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THE TRIBULATION PERIOD

From Revelation 4 – 19, we do not hear the Church being spoken about as it has been raptured and is with Christ, at the Bema seat and marriage supper.

We have looked at some of the theories of how this might happen, but what will it be like?

1 Thess 4:16-17

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 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.

- a. Christ will appear in the clouds
- b. Dead Christians will be resurrected with new bodies
- c. Alive Christians will be transformed
- d. All meet Christ in the air and go with him to heaven.
- e. The Tribulation period is triggered – Jacobs trouble.

Just imagine what it will be like when millions of people from all walks of life are raptured away from their normal lives.

***How will this be explained?**

***What calamities will it produce – planes fall from sky, trains crash, cars collide**

***For many, it will be a wake-up call to get saved and serve Jesus in the Tribulation period**

Now the Tribulation period begins on the earth. As there is now no restrainer on the earth, evil can rise as there is nothing to stop it.

Jesus told his disciples that this time will be the worst time the earth has ever known and there will never be anything like it, past or future.

The tribulation period is a period of 7 years from the time when the church is removed to the Second coming of Jesus back to the earth, known as Jacob's trouble

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Jer 30:7

How awful that day will be! No other will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.

At this time the focus moves away from the church and is now on the people of Israel (Jacob), which will be a time of incredible trouble and tribulation.

The church will be raptured as we have seen, as the restrainer (The church) is removed, which will allow the tribulation period to begin.

The man of sin.

Very soon after the church has been raptured, a great leader will arise to unite the earth and bring peace for a period of 3.5 years.

This man will come at first as the man of peace and will create a 7year covenant with Israel and the nations of the earth, but will abandon it after 3.5years

During this time, Israel will begin to rebuild the Temple and reinstate sacrificial worship, but this will be stopped, as he sets himself up as the one to be worshipped and breaks covenant with Israel. [1]

Today in Jerusalem there are already plans and organisations in place to rebuild the temple.[2]

He will be aided by another person named the false prophet, who heads up the new religious system that requires the worship of the man of sin.

Rev 19:20

But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulphur.

To make this worship happen, people will have to receive a mark, called the mark of the beast.

[1] See appendix 6 commentary

[2] <https://templeinstitute.org> and <https://www.jewishvoice.org/read/article/update-building-third-temple>.

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2 Thess 2:3-4

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Who is he?

Historically, most Protestant theologians of past generations assumed that the pope of Rome was the "Antichrist." In fact, the primary founder of Protestantism, Martin Luther, declared on August 18, 1520, "We here are of the conviction that the papacy is the seat of the true and real Antichrist" (Le Roy Edwin Froom, *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, vol. 2, p. 256).[1]

"Because of his oratorical skills he will be regarded by the world as the modern-day incarnation of Hitler's *Urbemensch* or Superman. To the Jews, he will be their Messiah and to the Muslims he will be their Mahadi. To the New Agers, he will embody the Christ spirit of the god within all of us. To the Asians he will be Buddha and to the Hindu's he will be Lord Krishna. To atheists and agnostics, he will be a man of supreme intellect, slick, diplomatic, and impressive on so many levels." [2]

It seems he will be a charismatic, global leader who establishes peace on the earth, but his real goal is not peace but deception to trick people into worshipping him.

Daniel 9:27

He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

He will be full of pride and inspired and stand opposed to everything that is of God and will see success in all that he does, until Jesus deals with him.

Daniel 11:36-37

The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. 37 He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.

[1] <https://www.tomorrowworld.org/booklets/who-or-what-is-the-antichrist/content>

[2] carljosephministries.com/podcast/who-is-the-antichrist

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His activities

·He will corrupt and flatter.

He will be a skilled orator and will use his ability and charismatic ability to win people over to his way of thinking and his desires through manipulation.

Dan 11:32

With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.

- **Uses deceit**

Deceit is to conceal or misrepresent the truth with a desire to mislead. He will do this in such a way that it will run wild and be seen as the way to operate.

Dan 8:25

He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.

- **Master of intrigue**

He will be someone who will be skilled at devising plots and intrigues that will confuse and control people.

Dan 8:23

In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a fierce-looking king, a master of intrigue, will arise.

- **Satanic authority**

There will be an incredible power at work through this man and he will be able to see amazing success. This will give him influence and prestige amongst the nations of the world and will give him incredible power to destroy God's people.

Dan 8:24

He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy those who are mighty, the holy people.

- **Signs and wonders**

2 Thess 2:9

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie,

- **Stops worship**

Dan 9:27

He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.'] In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.'

- **Sits in God's Temple**

2 Thess 2:4

He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

- **Worshipped by all nations**

Note the Beast, Dragon and false prophet are a trinity of evil, standing opposed to God. The earth has had the divine trinity at work, now it is handed over to the trinity of evil.

Rev 13:4

People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?"

- **Blasphemes God**

Rev 13:5

The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months.

- **Seeks to change times and laws**

Dan 7:25

He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.[b]

- **Controls world finances**

Rev 13:16-17

It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, 17 so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

His end

·His reign will be limited to 3 ½ years

Dan 7:25

He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.[b]

Rev 13:5

The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months.

·Destroyed by Christ

2 Thess 2:8

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendour of his coming.

- **Authority removed**

Dan 7:26

But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever.

- **Authority given to the saints**

Dan 7:27

Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'

- **Cast into the lake of fire**

Rev 19:20

But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulphur.

What will happen in the tribulation period?

It seems to imply that the first half of the Tribulation seven years is one of peace, prosperity and positioning of the man of sin, but then of terrible times.

During the tribulation period there will be an outpouring of trials, plagues and anguish on the earth which will cause people to re-think their commitment to the anti-Christ.

In Revelation 6 we read of **6 seals** that are opened by the Lamb of God (Jesus), that begin the outpouring of Gods wrath on the earth:

1st seal - White horse – conquering power

v2 Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

2nd seal - Red Horse - War and bloodshed

V4 Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.

3rd seal - Black horse – famine

v6 'A kilogram of wheat for a day's wages, and three kilograms of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!'

4th seal - Pale horse – Pestilence and death

v8 Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a quarter of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

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5th seal - Souls under altar –the martyrs crying out for vengeance.

v9-11 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. 10 They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” 11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

6th seal – physical changes on the earth.

v12-14 There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, 13 and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig-tree when shaken by a strong wind. 14 The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

7th seal – silence in heaven for 30 minutes.

Rev 8:1

When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Then after that we have the 7 trumpets from Rev 8:7-11

1st trumpet - Hail and fire mixed with blood.

v7 The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

2nd trumpet - A mountain thrown into the sea.

v8-9 and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, 9 a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

3rd trumpet - The star wormwood.

v10-11 a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water – 11 the name of the star is Wormwood.[a] A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter

4th trumpet - A third of the sun, moon and stars struck

v12 a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

5th trumpet - Plague of locusts

Rev 9:3-4 And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. 4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. 6 During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. 8 Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. 9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. 10 They had tails with stings, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. 11 They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).

Note here – this could be a description of helicopters or other modern type aircraft.

Note also – even though we know that the events taking place are from God, they may be carried out by people or angelic forces that look human

6th trumpet - Release of the 4 angels

Rev 9:14-19 Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.' 15 And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number. The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulphur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulphur. 18 A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulphur that came out of their mouths. 19 The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

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Could this be describing a nuclear or chemical attack of some kind?

NOTE – In Revelation 10-11 we see that God sends two witnesses, we will look at this in more depth later.

7th trumpet – Declaration of the coming reign of God on earth

Rev 11:15

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

This is not the end of the tribulation period, but a declaration of its end. From this trumpet will come the bowl judgements (Revelation 15-19) that release more pain and suffering on the earth.

THE TRINITY OF EVIL

In Revelation 12 and 13 we have a description of a battle which takes place in the spiritual realms, while the tribulation period is taking place on earth.

This is the same timeframe, but from a spiritual perspective, rather than a physical earthly perspective.

Notice the three different entities:

a. **The Dragon – Satan.**

Rev 12:9

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.

Here we see that the Dragon is Satan who is cast out of heaven onto the earth. The Bible gives four different falls of Satan:

The Bible describes four different falls of Satan:

- From glorified to profane (Ezekiel 28:14-16).
- From having access to heaven (Job 1:12; 1 Kings 22:21, Zechariah 3:1) to restriction to the earth (Revelation 12:9).
- From the earth to bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20).
- From the pit to the lake of fire (Revelation 20).

In **Luke 10:18**, Jesus said “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” This refers either to the first fall of Satan (from glorified to profane), or it is a prophetic look ahead to the second fall at the mid-point of the seven-year tribulation period.[1]

b. The beast out of the sea – The antichrist

Rev 13:1

The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

The beast is like the dragon, but distinct from it. The beast like the dragon has seven heads and ten horns (Rev 12:3).

Though we commonly call this coming world leader the Antichrist, the Bible gives him many names or titles. He is known as:

- The little horn of Daniel 7:8.
- The king of fierce countenance of Daniel 8:23.
- The Prince that shall come of Daniel 9:26.
- The wilful king of Daniel 11:36-45.
- The one who comes in his own name of John 5:43, whom Israel will receive as a messiah.
- The son of perdition, the man of sin, the lawless one of 2 Thessalonians 2:3[2]

[1] <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-12>

[2] <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-13>

c. The beast from the earth - the false prophet

Rev 13:11-12

Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. 12 It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

This second beast is called the false prophet (Revelation 16:13; 19:20, 20:10), as someone distinct from the first beast (the Antichrist) and the dragon (Satan).

ii. With the dragon, the beast rising from the sea, and the beast rising from the land we have an unholy trinity. The dragon is the anti-Father, the beast rising from the sea is the anti-Christ, and the beast rising from the land is the anti-Holy Spirit.[1]

In Revelation, the term beast refers to two related entities. Sometimes “the beast” refers to the end-times’ empire.

The seven heads and ten horns indicate that the beast will be a coalition of nations that rises to power to subdue the earth under Satan’s control.

Later references to “the beast” in Revelation picture an individual—the man who is the political leader and head of the beastly empire.

The beast will receive a deadly wound and be healed of it Revelation 13:3[2]

We see that he will exert authority over the whole world and demand worship.

Rev 13:7-8

It was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. 8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

He will wage war against God’s people, and he will prevail against them for a time (Revelation 13:7; Daniel 7:21).

However, according to Rev 13:5 and Daniel 7:25 he will only have authority for forty-two months (three-and-a-half years).

[1] <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-13>

[2] One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.

During the tribulation period, millions will be converted to Christ in a world-wide end time harvest.

Rev 7:9-14 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.' 11 All the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, 12 saying: 'Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!' 13 Then one of the elders asked me, 'These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?' 14 I answered, 'Sir, you know.' And he said, 'These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

The beast in Revelation is the Antichrist, the one who will "oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God (2 Thess 2:4).

He is also called "the man of lawlessness" and "the man doomed to destruction"

2 Thess 2:3-4

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness[a] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

In Daniel's vision, the Antichrist is the "little horn" that rises from the head of the terrifying beast

Daniel 7:8

While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, 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 human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

When the Lord returns in judgment, He will defeat the beast and destroy his empire.

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Rev 19:19-20

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. 20 But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulphur.

Daniel 7:11

Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.

The beast will be cast alive into the lake of fire.

The **identity** of the individual who will become the beast of Revelation is not yet known.

This man will be revealed only when God removes the restraining influence of the church from the earth.

2 Thessalonians 2:7

For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

Some people see the ten horns, 7 heads and 10 crowns as the European Union and/or the Roman Catholic Church.

The antichrist in the middle of the 7 years tribulation period will turn against Israel and will set up his presence in the Temple proclaiming himself to be god.

Daniel 9:27 says this:

He will confirm a covenant with many for one "seven". In the middle of the "seven"[i] he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple[j] he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.'

Daniel 12:11

From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days

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During this time, it seems there will be one world government and one currency or way to transact across the world.[1]

Matt 24:15

So when you see standing in the holy place “the abomination that causes desolation,” spoken of through the prophet Daniel – let the reader understand.

These are the words of Jesus to his disciples confirming that this will happen as spoken by Daniel in a 3rd temple, still to be built in Jerusalem.

It was not an event of the past that Jesus was referring to, but one that is still to come.

2 Thess 2:4

He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Again, here we see Paul speaking the same things about this event in the future, tribulation period.

During the second part of the tribulation period, when the antichrist is revealed and his plan for world dominance and hatred of Israel is seen, he will control everything.

Rev 13:15-17

The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. 16 It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, 17 so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

[1] John describes the ruler of this vast empire as having power and great authority, given to him by Satan himself (Revelation 13:2). This ruler receives worship from “all the world” (Revelation 13:3-4) and will have authority over “every tribe, people, language and nation” (Revelation 13:7). This person will truly be the leader of a one-world government that is recognized as sovereign over all other governments. We see nations today willing to give up some of their sovereignty to combat climate change; it’s easy to imagine that the disasters and plagues described in Revelation 6-11 would create such a monumental crisis that the nations of the world will embrace anything and anyone who promises a solution. (www.gotquestions.org/one-world-government)

Note here there will be control of:

- **Worship**

The beast set himself up in the temple as God and now demands that the world worship him

Worship will be banned, and the only worship will be of the Beast (antichrist). This means that he goes to war on religion and in particular Israel and any that are Christian during this time.

NOTE – there will still be Christians on the earth as there will be people saved who will have realised after the rapture that what the church said was true.

- **Economy**

The world economy will be controlled through the beast and people will possibly be micro-chipped so they can purchase, travel, work, eat and live.

If anyone does not carry the mark, they will be unable to buy, travel, eat or live, as the whole system will lock them out unless they worship the beast.

We have the ability right now!

Thousands of people in Sweden are inserting tiny microchips under their skin, making their lives much easier as they no longer have to carry IDs, gym passes, and keycards to get into work. About 3,000 Swedes have inserted the tiny chips into their bodies over the past three years, according to AFP. The electronic tags are about the size of a grain of rice and are implanted in the back of the hand via a syringe.[1]

Also, during this time God sends two witnesses who preach in Jerusalem for this period, but then they are martyred and lay in Jerusalem for 3 days, until they are resurrected and preach throughout the city.

[1] <https://www.euronews.com/2018/05/31/>

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Rev 11:3-14

And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” 4 They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.” 5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. 6 They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. 7 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. 8 Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified. 9 For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. 10 The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. 11 But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. 13 At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

These witnesses are taken back up to heaven after being killed. They could be Moses and Elijah (as up to this point, they had not tasted death).

Once the antichrist gains control there will be kings rising up to fight one another who will come from the South and the North and eventually from the West.

The host from the East is described as an army of 200million that will descend upon Israel and gather in the valley of Armageddon, more on this later.

Rev 9:16

The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number.