

JESUS' 2nd COMING PROCESSION & RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS

1. Introduction

- a. Revelation 9 introduced the "3 woes" that come with the 5th, 6th and 7th trumpet judgments. Now, today we come to Revelation 11:14 which announces the imminence of the third woe. This is the culmination of god's judgment.
- b. Just like the 7th Seal judgment included the release of the 7 Trumpet judgments, in the same way the 7th Trumpet includes the release of the 7 Bowl judgments. It also includes the return of Jesus to earth to release the Bowls, and the whole sequence of events including the defeat of the Antichrist and the imprisonment of Satan, leading up to Jesus' Messianic Kingdom being established.

Revelation 11:15-19 *Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. ¹⁸ The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth." ¹⁹ Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.*

2. The 7th Trumpet

- a. These verses don't describe Jesus' Second Coming, but they give the circumstances and the context surrounding these events. The 3rd woe is described as coming soon – or quickly, "in rapid succession".
- b. Recap: Outline of Revelation
- c. 4 parts to the book (see notes on outline of Revelation for details)
 - i The 4th part is divided into 5 chronological sections
 - ii Each chronological section is followed by an angelic explanation
- d. The **third chronological section** (Revelation 11:15-19) details the sounding of the 7th and final trumpet, initiating Jesus' Second Coming and the Rapture of the Saints (Isaiah 27:12-13; Zechariah 9:11-17; Matthew 24:30-31; Mark 13:26-27; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; Revelation 8:13; 10:7; 11:15-19).
- e. 5 pairs of responses are highlighted:

ON EARTH	IN HEAVEN
Judgment	Jubilation
Rage	Rejoicing
Cursing	Crowning
Woe	Worship
Threats	Thanks

- f. The Bible presents us with three different perspectives of Jesus' Second coming. First of all, in **Matthew 24** Jesus himself described it in terms of its cosmic glory.

Matthew 24:30-31 *Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

Then in **1 Thessalonians 4** Paul describes it by its effect on the saints who will be raptured

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord*

And then finally in this passage, in **verse 15** John describes it in terms of its impact on world governments

Revelation 11:15 *Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."*

- g. The 7th Trumpet highlights the violent nature of the **Kingdom of Heaven** coming to the earth (Matthew 6:10), including Satan's kingdom being cast into the pit (Isaiah 24:21-22; Revelation 20:1-3). This is the main theme of Revelation (Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45; 7:13-14; Jude 14; Revelation 1:7).

Jude v14 *Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the **Lord comes** with ten thousands of his holy ones, ¹⁵ to **execute judgment** on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their **deeds** of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have **spoken** against him."*

- h. The 7th trumpet is released by an angel, and there is an immediate response in heaven. Many voices give the loud shout "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever."
- i. We need to take note that it is the kingdom of the world – not the kingdoms. It is because the world, though it is divided into many different nations and peoples and languages is really one kingdom under one king. The god of this world, the prince of the power of the air, the ruler of darkness.

1 John 2:16 *For all that is in the world---the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions---is not from the Father but is from the world.*

- j. Jesus said in Matthew 26 How will Satan's kingdom stand if he is divided against himself? His kingdom is an undivided kingdom. We look at the world and see it divided into all kinds of people groups and nations – politically, socially, linguistically, geographically, and in terms of customs and traditions – but it is really just one kingdom under one king, ruled by Satan and his demonic hosts. John himself several times in his gospel referred to Satan as the ruler of this world.
- k. God's reign is referred to in the "**proleptic past tense**", meaning the **representation of something existing or occurring, before it actually does so in the natural** (Romans 4:17;

Revelation 11:15, 17-18; 12:10; 15:4). Since the Father has already spoken this, from Heaven’s perspective it is already done. Many times Scripture refers to a **future event**, as though it was a **finished fact of history**, because of the **absolute certainty of its occurrence** from God’s viewpoint. God’s word will not return to Him void, but will accomplish that for which He sent it (Isaiah 55:10-11). Heaven and earth may pass away, but His words shall never pass away (Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33). In just a moment (days/weeks) the kings of the earth will be executed and replaced (Revelation 19:21).

Revelation 11:15 *The kingdom of the world **has become** the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ...*

Revelation 11:17-18 *We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty... for you have taken your great power and begun to reign*¹⁸ *The nations raged, but Your wrath **came**...*

- l. John makes no distinction between the millennial kingdom and the eternal kingdom. The first transitions into the second, so it is all summed up in the words “and he shall reign for ever and ever.”
- m. This is a pivotal point in the book of Revelation, equalled only by the cross. History now is fully in the hands of the Son of God. Creation has been longing for this day, to be finally released from the curse of Genesis 3. Control of the created realm is wrested from the hands of Satan and placed in the hands of Jesus, a monumental moment in redemptive history.

3. The Adoration of God

Revelation 11:16-17 *And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God,*¹⁷ *saying, “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.”*

- a. The 24 elders fall on their faces and worship God, crying out in thanks and adoration. There is a recognition that the time is now here for the reward of the saints who have been crying out, “How long O Lord...”
 - i “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty...” It is a declaration of thanksgiving and gratitude for answering the prayers of the saints.
 - ii “Almighty” means “the ultimately powerful one.” It speaks of God’s sovereignty, omnipotence and supreme rule over all things.
- b. “Who is and who was...” Revelation 1:4, 1:8 and 4:8 describe God as “the One who is, and who was, and who is to come...” But here it is only “who is and who was” – because now he has come, so the future element has taken place. The future has become the present.
- c. “For you have taken your great power and begun to reign.” God’s reign on earth has begun.

Psalm 24:1 *The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who dwell in it...*

- i Jesus begins to reign, now not over an invisible kingdom, but with power and authority over a visible kingdom coming to the earth. Everything secured at the cross will be delivered in fullness.
- ii But Satan will not yield willingly. His options are now much more limited. Now his strategy will be to convince people that Jesus is the counterfeit deliverer and the Antichrist is the true saviour.

- d. The elders continue their declaration: “The nations raged, but your wrath came...” (v18). This is defiant rage, the people are filled with hostility to God, they want to fight him and destroy him.

Psalm 2:1-3 *Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, ³ "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."*

- i The people have become more and more hostile as God has poured out the Seal and Trumpet judgments. Most have refused to repent and turn to God. Anger has turned to rage.
- ii “...but your wrath came...” is an instance of the past tense being used to describe a future action, emphasising its certainty. This is referring to the Bowl judgments which will shortly be poured out, and which are the fullness of God’s wrath. God’s wrath when it finally comes will overcome the rage of man and end his rebellion.

Revelation 11:18 *... and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.*

- e. There follows a time of judgment and reward. This is **kairos** time, referring to an event rather than clock time. This is the judgment of the unrighteous dead who will be imprisoned in Hades until the end of the Millennial kingdom.
 - i Jesus will also give eternal rewards to those who have been faithful and endured to the end. Revelation chapters 2 and 3 highlight 22 different eternal rewards. These are rewards Jesus gives to show his appreciation for the way we have loved him in this life.
 - ii Finally, the wicked leaders who destroyed the earth will be destroyed. The Antichrist and all who have given their allegiance to him and polluted the world with sin will be utterly destroyed.

Revelation 11:19 *Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.*

- f. Revelation 11:19 details the opening of the temple in heaven, **revealing the Ark of the Covenant** and **releasing** heavenly storm-like activity into the natural realm. This is the only reference to the Ark of God in Revelation.
- g. The New Covenant that is promised to Israel, and through them to all men, is now coming to its fullness. Putting it on open display like this God is making the point that though the Antichrist may be able to desecrate the earthly temple, he cannot touch the heavenly temple.
 - i The storm-like manifestations that accompany the unveiling of the Ark are signs of God’s righteous judgment. God’s holiness requires that he must judge sin.

4. THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE ALIVE ON EARTH AT JESUS’ RETURN

- a. There will be **three types of people** alive on earth when Jesus appears in the sky at the 7th trumpet. He will systematically evaluate each one for judgment or reward, according to their works (Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 2:23; 20:12-13).

- i **Redeemed:** These are the **saints** who are gathered at the **rapture** during the first stage of Jesus' second coming procession across the sky (Matthew 24:30-31; Mark 13:26-27; Revelation 1:7).

Mark 13:26 *Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then He will send His angels, and **gather together His elect** from the four winds, from the farthest part of **earth** [rapture] to the farthest part of **heaven** [resurrection].*

- ii **Reprobate:** These are the **wicked** who took the **mark of the Beast** and will be executed, imprisoned in Hades for 1000 years and eternally sentenced to the Lake of Fire forever (Revelation 14:9-11; 19:21).

Revelation 14:9 *If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark... ¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone... ¹¹ And the smoke... ascends forever...*

- iii **Resistors:** These are the **unsaved survivors** (Jews and Gentiles) of the Tribulation judgments who refused to worship the Antichrist, yet were not born again. This includes the **unsaved remnant of Israel**, as well as, Gentiles from the nations. These will all have an opportunity to receive Jesus as their Saviour after He returns and will be among those who populate the Millennial earth. The Scripture refers to these resistors as those "**who are left**", those "**who survived**", those "**who escaped**", those "**who remain**", the "**preserved ones**" or the "**remnant**" (Isaiah 4:3-6; 10:20-23; 11:11-12; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jeremiah 31:2; Ezekiel 20:38-42; 36:33-36; Daniel 12:1; Amos 9:9-12; Joel 2:32; Zechariah 12:14; 13:8; 14:16).

Isaiah 11:11 *It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand **again the second time** to recover the **remnant** of His people **who are left**, from Assyria and Egypt... and the islands of the sea.*

- b. Jesus will save the entire **remnant of Israel** in **one day** (Isaiah 66:8; Romans 11:26-27), bringing **1/3 of the nation** (Zechariah 13:8-9) and **1/2 of the city** (Zechariah 14:2) through the Tribulation judgments (Jeremiah 31:1-14).

Zechariah 13:1 *In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness... ⁶ And one will say to Him, 'What are these **wounds** between your hands?' Then he will answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'⁸ "And it shall come to pass in **all the land**," Says the LORD, "That **two-thirds** in it shall be cut off and die, but **one-third** shall be left in it:⁹ I will bring the **one-third** through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined and test them as gold is tested. **They will call on My name**, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; and **each one** will say, 'The LORD is my God.'" (Zechariah 14:2)*

Zechariah 12:10 *And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will **look on Me** whom they pierced. Yes, **they will mourn** for Him as one mourns for his only son, and **grieve for Him** as one grieves for a firstborn. (Revelation 1:7)*

Romans 11:26 *...so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;²⁷ for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."*

5. JESUS' SECOND COMING - A ROYAL ESCHATOLOGICAL PROCESSION

- a. Jesus' coming is a **royal procession**, involving many events within a 30-day period of time (Daniel 12:11) in the **days of the sounding** of the 7th trumpet (Revelation 10:7). We

understand that there is a **30-day period** by comparing Daniel 12:11 (1,290 days) with Revelation 11:3; 12:6 (1,260 days). The saints will **prophesy** (Revelation 11:3), **receive supernatural provision** (Revelation 12:6) and **endure persecution** for **1,260 days** (Revelation 13:5- 7). However, the Antichrist will operate his worldwide worship system, initiated by the **abomination of desolation** for an additional 30 days until it's destroyed at **1,290 days** (43 months). In other words, the saints stop prophesying, receiving provision and enduring persecution when they are raptured.

Daniel 12:11 *And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.*

Revelation 11:3 *I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy 1,260 days...*

Revelation 12:6 *Then the woman fled into the wilderness... where they should feed her there 1,260 days.*

Revelation 13:6 *And he was given authority to continue for 42 months [1,260 days]... ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. Authority was given him over every tribe... and nation.*

- b. Jesus' triumphant return to earth as "King of kings" is a **royal eschatological procession** for all to see (Psalm 19:1-6; 68:24, 32-33, Zechariah 9:9-10; Revelation 19:11-16). Think of the **preparation, protocol** and **procession** involved, when an earthly king visits a nation. Jesus comes with **all the saints** (1 Thessalonians 3:13) and **all the angels** (Matthew 25:31), **travelling on clouds** around the entire earth for **all to see** (Psalm 19:1-6; Matthew 24:30). He descends with a **great shout** (1 Thessalonians 4:16), the **voice of an archangel** and the **trumpet of God**, as He comes in His **Father's glory** (Matthew 16:27), **golden splendour** (Job 37:22) and **great power** (Mark 13:26), travelling in the **brightness, brilliance** and **beauty** of lightning (Matthew 24:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:8), as **flaming fire** engulfs the darkened sky (2 Thessalonians 1:8), while He **raises the dead, raptures the Saints, delivers the captives** and **destroys His enemies**.

Psalm 68:4 *Your procession is seen, O God, the procession of my God, my King...*

- c. Ezekiel gives profound insight into the appearance of Jesus' second coming procession.

Ezekiel 1:4 *Behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north [Job 37:22], a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself [1 Thessalonians 1:7-8]; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. ⁵ Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures [Cherubim]... ¹³ The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning... ²² The likeness of the firmament [sea of glass Revelation 4] above the heads of the living creatures was like the colour of an awesome crystal [sapphire blue], stretched out over their heads... ²⁴ When they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of many waters, like the voice of the Almighty, a tumult like the noise of an army... ²⁵ A voice came from above the firmament that was over their heads... ²⁶ And... the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone... with the appearance of a Man high above it. ²⁷ Also from... His waist and upward... the colour of amber with... fire all around and from... His waist and downward... fire with brightness all around. ²⁸ Like... a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD [Rev 1:10-18].*

6. Jesus' Royal Procession – Three stages

- a. Jesus' second coming procession involves a **three-stage process**, including many events that occur within this 30-day time period (Daniel 12:11) leading to a military conflict around the city of Jerusalem (Revelation 19:19).

- i First, He will travel **across the sky** on clouds to rapture the saints being seen by every eye (Revelation 1:7).
- ii Second, He marches up **through the land** delivering the captives, while destroying His enemies (Isaiah 63:1-6; Habakkuk 3:3-16).
- iii Third, He triumphantly **enters into Jerusalem** from the Mount of Olives to be crowned “King over all the Earth” (Psalm 24:7-10; Zechariah 14:1-9; Matthew 23:39).

7. STAGE ONE: JESUS’ PROCESSION ACROSS THE SKY TO RAPTURE THE SAINTS

- a. Jesus’ return and rapture of the saints **isn’t a secret event**, but was planned to be displayed by the Father in a very dramatic way. No one will miss the events surrounding the 7th trumpet, as Jesus returns to earth in the **brightness, brilliance and beauty** of lightning, across the backdrop of a darkened sky (Job 37:22; Mt 24:27). Six preceding judgments contribute to the immediate atmospheric darkness (Revelation 6:12-13; 8:7, 12; 9:2, 16-18; 11:5-6). There will be **no natural light** (lit. light will “congeal”) at this time (Isaiah 50:3; Joel 3:15; Zechariah 14:6).

Matthew 24:27 For as the **lightning** comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Job 37:22; Matthew 28:3; Luke 17:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:8)

Zechariah 14:5-7 Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. ⁶ On that day there shall be **no light, cold, or frost.** ⁷ And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.

- b. Jesus will step out of heaven and He will **stand in the sky** as a **fully human King** who is also **fully God**. No human king in history has ever stood in the sky with his armies. When Jesus splits the sky with His appearing and liberates the captives, it won’t be instantaneous, but it is **a process!** It will take time.
 - i Though He will use supernatural power, He will also operate to a high degree **within the boundaries of human process**. Because He comes from Heaven, we often assume He will do away with the natural human dimensions of life in His Second Coming. Yet that is not the case. God loves the natural realm. He will release His glory to the nations involving natural, human processes with a supernatural anointing. This concept of literal events in a natural realm is important for us to understand!
 - ii Remember Jesus has a physical body, therefore he can only be in one place at a time

Revelation 1:7 Behold, He is **coming with clouds**, and **every eye will see Him**, even they who pierced Him. And **all the tribes** of the earth will **mourn** because of Him. Even so, Amen. (Jude 14; Enoch 1:9)

Matthew 24:30-31 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then **all the tribes** of the earth will **mourn**, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a **loud trumpet call**, and they will **gather** his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

- c. Prior to this, the nations are hardened through the events of the 5th and 6th trumpets (Revelation 9). Something must happen to cause a deep emotional response of **mourning** across the earth. This isn’t simply technology or TV. With all of the false signs and wonders, it wouldn’t be believable to the nations (Revelation 13:13-15). What they see with their natural

eyes will deeply impact them at the heart level with terror and subsequent mourning (Revelation 1:7).

- d. Since the earth is round, it is impossible for all the people of the earth to see Jesus at the same time. Therefore, like the sun traveling in its course for all to see, Jesus will make His “global procession” around the earth on His cloud chariot, being within visibility of **each** longitude and latitude of all **inhabited places**. Though swift (Isaiah 19:1), Jesus must travel **slowly enough** across the sky and **close enough** to the earth for every unbeliever to see Him **clearly enough** to accurately interpret what is happening. It must be **convincing enough** to produce a deep mourning from hardened unbelievers (Matthew 24:30-31; Mk 13:26-27; Revelation 1:7).

Psalm 104:3 ...he makes the **clouds his chariot**; he rides on the wings of the wind... (Revelation 14:14-16)

- e. The rapture of the saints follows. First of all, the dead in Christ will rise to meet the Lord in the air. This will be followed by those who are alive and who have put their trust in the Lord. It will be a glorious, noisy gathering of all the saints in the clouds. We will also receive our resurrection bodies at this time.

8. Stage 2: Jesus’ procession through the land to the Mount of Olives

- a. We will accompany Jesus as he descends to earth. Before coming back down to earth the saints are deployed to various assignments to prepare for the battle for Jerusalem.
- b. Jesus’ royal procession starts at Sinai, continues to Egypt and then marches up **through the land** delivering the captives, as He destroys (executes) His enemies on the way to the Mount of Olives and ultimately into the city of Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 45:3-5; 110:5-6; Isaiah 11:11-16; 27:12-13; 34; 63:1-6, Micah 7:15; Habakkuk 3; Zechariah 9:11-17; 14:1-9).

Zechariah 14:5 And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and **all the holy ones with him**.

Jude 14-15 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones,¹⁵ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed..."

- c. Where does Jesus return to? Jesus’ royal procession marches up through the land delivering the captives, as He destroys (executes) His enemies on the way to the Mount of Olives and ultimately into the city of Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 45:3-5; 110:5-6; Isaiah 11:11-16; 27:12-13; 34; 63:1-6, Micah 7:15; Habakkuk 3; Zechariah 9:11-17; 14:1-9).

9. Jesus’ route through the Middle East

- a. Contained with the pseudepigrapha (a collection of writings from the inter-testamental period) is the Book of Enoch.

Enoch 1:3 The Holy and Great One will come out of his dwelling.⁴ And the Eternal God will tread from there upon **Mount Sinai**, and he will appear with his host, and will appear in the strength of his power from Heaven...⁹ And behold! He comes with ten thousand Holy Ones; to execute judgment upon them and to destroy the impious, and to contend with all flesh concerning everything that the sinners and the impious have done and wrought against Him.

b. Jude quotes from this source:

Jude 14-15 *It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones,¹⁵ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed..."*

c. Two more scriptures add information

Deuteronomy 33:2 *He said, "The LORD came from **Sinai** and dawned from **Seir** upon us; he shone forth from Mount **Paran**; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand.*

Isaiah 19:1,20 *Behold, the LORD is riding on a **swift cloud** and comes to **Egypt**...when they cry to the LORD because of oppressors, he will send them a saviour and defender, and deliver them.*

d. Jesus comes to Sinai first. Where is Mount Sinai? Scripture indicates that it is not in Egypt!

Exodus 3:1 *Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of **Midian**, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to **Horeb** [Sinai], the mountain of God.*

Galatians 4:25 *Now Hagar is Mount **Sinai** in **Arabia**...*

e. Mount Horeb is another name for Sinai – it is where Moses encountered God in the burning bush, in the land of Midian. Midian is in modern day Saudi Arabia. The mountain known as Jabal al-Lawz in the north-east of Saudi Arabia is the place that has been identified as Sinai, the mountain of God.

- i As Jesus descends to the mountain, the same storm-like manifestations that were seen when Moses encountered God on the same mountain will accompany Jesus when he descends with all the saints.
- ii Moses being the deliverer of Israel in the Exodus from Egypt gives us a vivid prophetic picture of how Jesus will once again deliver Israel. He will come as the “greater Moses” to deliver Israel from the hands of the Antichrist.

f. Jesus will go from Sinai into Egypt, and then he will begin to make his way to Jerusalem through the land of Edom (Jordan).

Isaiah 19:1,20 *Behold, the LORD is riding on a **swift cloud** and comes to **Egypt**...when they cry to the LORD because of oppressors, he will send them a saviour and defender, and deliver them.*

g. Why is Jesus taking this long route to Jerusalem? Isaiah 42 helps us to see the bigger picture.

Isaiah 42:22-24 *But this is a people **plundered and looted**; they are all of them **trapped** in holes and **hidden in prisons**; they have become plunder with **none to rescue**, spoil with none to say, "**Restore!**"²³ Who among you will give ear to this, will attend and listen for the time to come?²⁴ Who gave up Jacob to the looter, and Israel to the plunderers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned, in whose ways they would not walk, and whose law they would not obey?*

h. Two consequences will emerge from the persecution of Israel in the Great Tribulation. Jesus said, “When you see the Abomination of Desolation in the Temple ...flee to the hills.” Many will flee, and will live in caves and other hiding places.

- i However, others will be taken captive by the Antichrist’s armies, and those who are not killed will be taken to prison camps located in surrounding areas.

- i. As Jesus makes his way up the country and through the Jordan Valley, he will liberate those who have been held captive in these camps. There will be resistance from the supporters of Antichrist, and Jesus will deal severely with them. Habakkuk tells us about the conflict that Jesus will be engaged in at this time.

Habakkuk 3:3-13 *God came from Teman [Edom = Jordan, out of the east], and the Holy One from Mount Paran. His splendour covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. ⁴ His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from his hand; and there he veiled his power. ⁵ Before him went pestilence, and plague followed at his heels. ⁶ He stood and measured the earth; he looked and shook the nations; then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills sank low. His were the everlasting ways. ⁸ ...when you rode on your horses, on your chariot of salvation. ⁹ You stripped the sheath from your bow, calling for many arrows. ¹⁰ The mountains saw you and writhed; ¹¹ The sun and moon stood still in their place at the light of your arrows as they sped, at the flash of your glittering spear. ¹² You marched through the earth in fury; you threshed the nations in anger. ¹³ You went out for the salvation of your people, for the salvation of your anointed. You crushed the head of the house of the wicked, laying him bare from thigh to neck.*

- j. Jesus is overcoming his enemies as he begins to release the Bowl judgments. Isaiah saw this prophetically and gives us a comprehensive account:

Isaiah 63:1-6 *Who is this who comes from Edom [Jordan], in crimsoned garments from Bozrah [Capital city of Edom], he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."² Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? ³ "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. ⁴ For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come. ⁵ I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me. ⁶ I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth."*

- k. The red staining on his robe is blood, and it is not that of Jesus, but of his enemies. Jesus likens his actions to the treading of grapes in the winepress.
 - i. The work of redemption was accomplished in Isaiah 53. But then there was a period of waiting for that promised salvation to be delivered. Isaiah 63 reveals the need to be rescued from a stressful and hostile environment and from the plague of sin and failure. The day of redemption has already come, now this is the day when the execution of redemption demands the exacting of final vengeance on all those who oppose him.
- l. During the Great Tribulation there will be much destruction and devastation, and many necessities of life will be non-existent. Cities will be in ruin and the water supplies will be disrupted. This is the scenario as Jesus frees many thousands from prison camps and their hiding places. How will they survive if there is no water or food?
- m. God will provide! He's given supernatural assistance to the saints throughout the Tribulation period, now he's going to do it for these people.

Isaiah 41:17-18 *When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD will answer them; I the God of Israel will not forsake them. ¹⁸ I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. ¹⁹ I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive. I will set in the*

desert the **cypress**, the **plane** and the **pine** together,²⁰ that they may see and know, may consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.

- n. This supernatural act of God will cause Israel to consider what he has done, and they will begin to connect the dots. Which will soften their hearts towards the Messiah who is going to meet them in Jerusalem.

10. Summary of the Return of Jesus from Revelation 11

a. Every Government is conquered

- i Jesus will replace every national government with righteous leaders and legislation. The saints, now in resurrection bodies will be given governmental leadership at many different levels in different places across the earth, ruling in partnership with Jesus.

Daniel 7:13-14 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

b. The significance of the worship of the 24 elders

- i As the most powerful and high-ranking men in authority within the heavenly government of God, they spend the strength of their time and energies beholding the Person of God, thereby increasing in the revelation of the knowledge of God which fuels their worship.

c. The nations express their anger at Jesus' leadership

- i The two "woes" that precede the 7th trumpet result in a worldwide sickness of heart and searing of conscience. This will be expressed in bitterness, anger and rebellion toward God. While God looks for repentance, many turn and curse him.
- ii Satan, now confined to earth, is continuing to rage and deceive the nations, while national leaders become drunk with murderous rage.
- iii There is a parallel with Psalm 2 – kings of the earth "set themselves" against God, but Jesus has been "set" by the Father as his King.

d. The fullness of God's wrath

- i The world has never seen the fullness of God's wrath being poured out in its full strength. Even the flood of Noah's day was not that fullness. In scripture there are 5 phrases that describe this unprecedented event:

- (1) The wine cup of God's wrath (Revelation 14:10, 16:19)
- (2) The winepress of the wrath of God (Isaiah 63:2, Revelation 14:19, 19:15)
- (3) The sword of his mouth to "strike the nations" (Revelation 19:15,21)
- (4) The "whirlwind" of God's fury (Isaiah 66:15, Jeremiah 23:19, 25:32, 30:23, Nahum 1:3)
- (5) The "rod of iron" to "dash the nations" to pieces (Psalm 2:9, Revelation 2:27, 12:5, 19:15)

e. The unrighteous dead will be judged

- i They are pronounced guilty and sentenced to spend 1,000 years in Hades as their temporary holding place until the end of the Millennium. Then they stand before God at the Great White Throne judgment and eternally sent to the Lake of Fire. At the sounding of the 7th trumpet all of the dead will be raised, either to glory (saints) or Hades awaiting the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 14:9-11 *"If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."*

f. All the saints will be rewarded

- i At the 7th and final trumpet, all the saints will be rewarded. Paul makes it clear that all the saints are evaluated and rewarded on the day that Jesus appears in the sky (2 Timothy 4:8).
- ii After we have been caught up to meet with the Lord in the air, we will be with him forever. It is at this time that we will be vindicated, transformed, evaluated, rewarded and mobilised to return to earth with Jesus in power.
- iii We are "salt" and "light" in the world – by removing those elements from the world those who remain will battle with darkness, deception and demonic oppression, greatly intensified by the release of the Bowl judgments.

g. Temple of God opened and the Ark revealed

- i God opens up the temple so the Ark of the Covenant can be seen, releasing supernatural storm-like manifestations of God's glory. The Ark signified God's manifest presence among his covenant people and his victory over all his enemies.
- ii God has always had the power to rule the nations, but chose in His sovereignty to restrain His power to allow His mysterious plan (Revelation 10:7) to unfold through 6,000 years of human history. The mystery of God or the plan of God is to prepare an equally yoked Bride to rule the earth in partnership with Jesus forever. When the angel spoke to John about the seventh trumpet he said that God's mystery or hidden plan would be fulfilled in the days when the seventh trumpet began to sound.

h. The events we have been considering today must not be underplayed, because for us and for the world, they are a future reality. We will be there one way or the other.

2 Peter 3:11-12 *...what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening [being eager for] the coming of the day of God...*