

A Romp Through Revelation

Many avoid Revelation because the text is convoluted (no obvious order) and is open to many interpretations. Yet it contains a great deal of detail about the future of this age and beyond if only we can make some sense of it! Why is Revelation in our Bibles if we are not meant to grapple with it? In chaotic and rapidly changing times (like now) surely we should try?

Few realise we can be aided in our understanding of Revelation when we consider Israel's seven mandated feasts! We find they reveal God's plan for the whole of mankind, albeit in somewhat coded form. In particular, the last three feasts are still future and the next feast appears to suggest a mysterious and dramatic event soon to take place – the supernatural removal of the church from the earth, <https://raptureandendtimes.com/2020/03/12/rapture-2020-the-feast-of-trumpets/>. So, if nothing else, a study of Revelation underscores the urgency to spread the gospel "whilst it is still day".

Israel's Feasts (Lev 23)

These seven annual feasts are really "Feasts of the LORD"; they are God's feasts (Lev 23:2), <https://hebrew4christians.com/Holidays/Introduction/introduction.html>. **They are of fundamental importance to any study of end times** because they reveal God's complete plan concerning the coming of the Messiah, the redemption of mankind, the judgement of mankind and the establishment of the Kingdom of God on this earth. In other words, they all point to Christ, <https://www.wycliffe.org/feast/7-feasts-that-point-to-christ>.

The first four feasts (the Spring Feasts) have been fulfilled: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits and the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost. They are prophetically related to the death, resurrection and ascension of Yeshua (Jesus), and the sending of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.

The last three feasts (the Fall Feasts) are still future. These are: Trumpets (Yom Teru'ah), Atonement (Yom Kippur), and Tabernacles (Sukkot). They fall in the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar [Tishri] and relate to the future and to the second coming of the Messiah. Note that seven is the biblical number of "completion". So today we are between the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost, the birth of the Church), and the Feast of Trumpets described in Leviticus 23 verse 24:

In the seventh month, on the first day of the month [Tishri 1], you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.

For ancient Israel the priest would sound the *shofar*, a ram's-horn trumpet, in synagogues to call field workers to stop harvesting i.e. to "rest" and to come and worship in the Temple. The "memorial of trumpets" reminds Israel of when God came down upon Mount Sinai to covenant with His people amidst the sound of a very loud trumpet that caused the people to tremble. The trumpets remind Israel that she is still under this covenant and she must prepare herself for the coming Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur on Tishri 10) when she repents and finds atonement for breaking this covenant, <https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/newsletter/newsletter-sep-2000/the-feast-of-trumpets>, <https://www.oneforisrael.org/bible-based-teaching-from-israel/the-feast-of-trumpets/>.

Today, Tishri 1-2 is celebrated as the Jewish New Year or *Rosh Hashanah* ('Head of the Year') which relates primarily to the agricultural cycle and the beginning of a new harvest year.

This end-time view is therefore based upon the coming Fall Feasts, which apply to both Jew and Gentile. It also takes the futuristic view of prophecy which maintains that Week 70 of Daniel's 70-week prophecy over Israel (Dan 9:24) is still future, but on a prophetic scale appears to be imminent:

Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. (Dan 9:24)

Here, each "week" comprises seven prophetic years each of twelve 30-day months. So Daniel's Week 70 is 2520 days.

The Church Age (Rev 3)

Some see the time interval between the Spring feast of Pentecost and the Autumn Feast of Trumpets as representing the so-called Church Age,

<https://hebrew4christians.com/Holidays/Introduction/introduction.html> The "blowing of trumpets" is seen as heralding the trumpet at the so-called rapture of the true church:

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thes 4:16-17)

Note that, here, Paul refers to "the trumpet of God", and not "the *last* trumpet" as in 1 Corinthians 15:52. So viewing the Feast of Trumpets in an end-time sense, the harvesting (of souls) stops, the harvest door "shuts" (Mat 25:10) and the saints are called up into the clouds to rest with the LORD.

This appears to be the next major milestone on God's prophetic calendar.

But it is not the Second Coming of Christ *to earth* since the Feast of Trumpets is followed by *the final Day of Atonement*, when a remnant of Israel under stress at last recognises and mourns for their true Messiah whom they pierced (Zech 12:10-14). So, as we approach the end of the age, the shofar's of Yom Teru'ah and Yom Kippur increasingly sound like alarms, warning Israel of coming trouble and the need to repent (Joel 2:1,12-17).

The Reaping: Revelation 14 refers to two "reapings". The first one (Rev 14:14-16) describes Christ reaping the good and ripe harvest of the earth – believers. Note that He does this sitting "on the cloud", which aligns with Paul's vision of the taking up of the saints into the clouds (1 Thes 4:17). So if the first reaping aligns with the rapture before Week 70, then there is a time interval before the second reaping (Rev 14:17-20). The latter gathers the godless of the earth to await God's wrath. This time interval allows for the rewarding of the risen saints at the judgement seat of Christ (see below), and the brief reign of the beast of Rev 13:1.

Some point out that one of Jesus' parables appears to put the reaping in reverse order; the "tares" (unbelievers) are gathered first, and the good "wheat" last (Mat 13:24-43). But note the difference to Revelation 14. First, Jesus' parable is about the coming of the fulness of the kingdom of heaven at the very end of this age, whilst Rev 14 does not refer to the fullness of the kingdom, or the end of the age. Secondly, both reapings in Jesus' parable are done by angels and do not directly involve Jesus. So the two reaping scenarios seem different. Mathew 13 foresees the separation of "the good and the bad" (Mat 13:48) just prior to the Kingdom Age (the Millennium), whilst Revelation 14 appears to foresee the rapture of the church, with an implied time interval before the execution of God's wrath at the end of the age.

The Judgement Seat of Christ: At the time of the rapture the saints are given glorified (resurrected) bodies and judged at the Bema or Judgement Seat of Christ. This is not a judgement for sin but a tribunal for giving rewards for how we have served Christ (1 Cor 3:10-15), https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_144.cfm. Now arrayed in fine white linen, the church (the bride) is ready for the marriage of the Lamb (Rev 19:7-8). These resurrected saints form the "armies of heaven" at Christ's return to earth (Rev 19:14).

It is common to view the seven churches of Rev 3 as a timeline up to present day, AND all seven churches existing at the same time, at any point in time. Both views seem valid. There are just two of the seven churches whom Jesus does not criticize: Smyrna (the tested church in tribulation/martyrdom) and Philadelphia (the church with little power, but keeps God's word and is kept from "the hour of trial coming upon the whole world" - Rev 3:10).

Of course, there's no neat division. So today those Christians suffering in China, N. Korea the Middle East - but survive and overcome (the Smyrna church) – will surely be kept from that "hour of trial" alongside those of the Philadelphia church.

End of the Church Age: After describing churches in Revelation 3, Revelation 4 starts with the command: "*Come up here*", which some take to infer the rapture. Certainly, the church is not mentioned again until she is seen as Christ's bride in Rev 21.

So this study takes the so-called Pre-Tribulation view of prophecy, where the true church is supernaturally "taken" from the earthly scene to be with Christ before the start of Daniel's Week 70. There is strong biblical support for this view, <https://www.seekingtruth.co.uk/rapture/>

But taking this view raises the question "who are the saints" mentioned in Rev 4-20?

The Rise of a World Dictator (Rev 13, Rev 6)

In the foreseeable future a proud, pompous, secular, military world dictator or ruler will arise from the sea of mankind. He is the "little horn" of Dan 7:8, the "king" of Dan 11:36, "the man of sin" of 2 Thes 2:3, the "lawless one" of 2 Thes 2:8, the conqueror of Rev 6:2, and the beast of Rev 13:1. He rises to kingship rather subtly (hence the *little* horn) out of the fourth and last secular kingdom to subdue Israel (Dan 7:19). According to Dan 2 and Dan 7, this last kingdom

is crushing and tyrannical and appears to be a revived form of the historic Roman Empire, https://seekingtruth.co.uk/one_world_government_in_prophecy/.

Who is the real Antichrist? The secular beast of Rev 13:1 is given satanic authority to rule the world for 42 months (1260 days), alongside the ecclesiastical beast from the earth (Rev 13:11). But is the first beast of Rev 13 *really* the Antichrist, as most commentators assume? Here we identify the beast from the earth as the Antichrist i.e. anti or false Christ, and the beast from the sea as a false god, noting that the latter is anti-God (Rev 13.6) and actually sets himself up *as* God (2 Thes 2.4, Dan 11.36). So the false Christ points to a false God, all prompted by Satan, the false Holy Spirit. That's a false Trinity!

With this view, the world dictator aligns better with anti-God than with anti-Christ, and the 'ecclesiastical' beast of Rev 13.11 aligns well with the Papacy and the apostate church. Certainly, Wycliffe, Luther, Calvin, Tyndale, Bunyan, Huss, Knox, Edwards and Wesley associated the Papacy with the Antichrist and this teaching gave rise to the Protestant Reformation. Note that Rome has persecuted the saints for centuries (Rev 17:6) and today heads an "ecclesiastical Babylon", a confusion of faiths (Rev 17:5) – as in "Chrislam".

Under the beast's 42 month (1260 day) reign the Vatican strongly influences the secular world government or New World Order. This is symbolised as a woman (the apostate church) riding the ten-horned beast (Rev 17:3). Even today the Vatican is given "observer status" at the UN. It is the Antichrist who eventually organises the imposition of the mark (Rev 13:2,5,11,16).

The First Half of Week 70 (42 months, 1260 days)

During this time life may seem almost "normal" to secular man. It seems to continue under the control of a new and all-powerful world leader (Rev 13:4) and a New World Order. Today the world is looking for such a leader. He is totally Godless (Dan 11:37) and blasphemes God and all who dwell in heaven (Rev 13:6), although this doesn't seem to worry a world that has turned to satan worship (Rev 13:4).

He persecutes God's chosen people, Israel, for 3.5 years (Dan 7:25, also see Rev 13:5).

Given some degree of economic stability, a cashless society, and hi-tech banking infrastructure, it is likely the 666 mark is imposed during this relatively stable 42 month period. Certainly, a well developed global telecommunications infrastructure using large computer systems linked by satellite and optical fibre would need to be in place for global financial control. Such a hi-tech system will undoubtedly be destroyed once God's judgements begin in earnest under the Trumpets and Bowls. Also, it would bring the true church under severe persecution if she was present at that time. But is she? Is the answer here in the spiritual revealing?

The Revealing of the Beast: When does all this happen? The first beast is revealed to the world when a "restrainer" is "taken out of the way" (2 Thes 2:7-8). Whilst some see Michael, Israel's protector (Dan 10:21, Dan 12:1) as the restrainer, the most likely reading here is that it is the restraining power of the Holy Spirit (and by implication the presence of the true church) that is "taken out of the way". To restrain such evil surely requires nothing less than the power and authority of God. Jesus implied such "taking away" in Mat 24:36-44 and Lk 17:26-37 – texts which are difficult to explain in the Post-Tribulation view!

The Covenant with Israel: Once he is revealed as the invincible world leader the beast of Rev 13:1 makes a (false) seven-year covenant of peace with unsuspecting Israel (Dan 9:27). So this event probably marks the start of Week 70 (seven prophetic 360-day years) and probably corresponds to the Feast of Trumpets on Tishri 1, <http://endtimepilgrim.org/chart2a.htm>.

As already implied, the first half of Week 70 may be a time of false world peace (albeit under satanic control), when Israel feels protected by someone who is invincible (Rev 13:4). In reality, blind unregenerate Israel makes "a covenant with death" (Isa 28:15). Note that the threat from militant Islamists may have been removed through their humiliation in the Gog-Magog war, <https://www.factsaboutisrael.uk/war-of-gog-magog/>.

Now if the true church was still on earth at this revealing and the setting up of the seven year covenant, the saints would be able to date the time of Christ's Second Coming to earth. But since that time is not revealed in scripture, this implies the true church as been "taken" i.e. raptured from the earth before Week 70.

The Tribulation Saints (Rev 7, Rev 13, Rev 14)

Rev 7: According to the Pre-Tribulation view, when Jesus gathers His church in the clouds the so-called Church Age closes and "the door is shut" (Mat 25:10). The true church has been "taken". But if the church has been taken away at this point, who then are the believers in Christ seen in Rev 7?

"I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, ... who come out of the great tribulation and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev 7:9,14)?

These must be *new* believers in Christ who have come to realise the satanic nature of the New World Order. After all, the sudden removal of millions of believers and the sudden appearance of a prophesied world leader will surely make millions think! They will have the end-time prophecies to compare with reality and many will become believers.

In the absence of the true church it appears it is left to Israel to serve in her place. Recall that Israel is chosen as God's witness and servant in the world (Isa 43:10). It appears that a 144,000 chosen from all 12 tribes come to know their true Messiah and are sealed to serve God as evangelists to the world (Rev 7:3-8, Rev 14:1-5). A similar event happens at the start of the Millennial age, when saved Jews evangelise the Gentile world (Isa 66:19). As a result, a great multitude of people from all nations comes to recognise Christ through Israel's witness, <https://www.compellingtruth.org/tribulation-saints.html>

Rev 13: Persecution and Martyrdom. Revelation 13 describes a 42 month (1260 days) world dictatorship under the beast of Rev 13:1 (the first half of Week 70). Since his nature is "anti-God" he persecutes anyone, Jew or Gentile, who worships God and His son, Jesus (Rev 12:13-17). In fact, he eventually destroys the apostate church headed by the Vatican for the same reason (Rev 17:16). So during his 42 months of authority the beast wages war against any believers in Christ:

It was also given to him to make war with the saints (the holy ones) and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe and tongue and nation. (Rev 13:7)

Commentators generally agree that these are true believers in Christ, and so they probably correspond to the great multitude of new believers described in Rev 7. But being young in the faith some appear to try and resist through armed conflict (war) but will be captured and killed (Rev 13:7,10). That is not God's way. Today's suffering believers across the globe tend to choose suffering (as in the underground church) rather than military conflict. Also, many new believers will refuse to take the mark and worship the beast as enforced by the Antichrist. So they will be killed (Rev 13:15). This is their "great tribulation" described in Rev 7.

Rev 14: The Last Gospel Call? As discussed, the 666 mark of the beast will probably be introduced during the first half of Week 70. The eternal consequences of taking the mark are so serious that God tries once more to warn rebellious mankind. In the absence of the true church, God sends three angels flying in mid-heaven (does this refer to satellite gospel broadcasts?). The first preaches the plain gospel and warns that judgment is imminent. The second angel says that the economic and ecclesiastical "Babylons" are about to fall. The third angel gives a strong warning not to worship the beast and his image, or to receive his mark on their body (Rev 14:6-11).

Whilst most appear to reject this last gospel call to repent (Rev 16:9), many of the new believers (Rev 7) appear to heed the angelic warnings. They reject the mark and suffer martyrdom (Rev 14:12,13).

Resurrection of Tribulation & Old Testament Saints

Just as the true church appears to be resurrected at the close of the so-called Church Age, what about the tribulation saints? Consider:

Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4).

When does this resurrection take place? According to Hebraic Feasts, the dead in the Lord will rise again after the last shofar blast, which is the long, final and mighty blast at the very end of Yom Kippur. So these covenant people were taught by God that it is at the very last trumpet (shofar) blast on the last Day of Atonement that their resurrection will happen. It is interesting that Paul, a Jew, appears to be referring to this same end-time event when he said:

... in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed (1 Cor 15:52)

So it seems that the martyrs of the tribulation will be resurrected at the very end of the last Day of Atonement when Christ returns to earth. In other words, the resurrection of the tribulation saints occurs at the commencement of the Millennium, <https://www.compellingtruth.org/tribulation-saints.html>.

Old Testament Saints: The same goes for the resurrection of Israel's saints. They will rise at the same time as the tribulation martyrs (Rev 20:4) at the end of Israel's great tribulation:

... there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake ... (Dan 12:1-2).

<https://forwhatsaiththescriptures.org/2014/08/19/old-testament-saints-resurrection/>

<https://gracethrufaith.com/ask-a-bible-teacher/when-are-old-testament-saints-resurrected/>

Mid-Week (Rev 6)

The opening of the **First Seal** and the vision of an angry conquering king (Rev 6:1,2) probably corresponds to the middle of Week 70. The beast's permitted 42 months of "reign" has been declared over by the heavenly court (Dan 7:26) and the next 42 months will see a decline in his dominion, the start of world economic breakdown, and the intensification of God's judgements. Man's economic and ecclesiastical Babylons will soon fall (Rev 17 and 18). At this point many new believers may have been removed from the world economic system (via the need for the mark). But those remaining are told to escape such an evil system (Rev 18:4), <https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/18/Revelation-18-4.html> .

At mid-Week the beast turns on Israel and breaks his 7-year covenant with her and abolishes the Jewish sacrifices (Dan 9:27, 11.31). His subsequent actions closely follow the actions of Antiochus IV Epiphanes (Dan 8:9-14) who desecrated the Temple in 168 BC. Antiochus was the archetype of the beast of Rev 13:1. So at some future date,

Forces from him [the beast] will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation. (Dan 11:31)

Although not immediately apparent in this text, there is a time interval between the Temple desecration (mid-Week) and the setting up of the abomination of desolation:

From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days (Dan 12:11)

Jesus refers to the latter in Mat 24:15. At the end of 1290 days (1260 + 30) from the taking away of sacrifices, the forces of the beast set up the "abomination of desolation" in the Temple (Dan 11:31, Mat 24:15, Mk 13:14). What is this abomination? It could be when the beast takes up his seat in the Temple, declares himself to be God, and demands to be worshipped as God (Dan 11:31, Mat 24:15, 2 Thes 2:4), <https://www.compellingtruth.org/abomination-of-desolation.html> . That act is surely an abomination in the sight of God. Alternatively, it could be that the image of the beast is set up in the Temple and has to be worshipped (Rev 13:15) – another clear abomination.

The Last Half of Week 70 (Rev 6-19)

The last half of Week 70 is again time of great tribulation for the new believers (Rev 7:14). Not only have they been targeted by the beast in the first half of Week 70; they also experience increasing world chaos as God's judgements intensify through the Seven Trumpets and Seven Bowls of God's wrath. Note that the fifth, sixth and seventh trumpets are described as "woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth" (Rev 8:13). So, whilst the seventh trumpet looks to the removal of the kingdoms of the world and the establishment of God's Kingdom, it also heralds one last "woe" as it looks to the coming bowls of wrath (Rev 11:18).

The Beast Wages War: At the opening of the **First Seal** the angry beast is given a crown by satan (Rev 13:2) and rides a white horse, like a king. He has a "bow" and starts to wage

worldwide war, resulting in widespread famine and death. It seems 25% of earth's population dies (Rev 6:8). As in the first half of Week 70, new believers are martyred for their faith (Rev 6:11, Rev 12:17). Note that the **Sixth Seal** sees the first of God's judgements upon the world through dramatic and frightening cosmic disturbances (Rev 6:12-17). The "great day of His wrath has come". This again underscores the concept of the prior "taking out" of the true church since she is assured that she does not come under God's wrath (1 Thes 5:9). So the true church will probably not be on earth during the Seals.

The Seventh Seal is a prelude to the Seven Trumpets. Each trumpet brings more of God's wrath upon rebellious mankind. As noted, whilst the Seventh Trumpet gives a promise of God's coming Kingdom, it is not the end of God's wrath. It is the third and last "woe" (Rev 11:14) and brings "lightnings, noises, thunderings, and earthquake and great hail" (Rev 11:19). Then follows God's seven "bowl judgements" which "complete the wrath of God" (Rev 15:1).

The Final Day of Atonement: Jacob's Trouble

Israel's Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur falls on Tishri 10, between the Feast of Trumpets [Tishri 1] and the Feast of Tabernacles [Tishri 15] (Lev 16:1-34, Lev 23:26-32). Unlike the first four of Israel's Feasts, all three of these are as yet unfulfilled; they are future events. How might this future Day be fulfilled?

Note that last half of Week 70 (42 months or 1260 days) is extended by 30 days (Dan 12:11). At the end of this 30 days the "abomination of desolation" is set up in the Temple (Dan 12:11). Jesus said when the Jews in Judea see this they are to "flee to the mountains" (Mat 24:16). Why? Because this marks the start of extreme persecution of the Jews – Jacob's trouble (Jer 30:7). The trouble is the worst ever seen and those days have to be shortened to preserve a remnant of Daniel's people, the Jews (Dan 12:1):

'Alas! for that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the time of Jacob's distress, But he will be saved from it (Jer 30:7)

"Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued (Dan 12:1)

Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short (Mat 24:22)

These three texts refer to the same short period of distress. Jeremiah calls it Jacob's distress or trouble. It seems that after another 45 days these terrible days end (Dan 12:12).

Who are "the Elect" ? In Mathew 24:22 Jesus refers to "the elect". The alternative reading is "chosen ones". So if the true church has been taken, who are the elect? A direct cross-reference here is Isa 65:8-9 which refers to "My servants ... My elect". God chose Israel to be His servant, so Matthew 24:22 probably refers to God's people, Israel, and not to Christians. God has always preserved a remnant despite 2500 years of persecution. So these tribulation days of Israel are shortened to preserve a remnant. This conclusion is underscored in Dan 12:1 which refers to

the tribulation of "your people", who were Jews (Daniel was a noble Jewish youth of Jerusalem).

Some expand "the elect" to include not only Jews (the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Simeon) but also Israelites from the so-called lost tribes of Israel scattered throughout the nations, <https://www.factsaboutisrael.uk/ten-lost-tribes-of-israel/>. According to prophecy, Israelites descended from the northern kingdom (aka "Jacob") are even now being drawn back, together with the Jews, to their homeland (Jer 3:14, Jer 30:3). And it seems all are being drawn back in unbelief. So according to prophecy, some from the northern kingdom (Jer 30:7), together with the Jews (Dan 12:1) could be "the elect" who suffer great tribulation during the last Day of Atonement. That said, note that it was the Jews, the men of Judah, who crucified Christ, whilst most of the other tribes had already been scattered.

Jews Mourn and are Saved: The Day of Atonement falls on Tishri 10 each year and is a time for "afflicting the soul" (Lev 23:27). It is a solemn time day on the Jewish calendar.

So, to answer the question, how is the final Day of Atonement fulfilled in the future? At the end of this age, Jerusalem will be attacked by the beast and his armies and come under great suffering (Zech 14:2). This seems to open the eyes of the Jews such that they recognise Yeshua (Jesus) as their true Messiah, the One whom they pierced (note that Zech 12:10-14 is essentially referring to "clans" of Judah), <https://hermeneutics.stackexchange.com/questions/2043/the-significance-of-the-designations-of-families-who-will-mourn-in-zechariah-12> . At this time there will be great mourning in Jerusalem. But these days are cut short as Christ returns to earth with his armies of resurrected saints and the invaders are defeated (Rev 19:11-21). At last His feet stand upon the Mount of Olives (Zech 14:4) and His Kingdom comes in all its fullness upon earth (Dan 7:27). Jesus will then be "King over all the earth" (Zech 14:9).

Many link the Day of Atonement to the binding of Satan in Rev 20.1-3, <http://www.cogwriter.com/news/doctrine/day-of-atonement-and-the-binding-of-satan/> . This can be seen in the Hebrew ceremony of the two goats (Lev 16:8-10). The first of the two goats is killed (a parallel with Jesus death) whilst the second goat, the Azazel goat, is paralleled with Satan since it is seen as unclean (bound with sin) and sent into the wilderness (Lev 16.20-22,26). So Christians view the Day of Atonement as the foretelling of Jesus' sacrifice. He became the sacrifice and scapegoat for all who call upon Him.

The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)

This is also held in the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. It starts on Tishri 15 and lasts for seven days (Lev 23.34). Sukkot means "booths" and it commemorates the time when Israel lived in tents or booths as they came out of Egypt. So it commemorates the historic transition of the Jewish people from bondage in Egypt to sovereignty in the Land of Israel, and is a feast of joy and celebration following the harvest.

Symbolically, Sukkot foresees the in-gathering or harvesting of the saints (Rev 14:16) and the Millennial reign of Christ. During the Millennial or Kingdom age the LORD establishes His great Tabernacle in Jerusalem (Isa 60:13, Ezek 43:7). Sukkot is one of the feasts that is a "statute for ever", and so during the Kingdom age the nations of the earth go up to worship Christ the King in Jerusalem, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (Zech 14:16).

The symbolism goes even further. Note that the week of Sukkot is followed by an *eighth* day (Lev 23.36). The 8th day (also a Sabbath rest) has great significance. Number 8 symbolizes the start of something new – a new beginning. It foresees the new heavens and new earth and the New Jerusalem (Isa 65.17). The 8th day is preceded by the great white throne judgement of those who do not have their names written in the Book of Life (Rev 20:11-15). Only those who's names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will enter the New Jerusalem.

"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man"

(Luke 21 verse 36 NKJV)
