

(Bema - Reward) Seat to receive their prizes. When Paul discusses the Judgment Seat of Christ, it's this second one that he has in mind. **The Judgment Seat of Christ is not a judgment of your sins. It's a judgment of works to determine rewards.** (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:8-15)

5.) The Tribulation Period

- ✓ Once we've arrived safely in Heaven, the Tribulation can begin. This seven-year period is divided into two sections, each consisting of 3.5 years. The first half is called the "Tribulation", while the second half is known as the "Great Tribulation". (The second half is worse.)
- ✓ When he first comes on the scene, the Antichrist presents himself as a man of peace. Daniel 9:27 speaks of a peace treaty that he'll sign with Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation. *"And he shall confirm the covenant with many (Jews) for one week (seven years) ..."* This treaty will be short-lived, however, because in the middle of the Tribulation he'll *break* this agreement. At that time, he'll enter the Jews' Temple, set up his image, and demand to be worshipped as God. At that time, the Mark of the Beast is instituted.
- ✓ Jesus described the Tribulation as a time of great trouble (Matt. 24:21). It's also a time characterized by wrath: Man is angry (Rev. 11:18a), Satan is angry (Rev. 12:12), and God is pouring out His wrath on a Christ-rejecting world (Rev. 6:15-17).
- ✓ God's wrath is poured out in the form of four sets of 7 judgments. The **7 Seals** describe things that affect the Nations. The **7 Trumpets** describe things that affect Nature. The **7 Bowls** are things that affect man. And the nature of the **7 Thunders** is unknown. Essentially, these judgments result in God gaining control of the kingdoms of this world (Rev. 11:15).

6.) The Battle of Armageddon

- ✓ Armageddon takes place at the very end of the Tribulation period. The armies of Antichrist converge on the city of Jerusalem. **"For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be**

taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished (raped); and half of the city shall go forth into captivity ..." (Zech. 14:2)

- ✓ Armageddon begins badly for Israel. Half of Jerusalem falls. The women are raped, and the city is pillaged. Then, just when it looks like the second half is going to fall, God's going to do something He hasn't done in thousands of years. (Remember the plague of darkness in Egypt?) God's going to do it again! God's going to "shut out the lights". A supernatural darkness will settle over the earth, as people are given *one last chance* to receive Christ.
- ✓ When the period of darkness ends (and everyone's final decision has been made), Jesus will return "like lightning". The armies of the Antichrist will be destroyed (Rev. 19:17-18), the unbelievers will be removed from the face of the earth and cast into hell (Matt. 13:40-42), and Satan will be bound for 1000 years (Rev. 20:1-2).

7.) The Resurrection and Judgment of the Unsaved

Rev. 20:11-12a – "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw **the dead** ("spiritually dead"), **small and great**, stand before God; and the **books** were opened: and **another book** was opened, which is the book of life ..."

- ✓ John describes a Book, and a set of books. He plainly identifies the single book as "the Book of Life". Essentially, this is God's family album. Everyone who received Christ during their lifetime appears in this Book. (Being lost, the people at this judgment *don't* appear.) Once it's determined that they're lost, Jesus turns to the set of books, which are the Books of Works. They're judged according to their works and are assigned a level of punishment in the Lake of Fire. Then, Jesus reigns for 1000 yrs from Jerusalem (Millennium).
- ✓ After the Millennium, the old heaven and earth are destroyed (2 Pet. 3:10-12). After this, God creates a new Heaven and a new Earth (Rev. 21:1-4, Isa. 65:17). And we enter into eternity. (Rev. 21:5, Eph. 2:7.)