

Paralleling the Verses

I would like to parallel Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 with Jesus' words in Matthew 24. (Which themselves may partially be based on the prophecies of Isaiah found in Isaiah 26:17-21.) Then I would like to parallel the sixth seal of Revelation 6:12-17 with the same words of Jesus in Matthew 24 to begin the reconstruction of my own eschatological interstate system. My intentions are to present a general map through coming historical events that might be useful.

Jesus' Words in Matthew 24 Paralleled with Daniel, Luke, Paul and John

	Daniel	Matthew	Luke 21	Paul	Revelation
165 BC - 70 AD	<p>9:26 - Messiah Comes (30 AD)</p> <p>9:26 = Sanctuary destroyed (70 AD)</p>		<p>21:12-18 – (30-70 AD) - early church persecution by Jews</p> <p>21:20-24 - (66-70 AD) Jewish war with Rome, destruction of Jerusalem and Temple</p>	<p>1 Th 2:16 - (50 AD) Paul writes "God's wrath has come upon them [Jews] at last" since a conflict with Rome was brewing:</p> <p>(1) riot/massacre in Jerusalem (48-49 AD)</p> <p>(2) Expulsion of Jews from Rome (49 AD)</p> <p>(3) Anticipating Jewish war with Rome as foretold by Jesus (66-70)</p>	
General History		<p>24:4-8 – false Christs, many deceived, wars, nations rise, kingdoms fall, famine, earthquakes in various places. This is not the end.</p>	<p>21:8-9 – false Christs, wars, but the end will not be at once.</p> <p>21:10-11 - (time up until the end times)</p> <p>21:12-19 - (30-70 AD)</p> <p>Luke 21:20-24- Jerusalem trampled by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (70 AD until the Second Coming)</p>	<p>2 Th 2:7 - secret power of lawlessness is already at work</p> <p>2 Th 1:4-10 – enduring persecutions making you worthy of the kingdom of God for which you are suffering... God will grant you relief and inflict vengeance "when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven"... "when he comes on that day."</p>	
Tribulation Begins	<p>7:19 - 4th beast</p> <p>7:23-24 - Ten horns;</p> <p>9:27 - Covenant</p>	<p>24:9 – Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death</p>			
Anti-Christ Begins To Rule	<p>7:20 - horn took three horns</p>			<p>1 Th 5:1-3 – people (Jews) saying peace +</p>	<p>6:1-8 – The world faces the rise of antichrist:</p>

	7:24-25 - One horn speaks against God			safety because they have entered into a treaty of protection with the antichrist 2 Th 2:9-12 – Coming of the lawless one is activity of Satan with power, false signs, deception	(1) Conqueror conquering (2) Sword to slay people (3) Famine and Economic chaos (4) Death to 25% of earth
Persecution of Church “The Rebellion”	7:21 - horn made war with saints 7:25 - speaks against god; changes times and law	24:9-13 - delivered up to tribulation, put believers to death, hated by all nations for Jesus name. RESULT? Rebellion in the Church: -turn from faith -betray believers -hate each other -love grows cold Christian’s flee church and Christianity		2 Thess. 2:3 - <u>First Sign:</u> Rebellion comes first – ‘christians’ turn against Christ and the Church	6:9-11 – Martyrs in heaven ask for retaliation since they had died for: (1) Word of God (2) Testimony They are told to wait until the full number of their brothers to be killed as they had been was done. Martyrdom forced many to flee Church and abandon the faith
Truth Proclaimed to the Whole World as a testimony before God Sends the Strong Delusion		24:14 – Gospel proclaimed to whole world as testimony.		2 Th 2:9-12 – Antichrist brings deception to those who refused to love the truth and be saved... God sends a strong delusion so they believe what is false	6:9-11 – Christians dying as they proclaim the Truth to the world concerning the Word of God and their witness that Jesus is Lord
3 ½ Years Middle of Trib. Antichrist Enters the Temple “Abomination in The Temple”	9:27 - put an end to sacrifice ... on the wing of abominations, one who makes desolate 11:36-45 - Above every god	24:15-20 – abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel standing in the holy place		2 Th 2:3-5,8 - <u>Second Sign:</u> the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every god, takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaims himself to be God	
Jews Hunted by Antichrist	11:40-41 – At the time of the end... He will invade the Beautiful Land...	24:16-28 – Those who are in Judea flee to the mountains			11:1-14 – the two witnesses 12:1 – 14:5

	Edom, Moab and Ammon will be delivered from his hand				12:6 – The Jews flee into the desert... for 1,260 days 12:13 – The dragon pursued the woman (Israel)
DAY OF THE LORD Sun, Stars, etc. Disappear Due to Sign of the Son of Man Appearing	12:1 – At that time shall arise Michael, who has charge of your people... a time of trouble [for Jews]	24:29 – sun will be darkened... moon not give light... stars fall... powers of heaven shaken, sign of the Son of Man	21:25 – signs in sun, moon, stars, powers of heavens shaken	1 Th 5:4 – you are not in darkness for this day to surprise you [church] like a thief... let us not sleep, let us keep awake and be sober.	6:12-14 – sun goes black, moon like blood, stars fall, sky vanishes; mountains and islands move.
DAY OF THE LORD Rapture of Church Sign of the Son of Man Second Coming	7:9-11 - the fiery throne with wheels was moved and set in place, the Lord is seated, 10,000's stood before him; Yet, the horn, or the beast, was still speaking on earth. 12:1-2 – <u>many who sleep in the dust shall awake to life</u>	24:27-29 – like lightning is the coming of the Son of Man... the light from the sun, moon, stars cannot be seen due to the glory of the throne whose appearing is the Sign of the Son of Man... 24:30 - Sign of the Son of Man appears... all men will see the Lord in the air... and, all men will mourn because they see the Lord in the air 24:31 – “He will send out his angels with a loud trumpet ...they <u>will gather his elect</u> from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” 24:36-25-30 – the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect	21:25-28 –they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud... when <u>these things begin to take place your redemption is drawing near</u>	1 Th 4:14-18 – God will bring with Jesus those who have died... the Lord will descend from heaven...with a shout of command...the archangel... the trumpet... the dead will rise first... those still left alive will be <u>caught up together with them</u> ...with the Lord forever. 2 Th 2:1 – The Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being <u>gathered together</u> to him 2 Th 2:13-17 – you may <u>obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ</u> 2 Th 1:6-7 - God will grant you relief and inflict vengeance on those who afflict you “when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in	6:12-17 - Sign of the Son of Man 1:7 – “He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.” (Zec 12:10-14 – “[the Jews] will look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him”) 6:15-16 – All men see the throne and the Lamb. All men say, “Hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.” 6:17 – Question: “the great day of their wrath has come and who can stand?” 7:9 - Answer: “a great multitude ...from every nation... standing before the throne and before the

				flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who” afflict you “when <u>he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints.</u> ”	lamb clothed in white...” 7:9-17 – The raptured church, the multitude coming out of Great Tribulation
DAY OF THE LORD Church Delivered and Standing Before the Lord’s Throne and Preparing to Return to the Earth with the Lord Wrath of Lamb The Trumpets	7:26 - court seated, horn’s power destroyed , eternal <u>kingdom given to saints</u> 12:1 - Michael shall arise, time of trouble , but the Jews will convert and be delivered on earth. 12:1 - but, your people [Jews] shall be delivered, those with name in the book		21:34-36 – this day will come upon all who dwell on the earth like a trap if they are weighed down with cares of this life...Stay awake so you may have the strength to <u>stand before the Son of Man</u> [on his throne in the air] and escape all the things that are going to take place on the earth at this time.	1 Th 5:1-3 - destruction 1 Th 5:9 - No <u>wrath for church</u> , instead we will have obtained salvation 2 Th 1:7-10 - God inflict vengeance on those who afflict you “when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who” afflict you “when <u>he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints.</u> ”	6:16 - hide us from throne and wrath of Lamb! 6:17 - Great day of their wrath has come! 8,9,11 – The Trumpets: 1- Third of earth, grass, trees burn 2-Third of sea, fish, ships destroyed 3-third of fresh water destroyed 4-third of the light from the sun and moon blacked out (the Sign of the Son of Man, his throne from heaven is in the atmosphere blocking light) 5- Abyss unlocked to release demons 6- Four bound angels at Euphrates are released to kill third of mankind 7- The Temple in Heaven opens 15-16 - Bowls
DAY OF THE LORD Judgment/Punish	7:22 and 27	25:1-46		2 Th 1:7-10 2 Th 2:8 - antichrist overthrown and destroyed by Jesus	19:11 – Heaven [with the throne and Lamb in air] is opened 19:12-14 – Jesus and saints come to earth 19:20-21 – antichrist is captured and thrown into lake of fire

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Daniel lists four kingdoms that rise and fall, indicating that one of them will be revived to meet the coming of the Lord's earthly kingdom. Which will be the Kingdom of the Lord, a kingdom that never ends. The first four mentioned (Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. The Roman Empire morphed into the Christian Byzantine Kingdom on May 11, 330 AD which finally fell to Muslim conquest on May 29, 1453 to become part of the Muslim Ottoman Empire which itself fell during WWI on October 31, 1918 with the signing of the Armistice of Mudros) are actual kingdoms with governments, kings, military and citizens. Why would the reference to the Lord's kingdom be an allegory?

Gabriel speaking to Mary says that her son who is to be called Jesus will be great and sit on the throne of his father David. Is this a literal or allegorical reference? Are we to understand this as an actual historical event? Has it happened, or is it yet future? First, understand this, there is a lot of context baggage associated with the phrase "sit on the throne of David" in the year 5 BC when it is spoken to a Jew. Second, Jesus himself spoke of sitting on a throne when he returned and promised to place others on thrones to rule when the kingdom of God was established.

In Matthew 24:14, Jesus says,

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

This verse (Matthew 24:14) comes in the middle of Matthew 24 after Jesus had just warned in Matthew 24:4-13:

1. Do not be deceived
2. Many military and religious imposters will come in his name and claim to be Christ. This will result in many being deceived
3. Wars and rumors of wars. Nations will rise against nations. Kingdoms will rise against other kingdoms.
4. There will be seasons of famines and cultural devastations such as earthquakes

But, after giving these warnings, Jesus is quick to inform with greater detail, "this is NOT the end. These things must happen before the end. These things are not signs of the end, but "all this is the BEGINNING of birth pains."

Jesus continues in Matthew 24 saying that after this long period of history where imposters claim they are the Christ, when nations rise and kingdoms fall, with the coming of seasons of famines and times of disasters such as earthquakes which overthrow entire societies, there will eventually arise a time when the first of two major signs are given by Jesus for the believer to mark where they are at historically in relation to the Second Coming – worldwide persecution resulting in either martyrdom of the faithful or a falling away from the faith by the mere seeker (Paul calls this "the rebellion" in 2 Thes. 2:3):

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another, And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved." (Matthew 24:9-13)

The Two Signs: The Rebellion and The Abomination

After a period of general human history that involves religious deception, international conflict and history altering natural disasters Jesus says, **“Then...”** (Mt. 24:9, ESV) Here is the first sign that you are getting close to the end. Jesus says **then** “you” (believers, Christians, Church) will be handed over for persecution and put to death.

1. “You” (believers, Christians, Church) will be hated by ALL nations because of your association with Jesus Christ.
2. Result? Religious rebellion.... **“at that time”** (Mt. 24:10, NIV) many of those being persecuted (believers, Christians, Seekers at Church):
 - Will turn away from the faith
 - Will betray each other
 - Will hate each other
 - Many false prophets will appear
 - Many (believers, Christians, Seekers, Jews, etc.?) will be DECEIVED
 - Wickedness will increase
 - Love of most will grow cold

Jesus then provides words of encouragement and direction for the believers who will stand and face this persecution without compromise. First, Jesus promises us that he who stands firm to the end will be saved. Second, Jesus gives us his purpose for this period of persecution and provides us with directions when he says, “This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations...” (Matthew 24:14)

Jesus ends verse 24:14 saying, “then the end will come.” Do notice the contrast between this “then the end will come” in Matthew 24:14 and Jesus words, “but the end is not yet”, in Matthew 24:6. When Jesus states “see that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet” he was referencing general historical events such as deceivers, war, national upheavals, famines and earthquakes. These are not signs of the end! Not every earthquake, war or famine is a sign that Jesus is coming! Those are just historical events that match Paul’s description of creation waiting for its day of redemption in Romans 8:19-23:

“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.” (Romans 8:19-22)

But, when we reach Jesus’ words in Matthew 24:14 we are safe to assume Jesus is now being very specific (Paul will build on these specific words of the Lord in his epistles, 1 Thes. 4:15). Jesus says that after a time of intense worldwide persecution (“you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake”) of believers (the church) who will have been used by the Lord in this age of intense persecution to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom throughout the whole world to every nation, that “then the end will come”!

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **then the end will come**. So when you see the **abomination of desolation** spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place...” (Matthew 24:14-15)

The second sign for believers to recognize that they are living in the end and the Second Coming of Jesus is near is given here:

“When you see standing in the holy place (Temple) ‘the abomination that causes desolation”

Jesus use of the words “spoken of through the prophet Daniel” makes this a direct link to an already established time marker back to Daniel’s prophecy in Daniel 9:27. There are numerous historical examples, speculations or guesses at when, who and where Daniel’s “abomination of desolation” occurred. Here are a few:

- A potential fulfillment occurred in 167 BC when Antiochus IV Epiphanes set up an altar to Olympian Zeus and a statue of himself in the temple...But, this was not the fulfillment since Jesus says it is yet future when he spoke in 30 AD.
- A potential fulfillment occurred in 26 AD when Pontius Pilate arrived in Judea as governor and brought the Roman military standards with images of eagles and other idolatrous symbols of the Roman emperor into Jerusalem...But, this occurred four years before Jesus spoke in Matthew 24.
- A potential fulfillment occurred in 41 AD when Emperor Caligula ordered a bigger than life statue of himself be set up in the temple. Fortunately King Herod Agrippa I convinced Caligula NOT to follow through with his plan. Caligula died in 41 AD and the decree was never fulfilled.
- A potential fulfillment occurred in 67-68 AD when the Jewish rebels (the Zealots) occupied the temple. During this time common people (not priests) entered the Most Holy Place and committed murder in the temple. These same Zealots eventually fled to seek refuge at Masada where their resistant stand against the Romans ended in May of 73 AD
- A potential fulfillment occurred when the same Zealots allowed the Idumeans (Edomites) to enter the city of Jerusalem to help plunder the city and kill as many as 8,000 Jews (including the high priest) on the Temple mount.
- A potential fulfillment occurred in the Jewish actions of continuing the OT sacrifices after their rejection of the true Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. These advocates connect Matthew 23:38 when Jesus pronounced judgment and left the temple with Ezekiel 10:18 when the glory of the Lord departs the temple.
- A potential fulfillment occurred in 70 AD with the destruction of the Temple by the Romans

Notice that all these options were either fulfilled before Jesus spoke of this event as a yet future event or is actually undefinable if it is considered to have taken place between 30-70 AD. In his book supporting the preterist position, *Last Days Madness* on page 109, even Gary DeMar admits that any attempt to place the abomination spoken of by Daniel between 30-70 AD will be met with disagreement even by those who support the preterist position:

“While disagreement remains as to what form the abomination took, Scripture makes it clear that it occurred soon after Jerusalem was surrounded by armies. As history attests, Jerusalem was surrounded just prior to the temple’s destruction in the fall of A.D. 70. The abomination brought desolation.”

The clearness of Jesus’ warning and the fact that he is simply restating and clarifying a prophetic reference already made by Daniel would seem to give the impression to the reader that when this event does occur there will be no need to host prophecy conferences with breakout sessions designed to discuss the possibility of this event having or having not occurred. It seems to be a very specific event that will be very obvious when it is finally fulfilled according to the scriptural references to this event spoken by Daniel in 539 BC, Jesus in 30 AD, Paul in 52 AD and John in 96 AD. When Paul writes to the Thessalonians in 52 AD concerning this future event he gives the Gentile believers the impression this prophetic event will be obvious. The abomination will be a clear sign to serve as a

reference point for the believers to mark their place in the progression of end time events according to Daniel, Jesus and Paul:

“Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?” (2 Thessalonians 2:1-5), ESV

Paul identifies the same two events that Jesus used to identify “the end.”

1. **The Rebellion** – Paul uses the Greek word *apostasia*, a word that means “falling away”, “rebellion”, revolt”, apostasy” (Rogers and Rogers, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament*, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI, 1998, p. 483). The Greek is written as *he apostasia* which means “The Apostasy”, not merely apostasy or an apostasy. This is a specific apostasy Paul refers to as “The Apostasy.” I think Paul is referring to “the apostasy” Jesus warned of in Matthew 24:9-14. Strong’s *Expanded Dictionary of Bible Words* says the following: “This word means a ‘defection, revolt, apostasy’ and is used in the NT of religious apostasy; (1) in Acts 21:21, it is translated “to forsake,” literally, ‘thou teachest apostasy from Moses.’ (2) In 2 The. 2:3 ‘the falling away’ signifies apostasy from the faith. (3) In papyri documents it is used politically of rebels. (James Strong, *The New Strongs’ Expanded Dictionary of Bible Words*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2001, page 981). This is the rebellion that Jesus said would mark the time of the end when persecution arose against believers from all nations because of their association with the name of Jesus (Matthew 24:9-14). The use of this word in Paul’s writing to refer to rebellion within the church matches the use of this same Greek word in ancient papyri documents we have from the same time period as the writing of the New Testament. The ancient papyri documents use this word “rebellion” (*apostasia*) to refer to a revolt against your former political group, a rebellion against your former religion or a forsaking of your former national allegiance. Paul is making a reference to a future historical event that could include multitudes of seekers in the Western Christianity abandoning the church, forsaking believers, rebelling against the Christian faith and turning away from the scriptural Jesus Christ because of persecution that is arising from the anti-christ.
2. **The Man of Lawlessness is Revealed** – Paul then clearly presents a second sign to watch for with his comments concerning the “abomination of desolation” predicted by Daniel and referenced by Jesus as a future event and sign that his Second Coming was near. Paul does the same for the Church in Thessalonica making it clear that the church’s gathering together to meet the Lord could not happen until these two signs unfolded as historical events.

“Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed...that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed...” (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3)

Notice the parallel references used by Paul that align with the words of Jesus:

	2 Thessalonians 2:1-12	Matthew 24:9-31
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Warning of Deception	<p>“not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter”</p> <p>“Let no one deceive you in any way.”</p>	<p>“Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.”</p>
Persecuted Church	<p>“the man of lawlessness...son of destruction...opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship.”</p>	<p>“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.””</p>
Rebellion in Church	<p>“For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first...”</p> <p>...with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”</p>	<p>“Then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.”</p> <p>“Because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”</p>
Testimony to World	<p>“they refused to love the truth and so be saved...in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth.”</p>	<p>“The one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”</p>
Abomination	<p>“For that day will not come, unless...and the man of lawlessness is revealed.”</p>	<p>“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel,</p>
In Temple	<p>“he takes his seat in the temple of God,”</p> <p>proclaiming himself to be God.”</p>	<p>“see the abomination of desolation...standing in the temple.”</p>
Return of Lord	<p>“Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”</p> <p>“...to the effect that the day of the Lord has come”</p> <p>“For that day will not come, unless...”</p> <p>“...whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.</p>	<p>“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”</p>
Gathering together	<p>“our being <u>gathered</u> together to him”</p> <p>[“gathered” is <i>episunagoge</i> which means “meeting, assembling, gathering together, collection, collecting together. The preposition in compound is directive. The word is used in 2 Macc. 2:7</p>	<p>“He will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will <u>gather</u> his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”</p>

	<p>indicating a future time when God shall gather His people together.” (Rogers, Linguistic Key, page 483]</p>	<p>[“gather” is <i>episunago</i> which means “to bring together”, “to gather together”, to bring together to others already assembled, to gather together against”. Also, Mark 13:27 in same context, but in Luke 17:37 referring to the vultures “gathered”]</p>
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The verses in Matthew 24:16-26 are not on the chart above and have no parallel in Paul’s writings because these verses are addressed to the Jews who had been enjoying a time of “peace and safety” while the church was being hunted down and slaughtered because the Jews were secure in their covenant with the world leader (antichrist) who had given them access to the Temple Mount and restored their daily sacrifices. But, in verse 24:15 of Matthew that “peace and safety” for the Jews comes to an end and they are told to flee Judea (into the lands of modern Jordan and Saudi Arabia just as Daniel 11:41 and Luke 21:21 indicate). In these verses the Jews are also warned to stop looking for a great political leader (“Look, he is in the inner rooms,” supposedly making peace treaties and political alignments) or great military leader (“Look, he is in the wilderness,” supposedly assembling his troops and preparing to invade Judea and reconquer Jerusalem.) Jesus says he will return in the sky with the sign of the Son of Man (which correlates to the sign Ezekiel saw when the Lord appeared on the flying throne in Ezekiel 1 and continuously referred to Ezekiel as “the son of man” throughout the book of Ezekiel whenever the Lord spoke to Ezekiel from the chariot with the wheels, the lightning, the glory, the cherubim, etc.)

“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea [*Jews only*] flee to the mountains. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. Then if anyone says to you [*the Jews*], ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.”

SIGNS: Warned to Watch for These Signs

JESUS
(Mt.24)

"They will deliver you up to tribulation and **put you to death**...hated by all nations for my name's sake... then **many will fall away**...betray one another...hate one another...the love of many will grow cold... when you see **the abomination of desolation** ... standing in the holy place... then there will be **great tribulation**..." (Mt. 24:9-21)

PAUL
(1 Th. 5:3)

"While people are saying, '**Peace and safety**', destruction will come on them suddenly" (1Th.5:3)

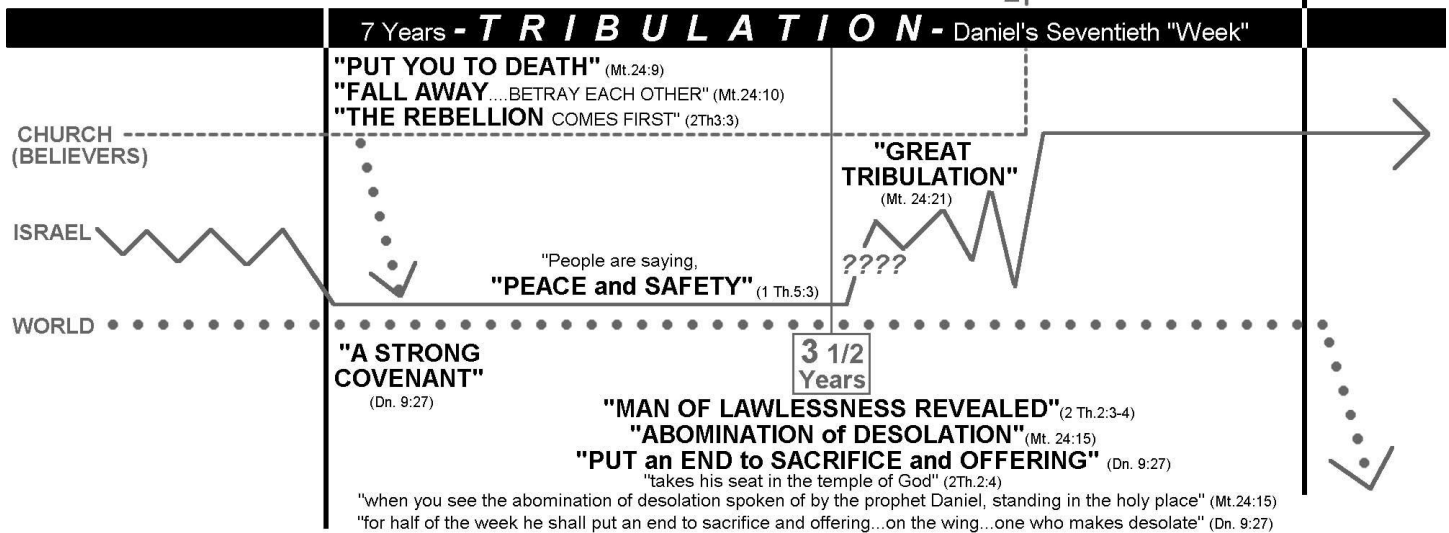
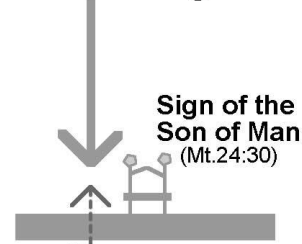
PAUL
(2 Th. 2:3-4)

"That day will not come unless:
1) **the rebellion comes** first, and
2) the **man of lawlessness is revealed**, the son of destruction,
a) who **opposes and exalts himself** against every so-called god or object of worship,
b) so that he **takes his seat in the temple of God**,
c) **proclaiming himself to be God**

DANIEL
(Dn. 9:27)

"He shall make a **strong covenant** with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall **put an end to sacrifice** and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate." (Dn.9:27)

Second Coming



The SIXTH SEAL

When the throne of God and the wrath of the Lamb appear to the people on earth after the sixth seal is opened (Rev. 6:12-17), Revelation chapter six ends asking this question: "The great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" (Rev. 6:17) This question is answered in the beginning of the next chapter, Revelation 7. There are two groups identified as being able to stand: believers who have been taken to meet the Lord in the air and stand before the Lord who has just appeared on his throne and unbelieving Jews left on the earth who have just recently converted who will receive the seal of God before the wrath of God is sent to destroy the earth.

Group One, the raptured church, is the group discussed in Revelation 7:9-17. This is the church that went to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:17) when the Sign of the Son of Man appeared (Matt. 24:30) on his throne (Revelation 6:16) whose glory had overwhelmed the light of the sun, moon and stars (Rev. 6:12; Luke 21:25-27) while causing cataclysmic events in the physical world (Matt. 24:27-29; Rev. 6:12-14). The angels gathered the elect from the four winds of the heaven (Matt. 24:31) and the Church is the only ones who can stand before the Lord (Rev. 6:17; 7:9; Luke 21:36) as they meet him in the air to appear before him on his throne to "be with the Lord forever" and "are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple" (1 Thess. 4:17; Rev. 7:15)

where, “Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (Rev. 7:16-17). This is what Paul meant when he said,

“After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to **meet the Lord in the air**. And so **we will be with the Lord forever**. Therefore **encourage each other with these words**...For **God did not appoint us to suffer wrath** but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may **live together with him**,..Therefore **encourage one another and build each other up**, just as in fact you are doing.” (1 Thes. 4:17-18; 5:9-11)

Group Two, the Jews left on the earth who have just recently repented, is the group identified and discussed in Revelation 7:1-8. The angels are seen “standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.” This may be the same “four winds of heaven” that Daniel saw in his vision in 553 BC (Daniel 7:2):

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea.” (Daniel 7:2)

And, also in Zechariah 6:5, the four winds (spirits) of heaven, going out from standing in the presence of the Lord of the whole world. They are sent out to accomplish the Lord’s eschatological purposes for Israel during their days of restoration after Babylonian captivity in 519 BC.

In Revelation 7 the angels in charge of these four winds are told “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” Then 144,000 Jews are sealed after apparently having repented after having seen the Sign of the Son of Man appear and the Church receive deliverance.

Up until this point the unbelieving Jews will have continued to look for the rise of their militant, worldly Messiah until they find what they have been looking for when the antichrist presents himself to them. This faulty thinking of the Jews reaches back to the earliest days of King David. In the Old Testament the Jews looked to their kings in Judah for Messianic leadership. After the rise of Syrian opposition in 168 BC the Jews looked to Judas Maccabaeus and his family that followed him, the Hasmoneans. In the days of Jesus Christ the Jews rejected and pierced their Messiah with Roman crucifixion in 30 AD. In the same generation of Jesus’ crucifixion the Jews followed their insurgents and the Zealots of 66 AD into a disastrous nation-ending war with Rome. They did this again in 132 AD when they followed an assumed militant Messiah, Simon bar Kokhba, to total annihilation and a deportation that lasted until the 1900’s AD. With the rise of the antichrist the Jews find their militant, worldly messiah as Jesus warned in John 5:43: “I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.” They are given a treaty by the antichrist (Daniel 9:27), the worthless shepherd of Zechariah (Zechariah 11:4-17) and gain access to the Temple Mount in the early days of the Tribulation. By doing this the Jews will have continued their error of rejecting Jesus and looking for another more militant, more worldly, more kingdom oriented Messiah. This is the false Messiah (antichrist) of Zechariah 13:7-9 who will accept the same offer Satan gave Jesus in Matthew 4:8-9: “The devil took [Jesus] to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’” The Jews will be aligned with the world conquering, politically savvy, nation

unifying Messiah that they have been looking for. The only problem is this Messiah is in some fashion the incarnation of Satan whose intention is to destroy the Jews.

“In 1981, Father Seraphim Rose gave a lecture [as viewed from the Greek Orthodox position of eschatology] at the University of California at Santa Cruz in which he said, ‘Another sign that the times of the end are approaching is the present state of the Jews in Israel, in the city of Jerusalem. According to the prophecies of the Scriptures and the Holy Fathers., Jerusalem will be the world capital of Antichrist, and there he will rebuild the temple of Solomon where he will be worshipped as God...Of course, it is very significant that only since 1948 has Jerusalem been once more in the hands of the Jews, and only since 1967 has the place where the temple was, the Mosque of Omar, been in their hands, since this had been in the part held by the Moslems...If you were to ask anyone who’s aware at all of political events in the world a question, ‘What would be the ideal city to have as the world capital if there was going to be a world empire?’ – it’s obvious what the answer would be in most people’s minds. It can’t be New York because that’s the capital of capitalism; it can’t be Moscow because that’s the center of Communism. It can’t even be Rome, because Roman Catholicism is still some kind of limited division. The logical place is Jerusalem, because there three religions come together, three continents come together. It’s the most logical place where there could be peace, brotherhood, harmony: all those things which look good, but unless they have a solid Christian foundations are not God-pleasing. These things will be used by Antichrist.’ Significant preparations are presently underway in Israel to restore the actual worship ceremonies formerly conducted within Solomon’s temple. Sacred vessels have been formed, priestly garments sewn. As Ice and Price report in their 1992 book, *Ready to Rebuild*, ‘The Temple Institute, then, is preparing vessels and garments for the Temple service, and seeking to produce a valid red heifer in Israel for the future purification of the priests and worshipers in the Temple. The leaders of this organization firmly believe that we are in the *achari ha-yamim* (‘last days’) which include the coming of the Messiah. They expect the building of the Temple to begin shortly.’ The Messiah whom the Jews anticipate, however, bears little resemblance to the Jesus Christ who voluntarily died to save sinners. They look for a world leader to rule all the nations from his capital of Jerusalem, to initiate a political regime of ‘peace’ and ‘prosperity,’ and to vindicate Israel for her centuries of suffering at Gentile hands. ‘They do not want Christ as He is,’ cries contemporary writer Alexander Kalomiros. ‘They do not want the Christ Who refused to submit to the devil’s temptations in the desert...They want a Christ Who desires the kingdoms of the earth, a Christ Who will turn the stones into bread so that men may be satiated, a Christ who will overwhelm the world with miracles that inspire awe and constrain men to submit...a Christ Who will talk about his life and not the other, a Christ Who will offer the pleasures of this life and not of the next...They do not want Him as ruler of the future age, but of the present one.’ In a word, after two centuries of incredible suffering for their blindness, the Jews as a whole have not changed. Myopically, they still want what they wanted two thousand years ago. And this time, they will get it!” (From B, pages 54-56)

Half way through the treaty the antichrist ends the treaty, ends the sacrifices and enters the temple proclaiming himself to be God as is revealed by Daniel, Jesus and Paul:

Daniel: “He shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.” (Daniel 9:27, ESV)

Jesus: “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand, then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak...For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.” (Matthew 24:15-21)

Paul: “While people are saying, ‘There is peace and security,’ (a reference to the treaty between the Jews and the antichrist) then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:3, ESV) and “Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, ESV)

When the Jews realize they have been betrayed by what they thought was the Messiah or at least the man who would lead them to the Age of the Messiah, they will not know where to turn. The Jews will be out of options. The persecution that the believing Church has faced for three and a half years now expands and begins to afflict the Jews all around the world. As the Jews cry out to help to a savior they do not know and have rejected the Sign of the Son of Man appears in the sky and every eye will see him. Those who pierced him, the Jews, will see him:

Zechariah: “when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.” (Zechariah 12:10)

John: “Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.” (Revelation 1:7, ESV)

The Jews will see their deliverer appear in the sky, but the deliverer will be the pierced one, the crucified one, the lamb that had been slain! When the Lord appears it is actually his re-appearing, or Second Coming. What is more when the Lord appears in his wrath he brings deliverance and salvation to his church, not to the Jewish people. The Lord will gather his church from the four winds of the heavens to meet his people in the air at the time of his coming. The Jews will witness the Lord’s deliverance of a people who are not even a physical nation. Upon his appearing the Lord will choose, deliver and clothe with salvation the *ekklesia* (church) instead the Jews. On that day it will be the believers in the crucified Messiah, Jesus Christ, who will be delivered. It will not be the chosen nation (Jews) who stand in the presence of the Lord and in his glory “when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints and to be marveled at among all who have believed.”

It is at this time Moses words spoken to Israel in 1400 BC are fulfilled:

“I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding.” (Deuteronomy 32:21)

Paul quotes this verse in Romans 10:19 before Paul describes his own ministry as having this as its very goal:

“I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my ministry in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them.” (Romans 11:13-14)

It is this context that Paul’s statement, “All Israel will be saved”, will find fulfillment. After having rejected Jesus Christ, the pierced, crucified Messiah and seeking after a worldly, kingdom building Messiah the Jews finally realize their mistake when they are betrayed by the worldly Messiah (antichrist) and are forced to observe a worldwide manifestation of the Lord’s deliverance of the church, a people who are not even a nation, the Jews had been will repent. They will repent in mass numbers. They will repent as they did on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14-41) when after explaining the manifestation of the Holy Spirit and proclaiming that “Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs”, Peter accused them of having crucified the Jewish Messiah:

“This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.” (Acts 2:23, ESV)

On that Day of Pentecost in 30 AD when confronted with the sign of tongues and the realization that they had pierced their Messiah the Jews cried out in to the early church.

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ (Acts 2:7)

The Jewish response to the rapture and deliverance of the church out of the Tribulation will result in national mourning and repentance:

“On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of teahouse of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; and all the families that are left each by itself, and their wives by themselves. On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.” (Zechariah 12:11-13:1, ESV)

God seals 144,000 of these Jews as believers in Jesus Christ, the pierced and bruised Messiah, and they divine protection from God against Satan’s last attempt to wipe them out. With the appearing of the Sign of the Son of Man and the Lord’s glorious presence in the earth’s atmosphere not only has the sun, moon and stars light no longer visible and earth’s gravitational forces are wreaking havoc with tsunamis, disappearing islands and collapsing mountains, but Satan himself has lost his place as “the prince of the power of the air” and has been cast to the earth:

“ ‘Woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!’ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child...” (Revelation 12:12-13)

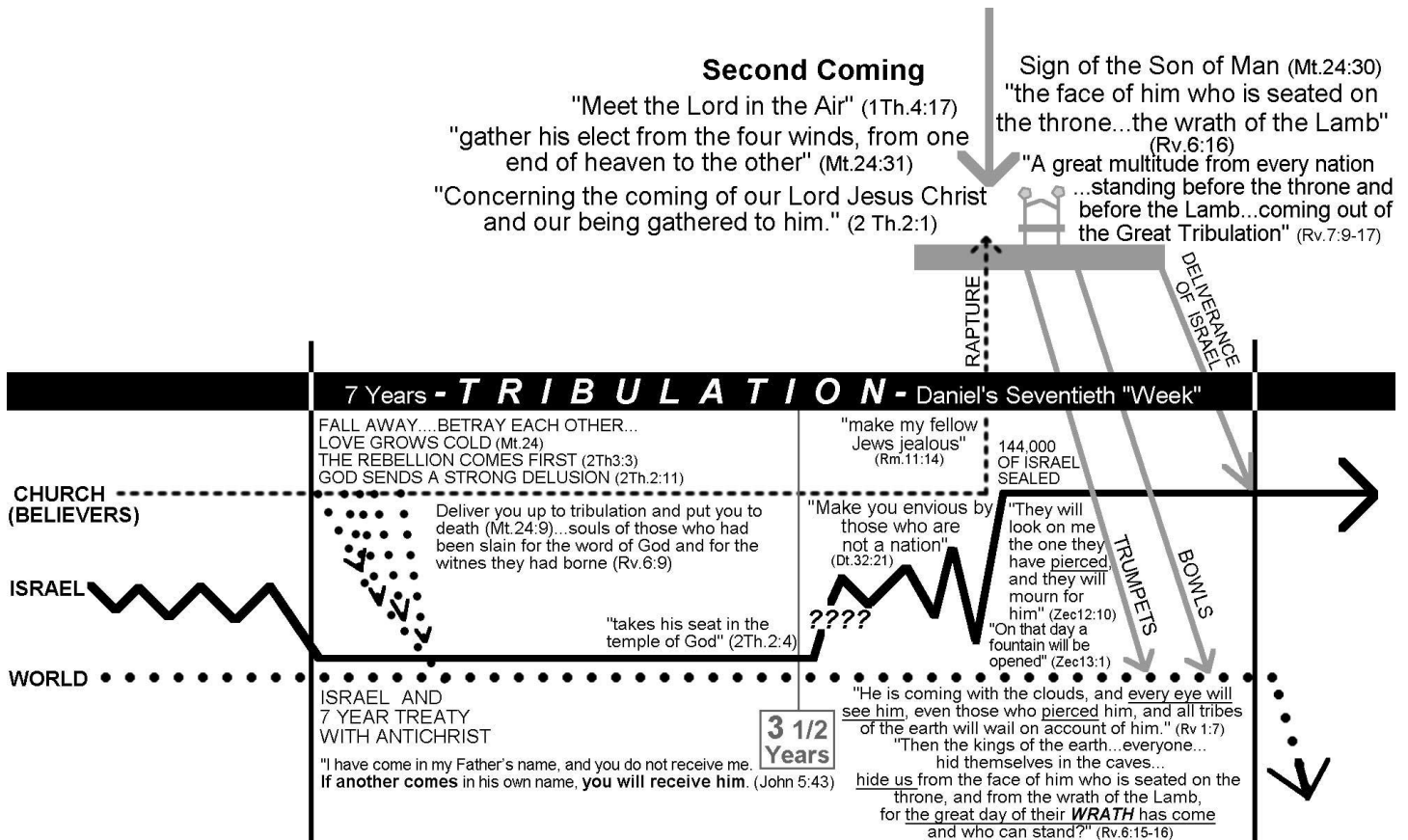
This will continue the time of judgment and tribulation for Israel’s testing, cleansing and purifying before their day of deliverance comes.

Malachi: “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 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.” (Malachi 3:1-4, ESV)

Jeremiah: “Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob; yet he shall be saved out of it...I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished...All your lovers have forgotten you; they care nothing for you...Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob and have compassion on his dwellings; the city shall be rebuilt on its mound and the palace shall stand where it used to be.” (Jeremiah 30:7-18, ESV)

Paul: “Has God rejected his people? By no means!...if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?...So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you (referring to the Gentile church)...Lest you be wise in your own sight, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved.” (Romans 11:1-26, ESV)

Once the fullness of the Gentiles has come in the Sign of the Son of Man appears in the sky, the believers rise to meet him in the air, Israel witnesses this deliverance of a people who are not a nation and Israel repents. It is at this point and in this way the words of Scripture are fulfilled: “In this way all Israel will be saved.”



The Testimony of the Early Church

The early writers in the church after the days of the apostles seem to be consistent regarding the timing of the rapture. There seems to be agreement on these basic points in the early church after the closing of the New Testament and the students of the apostles were left to hand down the traditions and teachings of the disciples of the Lord. They all seemed to understand the intention of the Apostles' teaching to support:

1. A future time period known as the tribulation
2. A literal man in future history known as the antichrist
3. A serious persecution of the church in the tribulation by the antichrist
4. A Second Coming of Jesus to take his church after this time of great suffering

Polycrates (130-196 AD), followed Paul, Timothy, John, etc. as a church leader in the city of Ephesus when he was the bishop in Ephesus, is recorded by Eusebius to have said:

"For in Asia also great lights have fallen asleep, which shall rise again on the day of the Lord's coming, when he shall come with glory from heaven, and shall seek out all the saints."

