

# Our Concerns

You'll need to have your Bible as you journey through the next five web pages with us. Please take a moment to get one if you don't already have one in hand. Thanks – it's important you look up the references that haven't been written out in their entirety.

Scripture teaches this: God's people will be present (i.e., on earth) during the time of tribulation and great tribulation. Let's not allow popular current theological traditions of man to keep us from the Truth (see Mt. 15:1-9 for our Lord's address on this matter) if God's Word says one thing and popular religious opinion teaches another. Meditate on the following passages. Allow the Word of God to serve as your authority for faith and practice. In these troubled days, our lives depend on it!

AFTER an intense description of the tribulation – one that includes a brief period of time called “Great Tribulation” (Matthew 24:9-28; compare with Mk. 13:9-23, Lk. 21:10-24 and John 16:1-4) – our Lord Jesus Christ says,

*“But 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 the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And **then** the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”* Matthew 24:29-31 (NASB-ue ; emphases ours)

Our deliverance from *wrath* comes, but only after a time of great difficulty. II Thessalonians 2 emphasizes two things that precede the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him: 1) apostasy; and, 2) the revealing of the man of lawlessness.

*“And now, brothers and sisters, let us tell you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered together to meet him. Please don't be so easily shaken and troubled by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Even if they claim to have had a vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us,*

*don't believe them. Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. He will exalt himself and defy every god there is and tear down every object of adoration and worship. He will position himself in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.”*

II Thessalonians 2:1-4 (NLT)

Scripture teaches the rapture of the Church takes place at the last or final trumpet.

*“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”* I Corinthians 15: 51, 52 (NKJV) [ Insightful note: consider “mystery” in light of Rev. 10:7! ]

One additional portion of Scripture concerning the final trumpet in light of the trumpets of Revelation. IF the “historical parenthesis” of Rev. 12 – 14 is retained (accepted), a simple harmony between the Book of Revelation and the passages immediately above clearly exists. Both the context of Revelation and many commentaries teach this historical interlude. We don't have to twist the clear reading of the text nor apply a specific systematic theological interpretation upon the text in order to embrace what God's Word actually teaches. Between the written address on the final trumpet of Revelation 11 and the account of the gathering of God's people in Revelation 14:14-16, we find a going-back-to the dragon and child (chapter 12) and clear details concerning the great persecution during the rule of antichrist (chapters 13, 14). The gathering section of chapter 14 occurs after the Great Tribulation, thus the going back to earlier events in chapters twelve, thirteen and a portion of fourteen.

One simple teaching of Endurance Ministries: the *last/final trumpet* is the gathering of the people of God in Christ Jesus. Matthew 24:29-31, I Corinthians 15, I Thessalonians 4 and Revelation 11 and 14 harmonize beautifully! If indeed this is the case,\* one part of discerning the day and “watching” and being ready for our Lord's glorious return is discerning the antichrist and all the deceptions he brings, not to further develop the deceptions of the many false end-time christs, teachers and prophets.

Read Luke 21:28 in its context. What is it that comes prior to the Counsel to “look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” ? It’s this: “Now when these things begin to happen ...” What *things* ? The things mentioned in the verses immediately prior to verse 28. Check it out! For more information about the chronological details introduced on this page, feel free to examine our [end-time chart](#).

Okay, we’ve seen the importance of watching and discerning our day. But how does one adequately prepare for these times?

We must know what God graciously says in His crucial end-time passages to us! But what are some of these passages? For an excellent start ...

### [Crucial Passages](#)

Thereafter, consider ...

### [Current Affairs](#)

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- \* Because of the emphases of Endurance Ministries, we do not argue, theologically, this chronology. Instead, we simply highlight biblical Truth and take that Truth to better discern our present days. This is our emphasis, although we readily confess a certain conviction concerning the timing of the rapture as a result of what Scripture explicitly teaches. Our purpose in chronological appeal, though, is not to argue a theological position but to grow biblical discernment in the people of God in Jesus Christ, as our Lord Himself has called us to “watch.” We will remain true to this worthy call of God.

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