will cast the Antichrist and the false prophet into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20); He will bind Satan; and He will set up His kingdom on earth for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1–6). At Armageddon the Lord Jesus Christ “treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty” (Revelation 16:19), and all things will be made right.

## Revelation 19:11–13

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11. Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
12. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written that no one knows but Himself.
13. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which He is called is The Word of God.

## Revelation 19:14–16

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14. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following Him on white horses.
15. From His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
16. On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.