

## The Prophesied Doom of OLD EARTH and the OLD HEAVENS

“I will sweep away **everything** from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD (Zephaniah 1:2).

Jeremiah recorded God’s prophecy of the earth at that time. “I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger” (Jeremiah 4:23-26).



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The Apostle Peter understood the existence of life in the realm of heaven and its prophesied destruction by fire. He said, “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then **the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed**” (II Peter 3:10).

The prophet Isaiah forecasted the same destruction and added more details on the destruction of earth and the wicked living on it—“it will wear out” and the wicked people on it will die. “Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth below; for **the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and its people will die like gnats**. But My salvation will last forever, and My righteousness will never fail” (Isaiah 51:6).

Jesus confirmed the destruction of both the realm in heaven and on earth, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

The first time God destroyed all living on earth was at the time of the great flood. Prophecy identifies two additional time periods still in the future, when mankind sins in the same treasonous way as they did prior to the flood that will bring the Great God, their Creator to shake the earth and then, later destroy it. The first of these events is the Great Tribulation at the end of this evil age and the second event will take place after the Millennium when Satan is released swaying many people on earth to worship him. He and his band of rebels team up with Gog of Magog from the far north in heaven and they declare war on God's covenant people. This event leads up to the Great Day of Judgment and the sentencing of the wicked. In both cases, as it was in the days of Noah, **God pours out His wrath on people because they have chosen to worship Satan and reject the righteous ways of their Creator.** Each time, God's destruction comes as a surprise for the wicked. They rejected Him, so God rejected them and they remained ignorant of His great plan.

### **What will the day Christ returns look like?**

Jesus said that upon his return, it will be like the days of Noah. **"People were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. And they were oblivious,** until the flood came and swept them all away. So, will it be at the coming of the Son of Man" (Matthew 24:38-39).

On the day Christ returns, the people of the world will be celebrating life and living with the full expectation that their future on earth will be glorious under the reign of Satan. "The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. **He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him"** (Revelation 12:9).

Satan will be the supreme heavenly ruler over the earth at that time and under his authority will be his angels who will be thrown down to earth with him. These angels together form the heavenly alliance referred to in Revelation as the beast from out of the sea with ten horns and seven heads. This beast is the same that Daniel saw and recorded in chapter seven. It is the "fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts and it had ten horns..." and "a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully" (Daniel 7:7-8).

The ten horns of this beast are explained in Revelation. "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom" (Revelation 17:12). There aren't any scriptures found in the Bible promising earthly kings a kingdom, however, at the time of Babel, God gave heavenly leaders rulership over the nations on earth (Deuteronomy 32:8). At that time, God, himself took the descendants of Jacob as His people to rule over them as their King (Deuteronomy 32:9). It was likely, during this time, ten heavenly leaders were promised a kingdom. Unfortunately, these ten heavenly leaders have chosen to team up with Satan and war against God. The promise of a kingdom remains an unbroken promise. They will receive a kingdom, but their reign will be brief "for one hour" (Revelation 17:12).

What kingdom God intends to give to them during Satan's reign on earth remains unknown. God may decide to divide the earth into ten parts and give them rulership over all of the earth, except for His people who remain under His rulership. Whatever kingdom they receive, they have "only one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast" (Revelation 17:13).

During this time of great turmoil, the nations of the world will conclude, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him? (Revelation 13:4b)" They will conclude that no nation on earth can overthrow the beast, so they will surrender and accept the rulership of Satan and the beast. "Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worship the beast" (Revelation 13:4a). The nations of the world will not decide to call out to their Creator for help. They will buy the theology of Satan from the merchants serving Babylon (Revelation 18) and revel in the supernatural technology of these alien gods, their promises of extended life and kingship within this material universe. It is their surrender to serve Satan that prompts God's fierce wrath against the nations on earth.

While the creation in heaven rejoices over the ousting of Satan and his coalition from out of heaven, they gasp and cry, "Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short" (Revelation 12:12). A certain people do cry out to their Creator; these are the saints and eventually, the remnant of the people from the 21<sup>st</sup> century nations of Israel.

### **Why does God allow persecution and trouble?**

A religious revival will explode during these troubled times. Led by the saints, the gospel of God's kingdom will go out to all the world. Satan's spirit of opposition and hatred will burst out in battle against those who stand strong and faithful under the flag of Almighty God. During times of persecution, God's people are strengthened, tested and purified. Satan will be allowed to war against them. "I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High" (Revelation 13:7, Daniel 7:21). The whole world will watch and witness, yet their leaders will not call out to the Ancient of Days to be rescued from Satan's rule and be saved.

The fifth seal is not finished. Satan will not be allowed to kill all of the saints. God will provide supernatural help for this group of people. "The woman [faithful church] was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a times, out of the serpent's reach" (Revelation 12:14). The completion of the fifth seal will continue with the rage Satan has against God's people now towards those who lacked faith in God Almighty and remained. "The dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring— **those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus**" (Revelation 12:17).

God uses persecution to punish His wayward people and bring them back to Him. He will punish the wayward 21<sup>st</sup> century nations of Israel for their sins and the nations of the world will know

why God allowed Satan and the beast from out of the sea to attack them, kill many, and enslave the remnant.

“From that day forward the **house of Israel** will know that I am Yahuah [YHWH], their God. And **the nations will know that the people of Israel went into exile for their sin, because they were unfaithful to me.** So, I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies, and **they ALL** [those God allowed to die] **fell by the sword. I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their offenses,** and I hid my face from them” (Ezekiel 39:22-24).

“‘Therefore, do not fear, O My servant Jacob,’ says the LORD, ‘nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, **I will save you from afar,** and your seed from the land of their captivity. **Jacob shall return,** have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid. **For I am with you,**’ says the LORD, ‘**to save you;** though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, and will **not let you go altogether unpunished**” (Jeremiah 30:8-11).

While the nations celebrate life reveling in alien technology and knowledge, many of the remnant of the 21<sup>st</sup> century nations of Israel will be scattered among the nations of the world and used for hard labor and their slaves. As they cry out to God, this time sincerely, they will be mocked and ridiculed by their overlords. All who accept Jesus as their Savior will be hated.

“**You will be hated by everyone on account of My name,** but the one who perseveres to the end will be saved” (Matthew 10:22).

“Remember the word that I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ **If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you as well;** if they kept My word, they will keep yours as well. But **they will do all these things against you on account of My name,** because they have not known the One having sent Me” (John 15:20-21).

“Then **they will deliver you over to be persecuted and killed, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name**” (Matthew 24:9).

“But before all this, **they will seize you and persecute you. On account of My name they will deliver you to the synagogues and prisons, and they will bring you before kings and governors**” (Luke 21:12).

### **Why will the nations choose to worship Satan?**

Three and a half years into the reign of Satan on earth, the nations of 21<sup>st</sup> century Israel—God’s people will have been overthrown and weak, while the rest of the nations on earth will have grown strong for now Satan is rewarding them for following him. It will appear like they have entered into a **very long period of peace and safety** with **promises of rulership** and **great power not only on earth but throughout the universe.**

### Can God be overthrown?

God Almighty's plans cannot be thwarted and His people will not be blotted out from history. The suffering the 21<sup>st</sup> century people of Israel endure will build an unbreakable bond with their God—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They will remember their ancient history and they will be ashamed of their behavior. They will say, "I will praise you, O LORD. **Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation**" (Isaiah 12:1-2).

While the repentant 21<sup>st</sup> century people of Israel declare their allegiance to their God—the Great Creator, the people of the nations of the world will declare their allegiance to Satan. It is this declaration of the nations of the world that initiates God's wrath on them. Christ's return as King of kings and Lord of lords with all power, will come as a great surprise to them. They will have bought all of Satan's lies and will not consider this alien arrival as an enemy. God will rescue His repentant people and they will return "to their fortress" to prepare for the greatest battle ever to be fought on earth.

### Who will win this great battle on earth?

God desires that all of mankind live and be saved. He orders the trumpets blown, yet few repent. "The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood... Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts" (Revelation 9:20-21). He orders the woes and vials poured and still many do not repent. In fact, they open themselves up to demons. "Three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and **they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty**" (Revelation 16:13-14).

God is now angry with the nations who refuse to bend their knee. "Come near, you nations, and listen; pay attention, you peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world, and all that comes out of it! **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 34:1-2).

At this time, God's people will be a repentant God-fearing and God-serving people, ready to trust in their God and enter into a frightening and foreboding battle against Satan and his vast armies. The nations of earth will scoff at the remnant released from their service, who they see as weak and foolish. They do not know the great explosive power of the God of Israel. God will then use this remnant people to overthrow the nations of the world who rejected Him to worship Satan.

The prophet Zechariah recorded the story of this great battle. Upon their release, God will say, "**Return to your fortress, O prisoners of hope**" (Zechariah 9:12) for there remains one final battle that you will fight. This time, God Almighty will lead 21<sup>st</sup> century Israel into battle against

the raging nations whose leader “speaks against the Most High and oppresses his saints” (Daniel 7:25). In God’s hand, he will grip Judah as his bow and fill it with the arrows of Ephraim.

**“The Ephraimites [the people of the ten tribes of Israel] will become like mighty men, and their hearts will be glad as with wine. Their children will see it and be joyful; their hearts will rejoice in the LORD. I will signal for them and gather them in. Surely, I will redeem them; they will be as numerous as before. Though I scatter them among the peoples, YET IN DISTANT LANDS THEY WILL REMEMBER ME. They and their children will survive, and they will return”** (Zechariah 10:7-9).

God has an unfinished ancient battle against the heavenly rulers over Greece. “I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and I will make you like a warrior’s sword” (Zechariah 9:13b). God will make His people into a warrior's sword. He will appear over them as a mighty warrior. He will sound the trumpet and the battle will begin. He will shield his people as they march into the most violent battle to ever rage on earth (Zechariah 9:14). God’s arrows will flash like lightning into the enemy with devastating destruction. 21<sup>st</sup> century Israel will be supernaturally protected, as they devour the enemy like ravenous lions. “They drink and roar as with wine; they will be full like a bowl used for sprinkling the corners of the alter” (Zechariah 9:15).

This last battle will bring the nations to their knees, while Christ, his heavenly army and the resurrected saints overthrow the heavenly rulers, powers and authorities that comprise of Satan, the beast coalition from out of the sea, the beast from the earth, the Antichrist and the false prophet with their rebellious heavenly angels.

“That day will be a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of destruction and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness... I will bring such distress on mankind that they will walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung... The whole earth will be consumed by the fire of His jealousy.’ For indeed, He will make a sudden end of all who dwell on the earth” (Zephaniah 1:17, 18b).

### **Who will be saved?**

**“A great multitude that no one could count from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes [made righteous] and were holding palm branches in their hands... These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made themselves white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them”** (Revelation 7:9, 14-15).

In addition to the great multitude from every nation of the world, will be a humbled God-fearing and God-serving people chosen by God from before the creation of the world to be a holy nation from twelve tribes of royal priests—the kingdom of Israel.

“But **Israel will be saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation**; you will not be put to shame or humiliated, to ages everlasting” (Isaiah 45:17).

“Alas! for that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the **time of Jacob's distress, but he will be saved from it**. 'It shall come about on that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'that I will break his yoke from off their neck and will tear off their bonds; and strangers will no longer make them their slaves’ (Jeremiah 30:7-8).

“In that day you will feel no shame because of all your deeds by which you have rebelled against Me; for then **I will remove from your midst your proud, exulting ones, and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain**. But I will leave among you a humble and lowly people, and they will take refuge in the name of the LORD. **The remnant of Israel will do no wrong and tell no lies, nor will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths; for they will feed and lie down with no one to make them tremble’** (Zephaniah 3:11-13).

“Though the mountains may be removed and the hills may be shaken, my loving devotion will not depart from you, and My covenant of peace will not be broken,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you” (Isaiah 54:10).

Satan, the primary source of power within the rogue monster coalition, will be captured and imprisoned.

### **What will the day look like when Satan is released?**

One thousand years after the Great Tribulation, Satan will be released and once again sway many to follow him. At this time, God will call Gog from the far north to battle. “After many days [1,000 years] you will be called to arms” (Ezekiel 38:8a). This rogue heavenly chief prince of Meshech and Tubal will sit quietly during the Great Tribulation watching the collapse of every rogue heavenly ruler, power and authority except for his vast heavenly empire. God has plans for him. After the Millennium, God will call him to battle. This will be the time to clean up the heavens of God’s enemies and to test the people on earth to remove those who choose to allow sin into their lives and refuse to return to living righteously.

“Thoughts will come into your mind [Gog of Magog] and you will devise an evil scheme. You will say, ‘I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars. I will plunder and loot and turn my hand against the resettled ruins and the people gathered from the nations, rich in livestock and goods, living at the center of the land’” (Ezekiel 38:10b-12).

God himself tells the rest of the story. “This is what will happen in that day: When Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused... In my zeal and fiery wrath, I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. The fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. **The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground... I will pour down torrents of rain,**

**hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him.**

And so, I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 38:18-23).

God alone will fight this battle and completely destroy His opponents. “On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you... I will set fire on Magog [Gog’s heavenly domain] and on those who live in safety in the coastlands, and they will know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 39:4, 6).

Then finally, the great deceiver will be destroyed. “Fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Revelation 20:9b-10).

### **How will God destroy the earth?**

The big lesson with the destruction of the physical earth and the heavens is that when shaken, they can be broken and wither like the wicked on earth and in heaven. God’s point is that the God-fearing and God-serving when shaken, will not break; they are eternally strong, loyal and faithful.

“The earth is utterly broken apart, the earth is split open, the earth is shaken violently” (Isaiah 24:19). Again, the prophet Isaiah recorded the turmoil on earth on that day. “Therefore, I will make the heavens tremble, and **the earth will be shaken from its place at the wrath of the LORD of Hosts on the day of His burning anger**” (Isaiah 13:13).

“And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I will **shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.**’ This expression, ‘Yet once more,’ denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain” (Hebrews 12:26-27).

During the great shaking, God Almighty guarantees the fate of the wicked. “But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death” (Revelation 21:8). In addition, the prophet Zephaniah recorded, “‘I will sweep away people and animals alike. I will sweep away the birds of the sky and the fish in the sea. **I will reduce the wicked to heaps of rubble, and I will wipe humanity [the wicked] from the face of the earth,**’ says the LORD” (Zephaniah 1:3).

The wicked will all die on this old earth. They died on earth at the time of the great flood, they will die on earth during the Great Tribulation and finally, after the Great Day of Judgment, the wicked will remain on earth and die when God totally destroys this planet. Each time, the day of destruction comes upon them suddenly; they are oblivious because they refused to heed God’s warnings.



While the earth becomes the grave for all of the wicked, the realm in heaven has imperfections and offensive modifications from the rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities (Ephesians 6:12). The realm in heaven will also be destroyed. “All the stars of heaven will be dissolved. The skies will be rolled up like a scroll, and all their stars will fall like withered leaves on the vine, and foliage on the fig tree” (Isaiah 34:4).

### **How will God destroy the heavens?**

In the beginning, God created both the heaven and the earth at the same time. While the earth remained formless and void for a long duration of time, God, that is, the Son through the power of his Father, created all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, thrones, powers, rulers and authorities (Colossians 1:16).

When Lucifer chose to rebel, the Father and the Son created again—life on earth. Adam and Eve were created and Eve became the mother of all of mankind.

Where iniquity had set down roots and left its ugly mark in heaven from the fallen heavenly rulers, powers and authorities and covered the earth, God deemed, after the Great Day of Judgment, to destroy both realms and create a new heaven and new earth for the righteous.

“Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which **the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!** But according to His promise **we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells**” (II Peter 3:12-13).

These righteous from heaven and earth will marvel as Jesus Christ, through the power of the Father, will create again. From nothing forces listen and glorious things happen. The rise of two realms will appear a second time: a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1).

“I am making everything new!” the God of Israel will declare. “It is done” (Revelation 21:5a, 6a).

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich.*