WHEN HE RETURNS

Understanding the last days
WHEN HE RETURNS

THE RAPTURE/TRIBULATION

MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

NEW HEAVENS - NEW EARTH
WHEN HE RETURNS

TRIBULATION
OUR GOALS

• Be encouraged from God’s Prophetic Word
• Fight eschatological agnosticism & indifference
• Sharpen our Bible study skills
  – Observation
  – Interpretation
  – Application
BACKGROUND

- Timeline of the Bible *
- Overview of OT History *
- Our Glorious Future *

* See handout
TIME LINE OF THE BIBLE

**Gentiles**
- Adam - Abraham
- (Deut. 7:6)

**Israel**
- (Church)
- (Matt. 16:18)
- (Dan. 9:24-27)
- (Isa 2:1-4; 35:1-10; Rev. 20:6)

**Church**
- (1 Cor. 15:23)
- (1 Thes. 5:10-11)

**Israel**
- (1 Cor. 10:32)
- (Heb. 12:22-23; Rev. 21:10-27)

**Millennium**
- (Rev. 20:13)
- (Rev. 20:11-15)

**Great White Throne**
- (Rev. 20:11-15)

**New Heaven**
- New Earth
- (Rev. 21:1; Isa. 65:17)

**Lake of Fire**
- (Rev. 19:20; 20:10, 15)

**The New Jerusalem**
- (John 14:2-3; Heb. 12:22-23; Rev. 21:10-27)

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**Notes:**
* 1 Corinthians 10:32 distinguishes between gentiles, Israel, and the church
** 1 Corinthians 15:23 refers to order of the First Resurrection, beginning with Christ, the first fruits
*** Resurrection of Old Testament Saints (Eze. 37:13-14) and martyred Tribulation saints (Rev. 20:4)
An Overview of Old Testament History

**Creation**
- Creation
- JACOB MOVED TO EGYPT (ca. 1876)

**Exodus**
- Exodus (1446)
- Lev., Num., Deut. (40 years)
- Joshua (7 years)
- Judges & Ruth (ca. 299 years)

**Conquest Completed**
- ca. 1399

**Judges**
- Begin (ca. 1350)

**Saul Rules**
- 1051

**David Rules**
- 1011

**Solomon Rules**
- 971

**Kingdom Divided**
- 931

**Conquers Israel**
- 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17

**Pre-exilic prophets**
- 840-760
  - Obadiah
  - Joel
  - Jonah

**Exilic prophets**
- 586-515
  - Jeremiah
  - Lamentations
  - Habakkuk
  - Zephaniah
  - Nahum

**Post-exilic prophets**
- 515-present
  - Daniel
  - Ezekiel
  - Malachi
  - Nehemiah
  - Esther

**Babylonian Exile**
- (209 years)

**Israel**
- (430 years)

**Judah**
- (40 years)

**Conquers Judah**
- Babylon (586)
- Temple Rebuilt (515)

**Old Testament Closes**
- ca. 430
OUR HOPE

• New Heavens and New Earth
• The Return of the Lord
• Future Bodily Resurrection

**Evangelicals agree**
HUMILITY & HOPE IN HERMENEUTICS

• Approach tension with humility and Scripture
• Biblical prophecy is revealed truth
• All interpretation: Use the clear in viewing the unclear.
LEVELS OF THEOLOGICAL AUTHORITY

1. Direct Statements of Scripture ➔ “God made the world”
LEVELS OF THEOLOGICAL AUTHORITY

1. Direct Statements of Scripture \(\Rightarrow\) “God made the world”
2. Direct Implications of Scripture \(\Rightarrow\) “God alone made the world”
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1. Direct Statements of Scripture ➔ “God made the world”
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3. Probable Implications of Scripture ➔ “God designed all the planets”
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5. Conclusions Inferred from General Revelation → “God is a jokester based on the platypus”
6. Outright Speculation → “There are aliens on other planets”
IS THE TRIBULATION FUTURE?

“Preterist” View

- Eschatological viewpoint that places many eschatological events in the past, especially during the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
IS THE TRIBULATION FUTURE?

“Historicist” View
- Eschatological viewpoint that sees the events of Revelation as being fulfilled throughout the ages of Church History.
IS THE TRIBULATION FUTURE?

“Idealist” View

- Eschatological viewpoint that the contents of the book of Revelation do not correspond to any historical events at all, but only symbolize the ongoing struggle between good and evil until Christ returns.
IS THE TRIBULATION FUTURE?

“Futurist” View

- Eschatological viewpoint that sees the events of Revelation mostly anticipating future fulfillment.
**THE FUTURIST VIEW**

- **Church Age**
  - Rapture of the Church: 1 Thess 4:14-17
- **Great Tribulation**
  - 7 years:
    - Rise of Antichrist
    - Israel at Peace
    - Rule of Antichrist
    - Israel Persecuted
  - Matt 24:21-22
  - Dan 9:27
- **Return of Jesus**
  - Rev 19:11-21
- **Millennial Kingdom**
  - 1000 year reign of Christ:
    - Rev 20:4-6
    - Isa 2:2-4
- **New Heavens & New Earth**
- **Eternity**

- 1 Thess 4:16-17
- Rev 19:11-21
- Rev 20:4-6
- Rev 21:1-5
- Isa 2:2-4

**THEME**
- Rise of Antichrist
- Rule of Antichrist
- Israel at Peace
- Israel Persecuted
- Great White Throne Judgment
- New Heavens & New Earth
- Eternity
THE COMING TRIBULATION

Jeremiah 30:5–7
Joel 1–3
Daniel 7:23–25
*Daniel 9:24–27
Daniel 12:1, 7

*Matthew 24:21–22
*2 Thess. 2:3–12
Revelation 7:14
*Revelation 11–13
WHY IS IT CALLED THE TRIBULATION?

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.

Matthew 24:21-22
WHY IS IT CALLED THE TRIBULATION?

Alas, what a terrible time of trouble it is! There has never been any like it. It is a time of trouble for the descendants of Jacob, but some of them will be rescued out of it.

Jeremiah 30:7
WHY IS IT CALLED THE TRIBULATION?

At that time Michael, the great prince who watches over your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress unlike any other from the nation’s beginning up to that time. But at that time your own people, all those whose names are found written in the book, will escape.

Daniel 12:1
Seventy weeks have been determined concerning your people and your holy city to put an end to rebellion, to bring sin to completion, to atone for iniquity, to bring in perpetual righteousness, to seal up the prophetic vision, and to anoint a most holy place.

Daniel 9:24
HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

God declares that “seventy sevens” will fulfill all these things. This is 70 sevens of years, or 490 years. (Some translations refer to 70 weeks of years.) This is confirmed by another part of this passage in Daniel. In verses 25/26, Daniel is told that the Messiah will be cut off after “seven sevens and sixty-two sevens” (69 total), beginning with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem.
HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

In other words, 69 sevens of years (483 years) after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, the Messiah will be cut off. Biblical historians confirm that 483 years passed from the time of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the time when Jesus was crucified. Most Christian scholars, regardless of their view of eschatology (future things/events), have the above understanding of Daniel’s 70 sevens.
HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

With 483 years having passed from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the cutting off of the Messiah, this leaves one seven-year period to be fulfilled in Terms of Daniel 9:24.
HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

The first 69 “7s” were literal (683 yrs between the decree and Christ’s triumphal entry) so it makes the most sense for the final 7 to be literal.
Daniel 9:27 ➔ The person of whom this verse speaks is the person Jesus calls the “abomination that causes desolation” (Matthew 24:15) and is called “the beast” in Revelation 13. Daniel 9:27 says that the beast will make a covenant for seven years, but in the middle of this week (3 years into the tribulation), he will break the covenant, putting a stop to sacrifice.
Revelation 13 explains that the beast will place an image of himself in the temple and require the world to worship him.

Revelation 13:5 says that this will go on for 42 months, which is 3 1/2 years.

Also see Daniel 7:25, where the “time, times, and half a time” (time=1 year; times=2 years; half a time=1/2 year; total of 3 1/2 years) also refers to “great tribulation,” the last half of the seven-year tribulation period when the beast will be in power.
HIGHLIGHTS

Since Daniel 9:27 says that this will happen in the middle of the week, and Revelation 13:5 says that the beast will do this for a period of 42 months, the total length of time is 84 months or seven years.
HIGHLIGHTS

1. Seven-Year Treaty
2. Seven Seal Judgments
3. Breaking of the Treaty
4. Seven Trumpet Judgments
5. Seven Bowl Judgments
6. Great Battle
Daniel 7:25; 9:27, 12:7
Revelation 11–13

3 ½ Years
Two Witnesses
Temple restored
Israel flees
Saints protected
Trumpets/Seals Begin

3 ½ Years
Two Beasts
Temple desecrated
Israel in Wilderness
Saints martyred
Bowls

7 Years
PURPOSE OF TRIBULATION

1) Purification/Conversion of Israel

- Daniel 9:24
- Jeremiah 30:7
- Romans 11:25-27
Seventy weeks have been determined concerning your people and your holy city to put an end to rebellion, to bring sin to completion, to atone for iniquity, to bring in perpetual righteousness, to seal up the prophetic vision, and to anoint a most holy place.

Daniel 9:24
Seventy weeks have been determined concerning your people and your holy city to put an end to rebellion, to bring sin to completion, to atone for iniquity, to bring in perpetual righteousness, to seal up the prophetic vision, and to anoint a most holy place.

Daniel 9:24
1) Finish Transgression

Israel’s sin of disobedience will be brought to an end at Christ’s second coming when she repents and turns to Him as her Messiah and Savior. Then she will be restored to the land and blessed, in answer to Daniel’s prayer.
Seventy weeks have been determined concerning your people and your holy city to put an end to rebellion, to bring sin to completion, to atone for iniquity, to bring in perpetual righteousness, to seal up the prophetic vision, and to anoint a most holy place.

Daniel 9:24
PURIFICATION OF ISRAEL

2) End Sin

This emphasized that Israel’s sin which had gone unpunished would be punished—in or through Jesus Christ, her substitute, who would bear the sins of the world on the cross. Then at Christ’s second coming he will remove Israel’s sin.
Seventy weeks have been determined concerning your people and your holy city to put an end to rebellion, to bring sin to completion, to atone for iniquity, to bring in perpetual righteousness, to seal up the prophetic vision, and to anoint a most holy place.

Daniel 9:24
3) Make Reconciliation

God will atone for wickedness. The verb “to atone” (kāpar) means “to cover or expiate.” This too relates to God’s final atonement of Israel when she repents at Christ’s second coming, as the provision for that atonement has already been made at the cross.
Seventy weeks have been determined concerning your people and your holy city to put an end to rebellion, to bring sin to completion, to atone for iniquity, to bring in perpetual righteousness, to seal up the prophetic vision, and to anoint a most holy place.

Daniel 9:24
4) Bring in Everlasting Life

Being satisfied by the death of Christ, God will bring in everlasting righteousness. The form of the verb “bring in” here means “to cause to come in.” The word “everlasting” means ages. Thus this phrase is a prophecy that God will establish an age characterized by righteousness.
Seventy weeks have been determined concerning your people and your holy city to put an end to rebellion, to bring sin to completion, to atone for iniquity, to bring in perpetual righteousness, to seal up the prophetic vision, and to anoint a most holy place.

Daniel 9:24
5) Seal Up Vision & Prophecy

All that God through the prophets said He would do in fulfilling His covenant with Israel will be fully realized in the Millennial Kingdom. Until they are fulfilled, prophecies are “unsealed.”
Seventy weeks have been determined concerning your people and your holy city to put an end to rebellion, to bring sin to completion, to atone for iniquity, to bring in perpetual righteousness, to seal up the prophetic vision, and to anoint a most holy place.

Daniel 9:24
6) Anoint the Most Holy

This may refer to the dedication of the Most Holy place in the millennial temple, described in Ezekiel 41–46. Or it may refer not to a holy place, but to the Holy One, Christ. If so, this speaks of the enthronement of Christ, “the Anointed One” as King of kings and Lord of lords in the Millennium.
PURIFICATION OF ISRAEL

1) Finish Transgression
2) End Sin
3) Make Reconciliation
4) Bring in Everlasting Life
5) Seal Up Prophecy
6) Anoint the Most Holy
PURPOSE OF TRIBULATION

2) Judgment on the Nations

- Isaiah 26:21
- Joel 2-3
- 2 Thess. 2:12
- Revelation 6:12-17
- Revelation 11:18
- Revelation 15:1
JUDGMENT ON THE NATIONS

For look, the LORD is coming out of the place where he lives, to punish the sin of those who live on the earth. The earth will display the blood shed on it; it will no longer cover up its slain.

Isaiah 26:21
Then I looked when the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and a huge earthquake took place; the sun became as black as sackcloth made of hair, and the full moon became blood red; and the stars in the sky fell to the earth like a fig tree dropping its unripe figs when shaken by a fierce wind.
JUDGMENT ON THE NATIONS

The sky was split apart like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the Very important people, the generals, the rich, the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains.
They said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who is seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, because the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to withstand it?”

Revelation 6:12-17
The nations were enraged, but your wrath has come, and the time has come for the dead to be judged, and the time has come to give to your servants, the prophets, their reward, as well as to the saints and to those who revere your name, both small and great, and the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth.

Revelation 11:18
The Book of Revelation is about Jesus Christ, the glorified “Son of Man” (1:12-16), the Lion of Judah (5:5), the worthy Lamb (5:8-13), the Son who will rule all (12:5), the Bridegroom (19:7-9), the conquering King of kings and Lord of lords (19:16), and the rightful Ruler of His earthly (20:4-6) and eternal (22:1, 3)
In the cosmic conflict between God and Satan, Jesus the Lamb has already won the decisive victory through His sacrificial death, but His church continues to face great difficulties. Through this Book, John affirms the certainty of Christ’s triumph over Satan to both warn and fortify His church.
ARGUMENT OF REVELATION

John intends to persuade the churches to hold or reaffirm some point of view in the present about the future. That point of view is to not lose heart in the present struggle with evil in the church age, but to keep one’s hope. “The one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it.” (1:3)
ARGUMENT OF REVELATION

To be blessed is to have firm hope despite the conflict with evil and seemingly impossible world conditions. The story that John unfolds should persuade his audience to reinforce their sense of hope, and ours as well. There is a glorious and final resolution to all the problems that we face!
Chapter 1
Introduction and vision of Christ as separate.
Chapters 2-3

Seven messages to the seven churches as referencing the Church Age.
OUTLINE

Chapters 4-5

Heavenly stage. I don’t regard as portraying prophetic events, but rather setting the stage for the revelation, the unveiling of prophetic events.
Chapters 6-7

General picture of what the tribulation is going to look like. It’s going to be characterized by these types of things – not particular events, but general themes.
Chapters 8-11

Relate to the first half of the Tribulation – the seven trumpets. The seventh trumpet, including the two witnesses. View these series of sevens as distinct visions that come to an end.
The Book of Revelation

- Introduction & Vision of Christ (1)
- The Seven Messages (2-3)
- The Heavenly Stage (4-5)
- The Seven Seals (6-7)
- The Seven Trumpets (8-9)
- The Seventh Trumpet (10-11)
- The Heavenly Drama (12-13)
- The Prelude to Wrath (14-15)
- The Bowls of Wrath (16-17)
- Mystery: Babylon (17-18)
- The Return of Christ (19-20)
- The Reign of Christ (20-21)
- Restoration of Creation (21-22)

Church | Tribulation | Reign
Chapters 12-13

Heavenly drama recapitulates about the woman and the male child. Moves forward to almost the end of the Tribulation, thus giving us a panorama of both parts of the Tribulation period.
Primarily focusing on the last half of the Tribulation, a last ditch effort to get as many people to repent as possible. Then the pouring out of the bowls of wrath.
The Book of Revelation

- Introduction & Vision of Christ (1)
- The Seven Messages (2-3)
- The Heavenly Stage (4-5)
- The Seven Seals (6-7)
- The Seven Trumpets (8-9)
- The Seventh Trumpet (10-11)
- The Heavenly Drama (12-13)
- The Prelude to Wrath (14-15)
- The Bowls of Wrath (16-17)
- Mystery: Babylon (17-18)
- The Return of Christ (19-20)
- The Reign of Christ (20-21)
- Restoration of Creation (21-22)

Church  Tribulation  Reign
OUTLINE

Chapters 17-18

Interpretive passages where the interpreting angel comes along and says, “I’m going to explain some things here for you that you’ve seen in these visions. Here’s what they are.” And He does so by giving him another vision and leaving wondering, “What does this interpretation mean?”
OUTLINE

Chapters 19-20

The return of Christ, the resurrection of those who suffered tribulation, the reign with Christ for 1,000 years.
OUTLINE

Chapters 20-21

Describes and unpacks the vision of the Kingdom Age, as well as eternity.
OUTLINE

Chapters 21-22

Restoration of creation.
The Book of Revelation

- Introduction & Vision of Christ (1)
- The Seven Messages (2-3)
- The Heavenly Stage (4-5)
- The Seven Seals (6-7)
- The Seven Trumpets (8-9)
- The Heavenly Diatheca (10-11)
- The Prelude to Wrath (12-13)
- The Bowls of Wrath (14-15)
- Mystery: Babylon (16-17)
- The Return of Christ (18-19)
- The Reign of Christ (20-21)
- Restoration of Creation (21-22)

Church | Tribulation | Reign
THE SEVEN SEALS (6-7)

1) Deception
   - Matthew 24:4-5, 11-13

2) War
   - Matthew 24:6-7

3) Famine
   - Matthew 24:7

4) Death
   - Matthew 24:7, 21-28

5) Martyrdom
   - Matthew 24:9

6) Divine Wrath
   - Matthew 24:29

7) Trumpets
THE FIRST FOUR SEALS
(6:1–8)
1) Deception
   – Matthew 24:4-5, 11-13
THE FIRST SEAL: DECEPTION
THE SEVEN SEALS (6-7)

1) Deception
   - Matthew 24:4-5, 11-13

2) War
   - Matthew 24:6-7
THE SECOND SEAL: WARFARE
THE SEVEN SEALS (6-7)

1) Deception
   - Matthew 24:4-5, 11-13

2) War
   - Matthew 24:6-7

3) Famine
   - Matthew 24:7
THE THIRD SEAL: FAMINE
THE SEVEN SEALS (6-7)

1) Deception
   - Matthew 24:4-5, 11-13

2) War
   - Matthew 24:6-7

3) Famine
   - Matthew 24:7

4) Death
   - Matthew 24:7, 21-28
THE FOURTH SEAL: DEATH
THE FIRST FOUR SEALS
(6:1–8)
1) Deception
   - Matthew 24:4-5, 11-13
2) War
   - Matthew 24:6-7
3) Famine
   - Matthew 24:7
4) Death
   - Matthew 24:7, 21-28
5) Martyrdom
   - Matthew 24:9
THE FIFTH SEAL: MARTYRDOM
1) Deception
   - Matthew 24:4-5, 11-13
2) War
   - Matthew 24:6-7
3) Famine
   - Matthew 24:7
4) Death
   - Matthew 24:7, 21-28
5) Martyrdom
   - Matthew 24:9
6) Divine Wrath
THE SIXTH SEAL: DIVINE WRATH
# The Olivet Discourse and the First 6 Seals

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<th>Olivet Discourse</th>
<th>The First 6 Seals</th>
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INTERLUDE (7)
INTERLUDE (7)

Redeemed of the Gentiles

Remnant of Israel
THE FIRST SIX SEALS

Character of the Tribulation
- Deception - Death
- Warfare - Martyrdom
- Famine - Divine Wrath

Redemption in the Tribulation
- Preservation of the 144,000 Israelites
- Salvation for the multitude of martyrs
THE SEVENTH SEAL: TRUMPETS
TRUMPETS & BOWLS

**Trumpets**
1st half of Tribulation

- EARTH: 1/3 trees/grass
- SEA: 1/3 ships and sea life
- RIVERS: 1/3 poisoned
- SUN/MOON: 1/3 darkened
- PEOPLE: 5-month torment
- PEOPLE: 1/3 killed
- JUDGMENT: Christ reigns

**Bowls**
2nd half of Tribulation

- EARTH: sores on people
- SEA: ALL sea life
- RIVERS: ALL become blood
- SUN: burns people
- KINGDOM: darkness
- EUPHRATES: Armageddon
- AIR: It is finished!
THE SEVEN TRUMPETS (8-9, 11)

1) 1/3 of Vegetation Destroyed
   – Revelation 8:7

2) 1/3 of Sea Creatures and Ships Destroyed
   – Revelation 8:8-9

3) 1/3 of Rivers & Springs Bitter, Many Die
   – Revelation 8:10-11

4) 1/3 of Sun, Moon, and Stars Struck
   – Revelation 8:12

5) FIRST WOE: Locusts Sent to Torment Humanity
   – Revelation 9:1-12

6) SECOND WOE: Four Angels with an Army of Two Hundred Million, Killing a 1/3 of Humanity
   – Revelation 9:13-21

7) THIRD WOE: Victory of Christ and His Kingdom Proclaimed
   – Revelation 11:15-19
TRUMPETS & BOWLS

**Trumpets**

1st half of Tribulation

- **EARTH:** 1/3 trees/grass
- **SEA:** 1/3 ships and sea life
- **RIVERS:** 1/3 poisoned
- **SUN/MOON:** 1/3 darkened
- **PEOPLE:** 5-month torment
- **PEOPLE:** 1/3 killed
- **JUDGMENT:** Christ reigns

**Bowls**

2nd half of Tribulation

- **EARTH:** sores on people
- **SEA:** ALL sea life
- **RIVERS:** ALL become blood
- **SUN:** burns people
- **KINGDOM:** darkness
- **EUPHRATES:** Armageddon
- **AIR:** It is finished!
THE SEVEN BOWLS (16-17)

1) Sores on those who worshipped the beast and his image
   – Revelation 16:1-2
2) Sea turns to blood; all sea creatures die
   – Revelation 16:3
3) Rivers and springs turn to blood
   – Revelation 16:4-7
4) Humanity scorched by the sun
   – Revelation 16:8-9
5) Pain and darkness upon the beast and his kingdom.
   – Revelation 16:10-11
6) Euphrates dried up, three unclean spirits gather the kingdoms of the earth for the battle at Armageddon
   – 16:12-16
7) Great earthquake, the great city divided, Babylon is remembered, cataclysmic events
   – Revelation 16:17-21
TIMELINE OF FUTURE EVENTS

- Rapture of the Church
- Tribulation
- Return of Christ
- 1000 year reign of Christ in Jerusalem with glorified Saints
- Eternal State

TODAY

TRUMPETS

BOWLS
Church Age
Rapture of the Church
1 Thess 4:16-17

Great Tribulation
7 years
Matt 24:21-22
Dan 9:27
Rise of Antichrist
Israel at Peace
Rule of Antichrist
Israel Persecuted

Return of Jesus
Rev 19:11-21

Millennial Kingdom
1000 year reign of Christ
Rev 20:4-6
Isa 2:2-4

New Heavens & New Earth
Eternity
Rev 20:7-15
Rev 21:1-5

Church Age
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Isa 2:2-4

New Heavens & New Earth
Eternity
Rev 20:7-15
Rev 21:1-5
THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

• If you are a believer, when you die, you go to Heaven. If you are a believer, and you do not die, you will be raptured.

• Jesus is coming back and He wins.

• Everything will be made new.
WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

• We don’t need to...
  – Demand justice now.
  – Demand pleasure now.

• We should...
  – Live with great hope!
  – Share with great urgency!
WHEN HE RETURNS

Understanding the last days