

It will be like no other time ever on earth

What's coming, prior to the return of Jesus Christ, will be worse than any world war and will even diminish the devastation of the great flood.

“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 24:21).



What type of event was Jesus describing?

It will a time like never before on earth where wars will be fought on earth by spiritual rulers, powers and principalities battling against princes and angels in heaven, while imprisoning mankind on earth. There will be supernatural warfare on earth that will be terrifying and horrible, accurately describing the fourth beast in Daniel.

The prophecy of the future events in the great tribulation cannot be anticipated accurately unless the battles in ancient times are understood. What is coming is not a battle of nation against nation on earth. To the dismay of God's people, the nations will surrender without a fight. The power of this beastly coalition will mortify any thought of any attempt against this spiritual force. It will be a time like no other.

Understanding the enemy of mankind during the last days of this evil age, requires knowledge of an important backstory.

ANCIENT BATTLES

Ancient battles on earth provide stepping stones into the heavens of rulers given the opportunity to prove their excellence and qualify to be leading kings in God's kingdom. God Almighty is assembling His family and forming a royal, ruling, holy kingdom.

Creation in heaven was given by God, the role of kings and princes in contrast to creation on earth who are destined to become a kingdom of priests. Together, **righteous** leadership will be the rule in God's eternal kingdom.

Upon the waking moment of each spiritual being, they had all fundamental knowledge to be able to distinguish between what is right and wrong. Additional training began immediately. God engineered the structure of His legal courts in heaven and populated important offices with the most highly knowledgeable, precisely skillful and exceptionally wise in His law. They are legal experts. Some have acquired more knowledge, understanding and wisdom on God's legal matters than others, even triggering rivalry among themselves.

THE UNRIVALED IN GOD'S LAW COURTS

God Himself described this rivalry when He was prophesying of the fall of Pharaoh king over Egypt who was a revered member in God's law courts in heaven. These leaders are described by God as cedar trees because of the characteristics God Himself built into these types of trees on earth. They are of the tallest, which points to the heights the members of God's law court can grow. They are dimensionally stable with a built-in thermal insulator. With oils that act as natural preservatives, these trees are resistant to bacteria and fungus. To top it off, they release a fresh aroma that deters pests. **God created sons in heaven with all of these admired qualities and superior strength to lead His kingdom in truth, understanding and wisdom of His law and His way. A man standing next to the world's tallest cedar tree is the picture God Almighty wants to accentuate.** God's experts of His law coupled with His Holy Spirit have been encouraged to acquire more knowledge, understanding and wisdom. They set down deep roots and their statue of stability allows them to extend their branches far and wide to provide protection and a safe haven to life in the second heaven. They resist bias, injustice or the unthinkable—weaponization of the law.

Cedar trees = God's revered leaders

- Tall = **experts, highly skilled in God's law**
- Dimensionally stable = **strong foundation of God's truth**
- Built-in thermal insulator = **an astute ability to detect lies and deceit quickly**
- Oils act as natural preservatives = **a deep respect and love for God's law**
- Resistant to bacteria and fungus = **resists bias and injustice**
- Release a fresh aroma that deters pests = **does not entertain thoughts of rebellion and corrects those who go in that direction.**

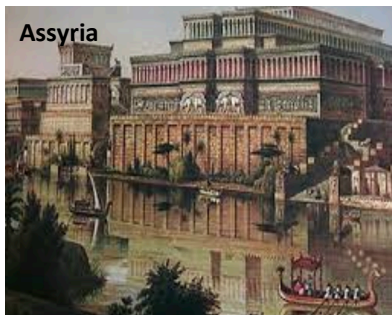


A disquieting story is recorded in Ezekiel 31 that unveils God's joy and pain in the choices made by one son that influenced the choices of every member of His heavenly court. God is talking with the heavenly ruler over Egypt on earth. He was warning him of the direction he is going. If the most revered, the one unrivaled in God's heavenly court fell into rebellion, then Pharaoh needs to self-reflect and pull back, lest he fall like the once great leader in God's heavenly court. "The cedars in the garden of God [the leaders in God's family in heaven] could not rival it... No

tree in the garden of God could match its beauty. I made it beautiful with abundant branches, the envy of all the trees of Eden in the garden of God” (Ezekiel 31:8-9).

Who was this cedar tree? “Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his hordes: ‘Who can be compared with you in majesty? Consider **Assyria, once a cedar in Lebanon**, with beautiful branches overshadowing the forest...’” (Ezekiel 31:2-3).

The Pharaoh king over Egypt built a magnificent kingdom on earth. Even into the 21st century, faded fragments bring wonder. This Pharaoh king was not the most rivaled; it was the **king of Assyria—once a cedar in Lebanon** who rose to great heights.



THE HEAVENLY KING OF ASSYRIA

There exist locations in heaven with the same name on earth. Intentionally, God Almighty blessed Lebanon on earth with the finest cedar trees to mirror the strength and majesty of His law courts in Lebanon in heaven. The king of Assyria was **once** a cedar in Lebanon; he was the unrivaled member in God’s law courts; but he fell. His crushing choices to rebel against Almighty God were caused by the pride of the height he had achieved in God’s prestigious and grand courts. He thought he knew it all; he was convinced that he could rise to be the Most High God. He became arrogant and filled with seething hatred towards Almighty God.

God said, “And you have said, ‘With my many chariots [military power] I have ascended the heights of the mountains [top governments], the utmost heights of Lebanon [God Almighty’s headquarters]. I have cut down its tallest cedars [he swayed the revered members of God’s law courts to follow him], the choicest pines [other valued leaders]. I have reached its remotest heights, the finest of its forests [many other once holy and righteous sons]...’”

God foreknew the fall of this loved son who was so revered by God and all of the members of his law courts. Knowing the future, the pain of this loss was still not easier to bear. God, Himself had to take away His Holy Spirit from this son and cast him aside. He wept. “On the day it was brought down to the grave, **I covered the deep springs with mourning for it; I held back its streams, and its abundant waters were restrained.** Because of it, **I clothed Lebanon with gloom, and all the trees of the field withered away....** Then **all the trees of Eden, the choicest and best of Lebanon, all the trees that were well-watered, were consoled in the earth below**” (Ezekiel 31:15-16).

God's holy court in heaven fell!



Photo by Nayneung1/iStock

While this rebel son was raging against Almighty God and boasting of his military achievements in heaven and on earth, God said, “Have you not heard? **Long ago I ordained it. In days of old I planned it; now I have brought it to pass, that you have turned fortified cities into piles of stone**” (Isaiah 37:26). God was using the fallen son in his crazed state of arrogance to overthrow the weaker rebel kingdoms.

God also used the king of Assyria to punish and take captive the northern house of Israel (the ten tribes). Later, He destroyed the kingdom of Assyria on earth where mere mounds of sand and rubble remain. These overthrown heavenly leaders are presently imprisoned in the “Pit” in inner earth.

The future time like no other time will capture the rest. “Assyria is there with her whole army... their graves are in the depths of the pit... Elam is there... they bear their shame with those who go down to the pit... Meshech and Tubal are there... Edom is there... with those who go down to the pit... All the princes of the north and all the Sidonians are there...with those who go down to the pit... Pharaoh—he and all his army—will see them” (Ezekiel 32:22, 24, 26, 29-31).

THE HEAVENLY PHARAOH KING OF EGYPT

God foresaw the downfall of Pharaoh king of Egypt with all his majesty. He warned him saying, “Which of the trees of Eden [leaders in God’s family] can be compared with you in splendor and majesty? **Yet you, too, will be brought down with the trees of Eden [rebel leaders in God’s family] to the earth below;** you will be among the **uncircumcised** [the wicked], with those killed by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his hordes, declares the Sovereign LORD” (Ezekiel 31:18).

These heavenly rulers over the nations were the trusted and revered members of God’s law courts. In the making of God’s eternal kingdom, God was giving these rulers an opportunity to prove their righteous leadership and earn a leading position of kingship under God. They all could have been saviours of the nations that they ruled over.

ADAM, A PATTERN

“Adam was a pattern,” the Apostle Paul said, “of the One to come” (Romans 5:14). Jesus Christ was the One—the last One. No doubt, because a series of “Adams” failed. One remained who was successful—the Son of God who created everything in heaven and earth through the power of the Father.



All of the princes who held the most prestigious positions in God’s holy legal courts rebelled intentionally because of toxic pride that became a raging arrogance. The battle for God’s kingdom continues today in heaven where powerful rebels believe they can overthrow Almighty God and Jesus Christ. This war will spill over and collapse onto earth bringing a seething angst and fury towards all who oppose it. Then mankind will understand Jesus’ warning, “it will be like no other time on earth, no, nor ever be again” (Matthew 24:21).

One-third of the angels, sons of God have fallen. The creation in heaven far exceeds all of the descendants of Adam and Eve. There are countless angels in heaven. “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to **innumerable angels** in festal gathering” (Hebrews 12:22).

THE NATIONS WILL ACCEPT SATAN'S RULERSHIP

The rebel army thrown down to earth with Satan will be a most frightening event. The nations will say, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against it?" (Revelation 13:4b) They will choose to surrender.

Jesus said, "**As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man.** For in the days before the flood, **people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark**" (Matthew 24:37-38).

Despite Noah building a gigantic boat for 100 years, the people disbelieved his warning and had no idea when the flood would come. The people were content to live in wickedness; "every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time" (Genesis 6:5). History will repeat itself. People will once again accept the leadership of Satan and his beastly coalition. Life will go on; people will be going to sports stadiums, movies, celebrating and marrying.

People living the same lifestyle of those prior to the great flood will have no idea of the time when Jesus Christ will return. Many of these people will be happy to remain under Satan's rule. God will be angry with the people in the nations who are hostile towards Him. Their armies that they bring against Him will be brought to dust. "**The LORD is angry with all nations; his wrath is upon all their armies. He will totally destroy them; he will give them over to slaughter**" (Isaiah 34:2).

THE GOSPEL WILL GO OUT TO ALL THE WORLD AS A WITNESS

The saints will anticipate the return of Jesus Christ; they will not be in the dark. A great witness will go out to all the world; they will be without excuse. "**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come**" (Matthew 24:14).

A legal witness of their sins will be brought to the attention of every man and woman in all the nations of this world. The two witnesses of Revelation will broadcast God's word and His truth. Lies, deceit and corruption will be exposed. Those who give themselves over to relish in sin, will resent being corrected and bind even tighter to what they know are lies, resulting in Almighty God sending them a powerful delusion so the truth is hidden from them (II Thessalonians 2:11). He will keep them in darkness until Judgement Day.

Before God pours out His wrath on the people of the nations, living in sin, He will appeal to them to come near to Him and learn His way. During these latter days, God will pour out His Holy Spirit on all people. The men and women of the 21st century nations of Israel will teach them God's law and His way. God will "show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood **before** the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. **And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved...**" (Joel 2:28, 30-32).

The kings of the world, too arrogant to bend their knee before Almighty God, with their armies complete with every demonic technology and super weapons possible, will believe they have a chance against Almighty God and Jesus Christ. Deluded by their hardened heart, these people will brazenly stand behind their man-made weapons and witchery to fall victim of the greatest earthquake ever to strike the earth. The cities of the nations will collapse, mountains will disintegrate, islands will sink into the ocean and one-hundred-pound hail stones will fall from the sky. Yet, these indignant rebels will curse God because of the plague of hailstones that they believe they don't deserve. This will bring the end of this evil age.

The time of great distress on earth that has never occurred before, nor will it ever occur again will be the darkest days for the God-fearing and God-serving people. They will experience relentless attacks, raging hatred and intense persecution. All, from all countries, who hold to the testimony of Jesus Christ will be targeted for execution. The cup of the great harlot will be overflowing with the blood of the saints. This religious inquisition will come out of all nations worldwide led by the great harlot.

The opening of the Sixth seal marks the beginning of the wrath of Jesus Christ and Almighty God. All events at this time and onwards will be devastating to all who are not sealed by God.

Unmistakably, these events will be the time like no other, nor ever will be again. **The signature of this time is the spiritual battle on earth of Satan, his beastly coalition and the nations with them against Almighty God, Jesus Christ, God's people and those stand with them.** It will not involve nations against nations. There will be warring within the beastly coalition. The time of Jacob's trouble will be a time like no other; it will be marked by intense religious persecution. God's people, whether they are faithful to God or not, will be the relentless target of Satan.

All of the nations will surrender and ally with the beast. The rulers over the nations will be heavenly rulers, powers and principalities as it was in ancient times. Nothing will be hidden from the eyes of mankind. They will finally believe the words of Apostle Paul, **"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places"** (Ephesians 6:12).

Unfortunately, God's people went to sleep a long time ago. It will take a time of intense distress to awaken them to their calling and return to their God. **"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"** (Jeremiah 30:7).

If only all of God's people were like the barley harvest where the wind blows lightly and chaff is gone. Jacob's trouble is a tempest, a storm thrashing and washing them before they will repent. If humility and gratitude come at a heavy price, it is worth every moment of suffering. Like a mother giving birth to a child, the pain is quickly forgotten to see her new born in her arms. So, it will be for the repentant. **"As for you, O Jacob My servant, do not be afraid, declares the LORD, and do not be dismayed, O Israel. For I will surely save you out of a distant place, your**

descendants from the land of their captivity! Jacob will return to quiet and ease, with no one to make him afraid” (Jeremiah 30:10).

God has plans for all of repentant mankind. He is going to fill all of the prestigious positions lost by the fallen, rebel sons of God and award them to the merciful and faithful people. He already sees the rebuilding of His holy courts in heaven filled with the righteous from earth.



“In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest?” (Isaiah 29:17).

“The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, they will flourish in the COURTS OF OUR GOD. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green” (Psalm 92:12-15).

God can barely contain His excitement. **“I [God] will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like the lily, and he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon. His shoots will sprout, and his beauty will be like the olive tree and his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon” (Hosea 14:5-6).**

God’s new government is sprouting and it will grow into a thick forest in Lebanon in heaven full of faithful and righteous leaders with many beautiful gifts and wonderful qualities.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich

www.sharingsharpens.ca