

CHAPTER 7: TRIBULATION- 1st, 2nd & 3rd Seals

The Tribulation refers to tumultuous events that are described during the "*Sign of His Coming and the End of the Age*", first mentioned by Jesus in the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24:3.

Matthew 24:8-9 ***"But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.***

9 ***"Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name."***¹¹¹

Christ told us that then after the birth pains, we would enter the time of Tribulation. He mentioned the birth pains as war, rumors of war, famines and earthquakes occurring prior to the time of Tribulation. In the previous chapter entitled "*Rumors of War*" we have just taken a look at the waging of war and the false peace alliance events that led us into the time of Tribulation.

Matthew 24:7 ***"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes."***¹¹²

Among Bible scholars, there are differing views about what will happen to Christians or believers during the Tribulation.

Pre-tribulation scholars believe that all Christians who are either dead or alive will be taken bodily up to Heaven (called the Rapture) before this Tribulation begins. So, who do these scholars believe is the "*deliver you to tribulation*" referring to when Christ spoke this during His Olivet Discourse? According to this belief, every true Christian that has ever existed throughout the course of the entire Christian era will be instantaneously transformed into a perfect resurrected body, and will thus escape the trials of the Tribulation. Those who become Christians, after the Rapture, will live through or perish to death during the Tribulation. After the Tribulation, Christ will return to establish His Millennial Kingdom.

Pre-wrath Tribulation scholars such as Marvin Rosenthal believe the Rapture will occur during the Great Tribulation, passed the halfway point, but before the seven trumpet judgments and the seven bowls of the Wrath of God. Marvin Rosenthal has a book entitled "*The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church*", which shows the Rapture to come after the Great Tribulation period, but before the Day of the Lord. We will see that this part of his view is correct but the timing of the Rapture will occur prior to the halfway point of the Tribulation. His event order is correct except for the timing of the desecration of Holy Temple which he believes will occur after the forth seal is opened but prior to the fifth seal. Marvin Rosenthal's view is that the Rapture occurs after the opening of the sixth seal, and before the opening of the seventh seal, the Wrath of God, which is a correct view.

Seventh Trumpet Tribulation scholars believe the Rapture will occur during the Tribulation, halfway through or thereafter, but before the seven bowls of the Wrath of God. Specifically, this will occur at the sound of the seventh trumpet by interpretation of Revelation 11:15 and 1 Corinthians 15:52. They believe that the last trumpet must correspond to the seventh trumpet being blown. But according to Marvin Rosenthal "*The last trump will be nothing more, nothing less, and nothing different than the final, climatic, eschatological outpouring of the Wrath of God.*" The central theme of the Prophet Joel is the Day of the Lord which will commence with the blowing of a trumpet.

¹¹¹ *New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 (Mt 24:8-9). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

¹¹² *New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 (Mt 24:7). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

Joel 2:1 “**Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain!**

2 ***Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty people; There has never been anything like it, Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations***.¹¹³

Therefore, their view is incorrect as well as the timing of events, that we will see later in this book because the Day of the Lord will begin on the opening of the seventh seal and not after the seventh trumpet.

Mid-tribulation scholars believe that the Rapture will occur halfway through the Tribulation, but before the worst part of it occurs. The seven year period is divided into halves - the "*Beginning of Sorrows*" or "*Tribulation*" and then followed by the "*Great Tribulation*".

Post-tribulation scholars believe that Christians will not be taken up into Heaven, but will be received or gathered by Christ into the Kingdom of God on earth at the end of the Great Tribulation. "*Immediately after the Tribulation ... then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man which is Christ ... and he shall "gather his elect"*" which comes from the following scripture: Matthew 24:29–31; Mark 13:24–27; Luke 21:25–27. Post-tribulation scholars argue that the seventh trumpet mentioned in Revelation is also the last trumpet mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:52, and there is a strong correlation between the events mentioned in Isaiah 27:13, Matthew 24:29–31, and 1 Thessalonians 4:16- thus creating a strong parallel, proving that the Rapture occurs after the Tribulation. Therefore, post-tribulation scholars see the Rapture happening during the seventh trumpet, which would only mean that the Rapture can never happen during the Tribulation according to their view. The idea of a post-tribulation Rapture can also be read into 2 Peter 3:10–13 where Christ's return is equated with the "*elements being melted*" and the earth being burned up. They don't seem to understand that Peter is referring to the "*New Heaven and Earth*", which is stated in Revelation 21. If this was true, then who is returning with Christ as His armies which are "*clothed in fine linen, white and clean*"? It also gives heed to the question who is His bride during the Marriage Supper of the Lamb? This supper is described in Revelation 19:7–10, which occurs prior to his armies coming to earth? It must be the Rapture of the Bride of Christ occurs prior to his conquering return to earth with his armies.

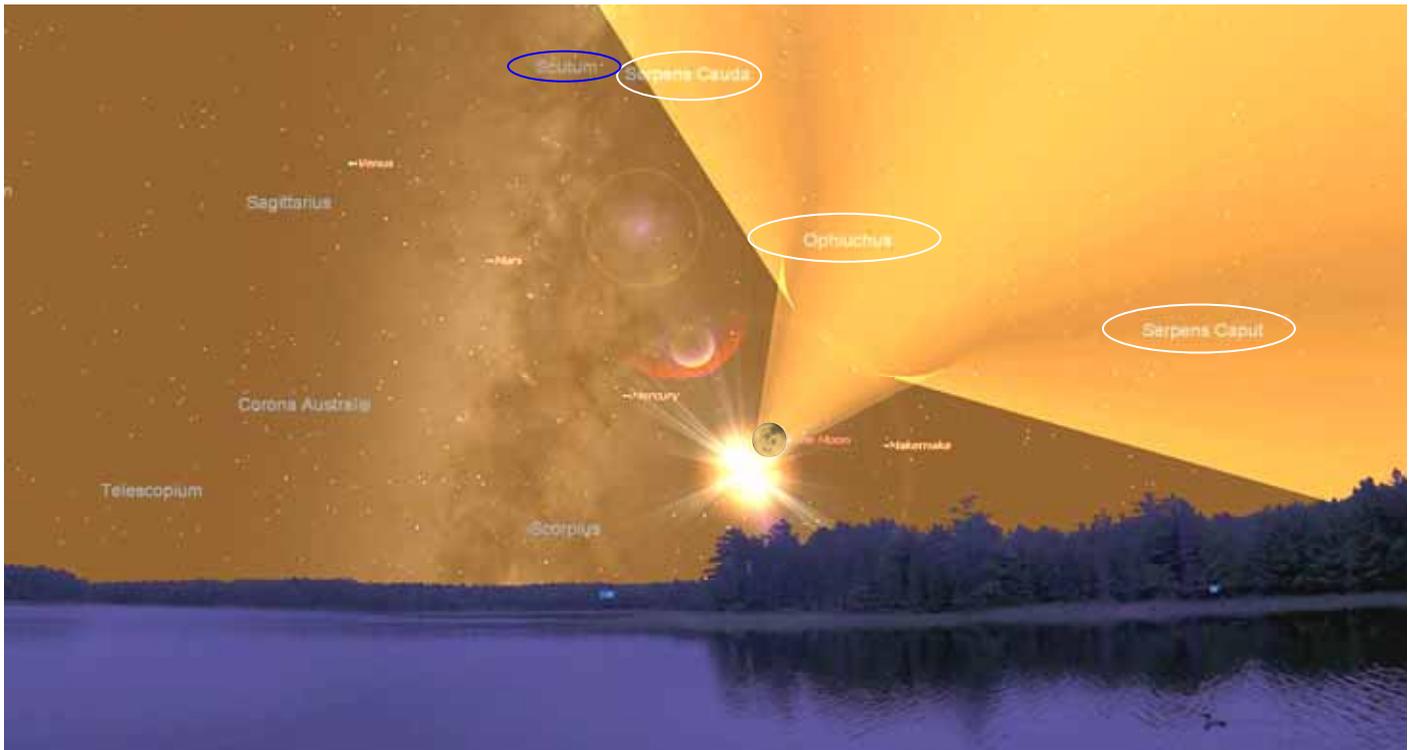
The Bible knowledge commentary from Dallas Theological Seminary states the following: *The second coming of Christ is anticipated in the words, **for our Lord God Almighty reigns**. John used the word "Almighty" (pantokratōr; also in Revelation 1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:15; 21:22). Along with the exhortation to **rejoice**, announcement is made that **the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready**. The **fine linen** with which the bride will be adorned is explained as representing **the righteous acts of the saints** (Rev. 19:8). (In the OT the high priest's clothing included linen: Ex. 28:42; Lev. 6:10; 16:4, 23, 32.) While some think this refers to the fact that the saints are justified by faith, the plural expression "the righteous acts" seems to refer to the righteous deeds wrought by the saints through the grace of God. Though all this has been made possible by the grace of God, the emphasis here seems to be on the works of the bride rather than on her standing as one who has been justified by faith.*¹¹⁴

In pre-tribulation and mid-tribulation views the Rapture and the Second Coming (or Greek, par[a]ousia) of Christ are separate events, while in post-tribulation beliefs the two events are identical or simultaneous. For a more complete view of these Three Views on Pre-, Mid- and Post-Tribulation, there is a book written by Stanley Gundry and Gleason Archer Jr. entitled "*Three Views on The Rapture*" that is available. These diverse views are why

¹¹³ *New American Standard Bible : 1995 update*. 1995 (Joel 2:1–2). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

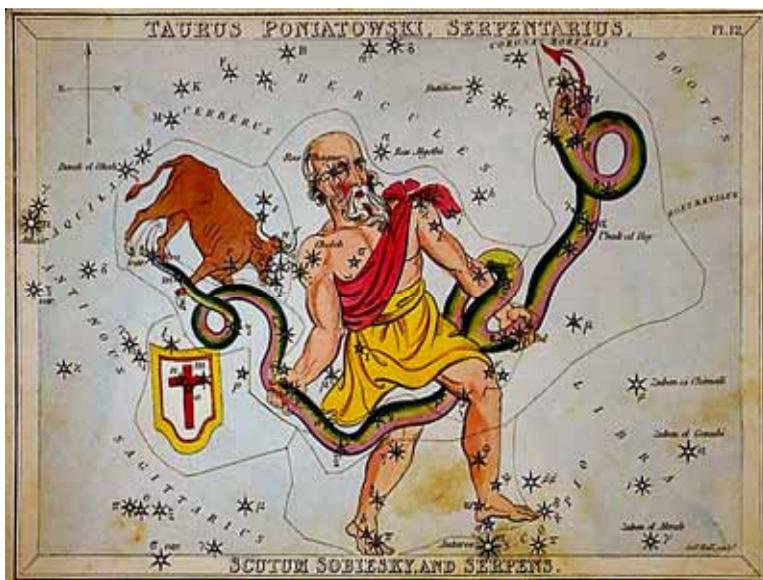
¹¹⁴ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (Re 19:6–8). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

I have written this book to bring clarity and understanding to the End Times. God has a “*Grand Design for the Rapture*” of His Bride as well as His return to reign upon this earth in truth and righteousness.



December 2390 Sunset partial eclipse by the moon over Jerusalem

We shall look at the heavenly signs that reflect this Tribulation. This is the beginning of the Tribulation which is the moon reflecting light into the Serpens constellations. The sun is low in the sky during the early evening timeframe with the earth darkened due to the partial eclipse of the sun and moon. This is followed by a nightly event of the stars in the Hyades cluster creating a true wonder in the skies to mark the start of the Tribulation.



Serpens and Ophiuchus depicting the Serpent and its Charmer (1825)

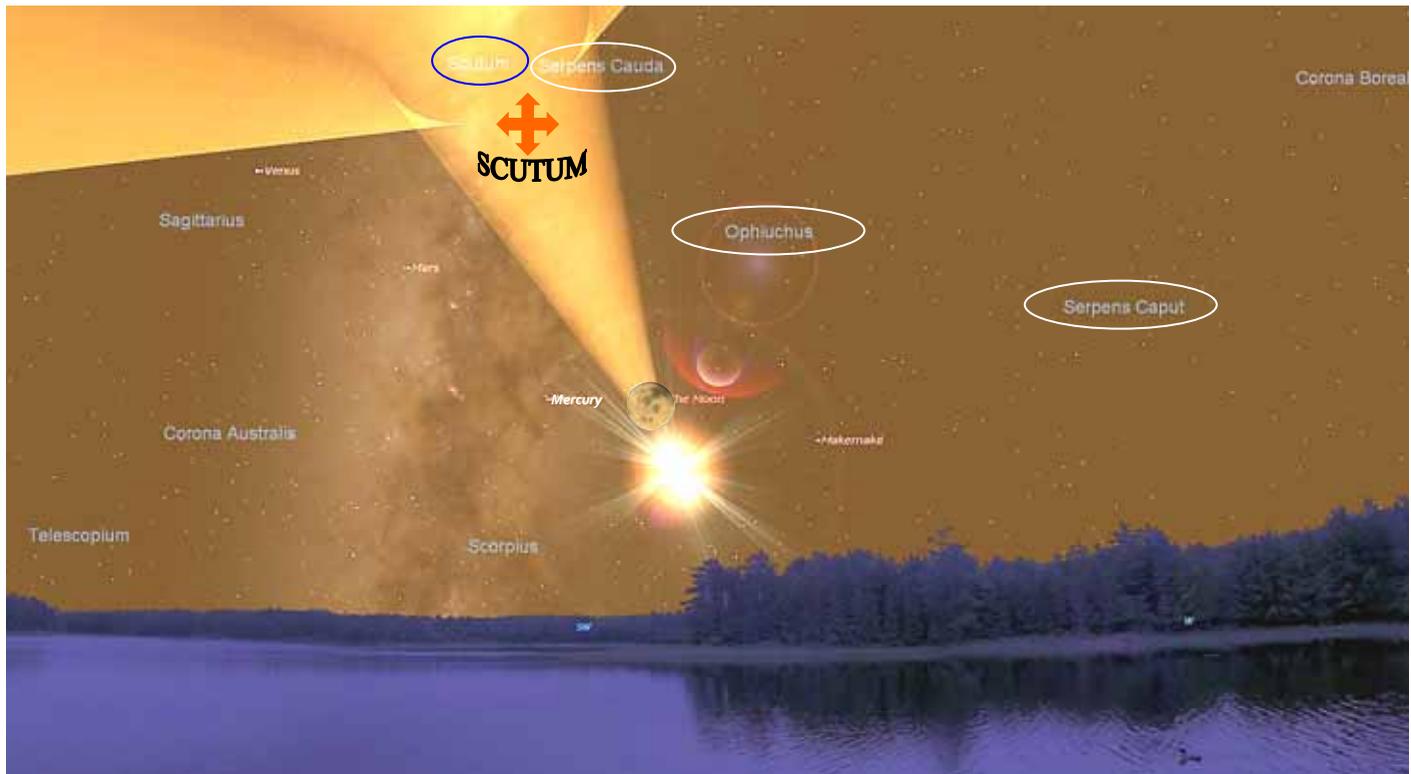
Serpens & Ophiuchus

The serpent itself is represented and is given two identities. Stars to the west are those of the head, Serpens Caput, while the tail section, Serpens Cauda, writhes eastward toward Aquila, above the shield of Scutum. One of the most interesting objects that you can't see in Ophiuchus is the Pipe nebula.

The Serpent, Satan, has power over death. Hebrews 2:14-15 “...power of death, that is, the devil;”

The constellations are visible in the sky during the daytime are Ophiuchus, Serpens Caput and Serpens Cauda. The fourth constellation which is high in the skies is Scutum. Ophiuchus is depicted as a man grasping a serpent; the interposition of his body divides the snake constellation Serpens into two parts. The scripture tell us the Antichrist, the lawless one, will be empowered by Satan. Satan is considered the serpent. Scutum shown as a cross shield symbolizes the Antichrist.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-9 “*Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders.*”



December 23 1930 Sun eclipsed by the moon radiating light into the Constellation of Scutum over Los Angeles, California

Ophiuchus is a large constellation located around the celestial equator. This makes this event visible across the earth from the northern to the southern hemispheres. Its name is from the Greek *φιοχος* "serpent-bearer", and it is commonly represented as a man grasping the snake that is represented by the constellation Serpens. Ophiuchus was one of the 48 constellations listed by the 2nd-century astronomer Ptolemy, and it remains one of the 88 modern constellations. It was formerly referred to as *Serpentarius* and also *Anguitenens*, a Latin word meaning the same as its current name of "serpent-bearer". This constellation has been taken as symbolic in later literature, and placed in relation to the words spoken by God to the serpent in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15).

Serpens ("the Serpent", Greek *φίς*) is a constellation of the northern hemisphere. It was one of the 48 constellations listed by the 2nd century astronomer Ptolemy and it remains one of the 88 modern constellations defined by the International Astronomical Union.

From: Wikipedia:Ophiuchus

It is unique among the modern constellations that it is split into two non-contiguous parts: **Serpens Caput**, the *Serpent's Head* to the west and **Serpens Cauda**, the *Serpent's Tail* to the east. Between these two halves lies the Constellation of Ophiuchus, the "*Serpent-Bearer*". In figurative representations, the body of the serpent is represented as passing behind Ophiuchus between μ Ser in Serpens Caput and ν Ser in Serpens Cauda. The Constellation of Scutum is a cross shield which is located at the tail of the serpent.

Both hands of Ophiuchus firmly clutch the Serpent, which encircles the waist of Ophiuchus, but he, steadfast with both his feet well set, tramples a huge monster, even the Scorpion, standing upright on his eye and breast. Now the Serpent is wreathed about his two hands – a little above his right hand, but in many folds high above his left. ... Toward the Crown leans the Serpent's jam, but beneath his coiling form seek thou for the mighty Claws Libra. ¹¹⁵ There were two "serpent" constellations in Babylonian astronomy, known as *Muš uššu* and *Bašmu*. It appears that *Muš uššu* was depicted as a hybrid of **dragon**, lion and bird, and loosely

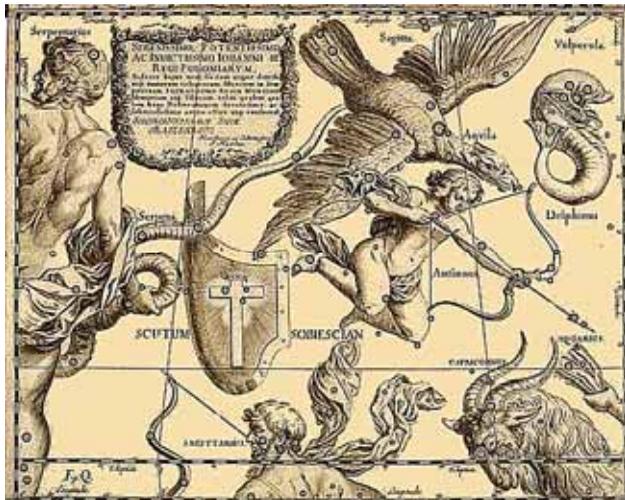
¹¹⁵ Mair, A. W. & G. R. Loeb Classical Library Volume 129. London: William Heinemann, 1921.

corresponds to Hydra. Bašmu was a **horned serpent** (c.f. Ningishzida) and loosely corresponds to the $\varphi\iota\varsigma$ constellation of Eudoxus of Cnidus on which the $\varphi\iota\varsigma$ (Serpens) of Ptolemy is based.

This event will be visible in both hemispheres due to the location in the sky of the constellations. In Babylonian history the constellations were depicted as a hybrid of the dragon and the horn serpent. In scripture, the “*Serpent*” is Satan, the devil or the dragon? Isn’t this also mentioned in Revelation as the “*beast*” which is the Antichrist will be empowered by the dragon?

Revelation 13:4 ***“they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?”***

Revelation 20:2 ***“And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.”***¹¹⁶



Scutum depicted as a Cross (1690)

Scutum:

This constellation of a Cross Shield owes its name to a non-classical historical figure. It was created in 1684 by Polish astronomer Johannes Hevelius, who originally named it Scutum Sobiescianum (Shield of Sobieski) to commemorate the victory of the Polish forces led by King John III Sobieski in the Battle of Vienna in 1683. Later, the name was shortened to Scutum. The serpent was Bašmu in Babylonian astronomy. It was a horned serpent of today’s Serpens constellation.

The shield of the Constellation Scutum has the symbol of a cross on it. Is this a sign of the Antichrist which is given authority by Satan the Serpent of Old? The cross shield symbolizes the Antichrist as a military leader or conqueror. The horned serpent as described by the Babylonians is similar to the Mercury glyph that represents the Antichrist, which has horns. Mercury is present and next to the moon and sun in this sign. This must mark the signing of a “*firm covenant*” by the Antichrist symbolized by the cross shield. The signing of this covenant marks the beginning of the seven year Tribulation period. The covenant will be broken in the middle of the week which is half way through the Tribulation. This is mention in Daniel.

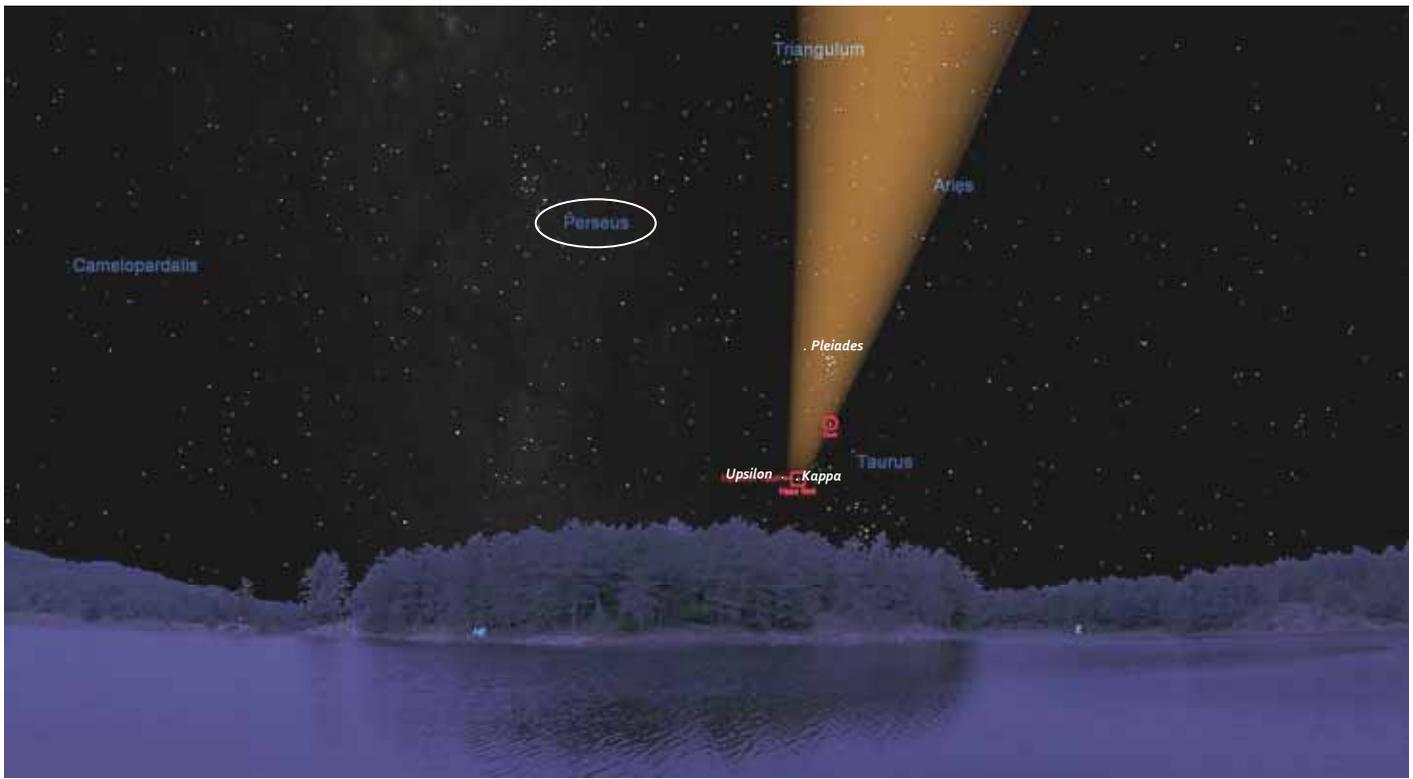
Daniel 9:27 ***“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”***¹¹⁷

What is the next heavenly sign in the sky above that reflect the Tribulation? It is two stars in the Hyades open star cluster in the night sky on the same day as the solar eclipse occurs. Please notice that the star name Upsilon is to the left of the Kappa Tauri. **Kappa Tauri** (κ Tau, κ Tauri) is a star system in the Constellation of Taurus and a member of the Hyades open cluster. **Upsilon Tauri** (υ Tau, υ Tauri) is in the Constellation Taurus and a member of the Hyades star cluster as well. We will have a sequence of slides that will show these two stars changing positions in

¹¹⁶ *New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 (Re 13:4, 20:2). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

¹¹⁷ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update.* 1995 (Da 9:27). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

the sky, which is a very unusual event, since these objects are in the same star cluster of Hyades. Typical motion would be to see the stars move through the sky rising from the east and move in position through the night skies with the constellations towards the west. Nevertheless, planets may not follow since they are known as wandering stars and may reverse their path in the skies.



December 2390 Night Stars of Upsilon and Kappa Tauri in the Hyades Star cluster above Jerusalem

Hyades Star Cluster Motion

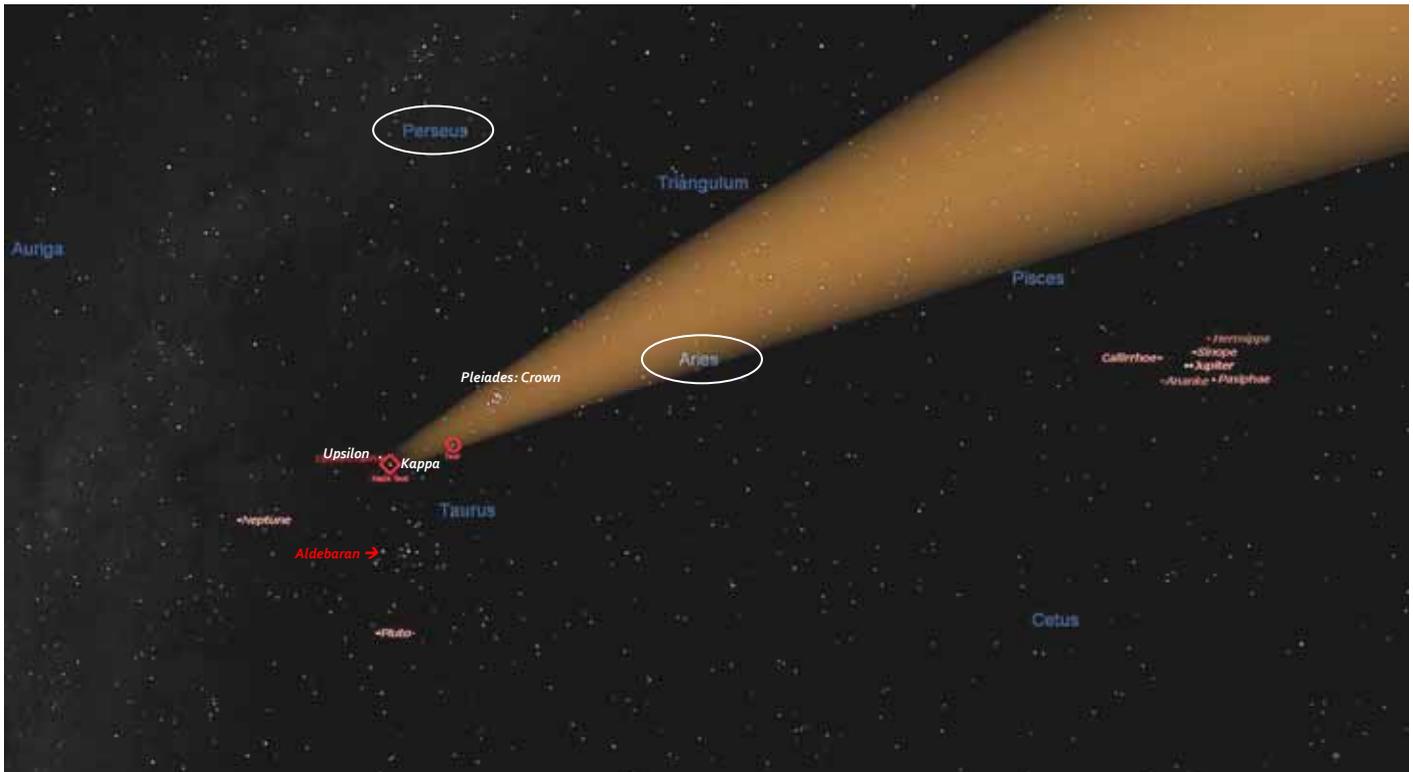
The stars of the Hyades are more enriched in heavy elements than our Sun and other ordinary stars in the Solar System Neighborhood. The Hyades Cluster is related to other stellar groups in the Sun's vicinity. Its age, metallicity, and proper motion coincide with those of the larger and more distant Praesepe Cluster, and the trajectories of both clusters can be traced back to the same region of space, indicating a common origin. Another associate is the Hyades Stream, a large collection of scattered stars that also share a similar trajectory with the Hyades Cluster.

Recent results have found that at least 15% of stars in the Hyades stream share the same chemical fingerprint as the Hyades cluster stars. However, about 85% of stars in the Hyades Stream have been shown to be completely unrelated to the original cluster on the grounds of dissimilar age and metallicity; their common motion is attributed to tidal effects of the massive rotating bar at the center of the Milky Way Galaxy. From http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyades_%28star_cluster%29

The star of Aldebaran (red) and the Pleisades star cluster have moved from above the Hyades stars of Upsilon and Kappa to below. The Upsilon star is now directly above the star of Kappa Tauri. The next event will be the star Upsilon moving to the right side of Kappa Tauri. This is truly a wonder in the heavens with stars moving from their location in the same Haydes star cluster. They should have a common motion attributed to being at the center of the Milky Way Galaxy. Notice, Pluto is below the star of Aldebaran (red). The Constellation of Aries symbolizes a Ram, which is highlighted by the radiant light from the moon. The radiant light appears to track the Constellation of Aries in the heavens.



Pluto is the **god of the underworld**. In Greek mythology, the corresponding god was **Hades**. Pluto to the left side above represents ruling all that is "below the surface". This glyph suggests spiritual receptivity to "superworlds" or the "underworld".

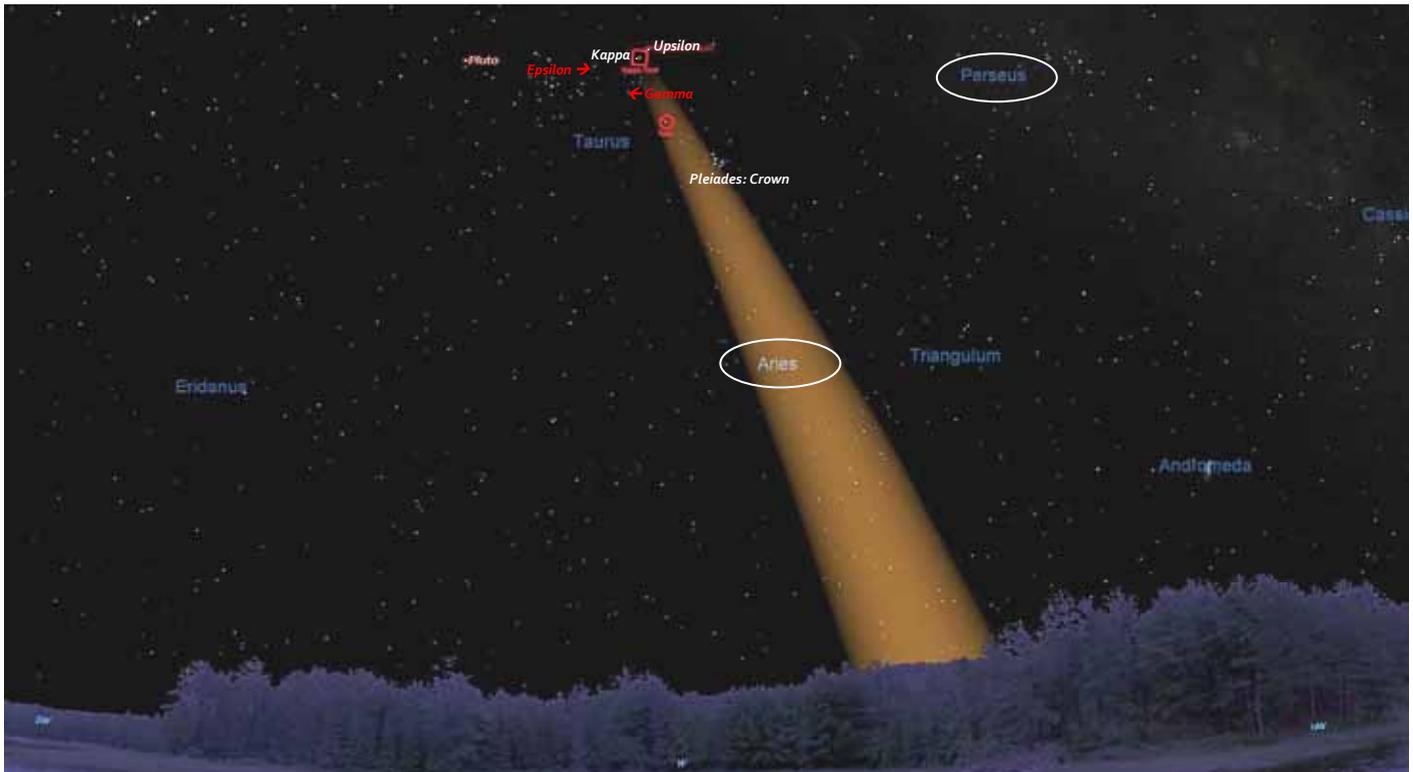


December 2390 Stars of Upsilon and Kappa Tauri above each other over Jerusalem

The Hyades Greek ἄδες, also known as Melotte 25 or Collinder 50 or Caldwell 41 is the nearest open cluster to the Solar System and one of the best-studied of all star clusters. The Hipparcos satellite, the Hubble Space Telescope, and infrared color-magnitude diagram fitting have been used to establish a distance to the cluster's center of ~ 153 light-years. The distance established, via the three independent analyses agree, thereby making the Hyades an important rung on the cosmic distance ladder. The cluster consists of a roughly spherical group of hundreds of stars sharing the same age, place of origin, chemical content, and motion through space. From the perspective of observers on Earth, the Hyades Cluster appears in the Constellation Taurus, where its brightest stars form a "V" shape along with the still brighter red giant Aldebaran. However, Aldebaran is completely unrelated to the Hyades, as it is located much closer to Earth (hence its apparent brightness) and merely happens to lie along the same line of sight. As a naked-eye object, the Hyades Cluster has been known since prehistoric times. It is mentioned by numerous Classical authors from Homer to Ovid. In Book 18 of the Iliad the stars of the Hyades appear along with the Pleiades, the Big Dipper, and Orion on the shield that the god Hephaistos made for Achilles.

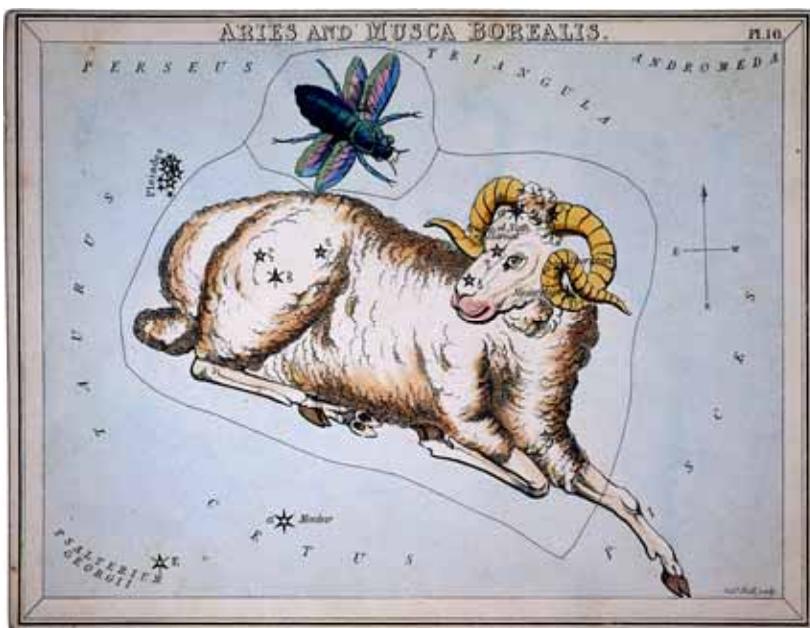
From http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyades_%28star_cluster%29

The Upsilon (HD 28024 or 69 Tauri not shown on the Star Cluster Map) star is now to the right side of Kappa Tauri (HD 27934 or 65 Tauri not shown) and has reversed its position in the sky during the same night. This is a very unusual event. It will be followed by the stars fallen from the sky to the earth with both the planets of Neptune and Pluto coming down to the earth as the last objects from the heavens. Pluto represents the underworld and Hades is the place of mortal man's soul and spirit according to Greek mythology as well as the Bible. It is amazing the similarity in the name Hyades and Hades and also that Pluto is seen in the skies with the Hyades star cluster. Notice the movement through the skies of the Constellation of Perseus, it has moved from east to west through the night sky. This is the proper motion of the Hyades stars as well as the Constellation of Perseus. After changing positions in the sky above, the Pleiades crown of stars is now below the stars of Upsilon and Kappa Tauri. It appears that these two stars are falling from the sky as stated in Matthew 24:29 "and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken." Is this "heaven will be shaken" referring to the multiple planetary eclipses with the sun? We know that these eclipses will effect the gravitational forces on the earth and also effect the sea tides. Christ declared this to occur during the End Times in Luke 21:25 "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars and on the earth dismay among nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves."



December 2390 Stars of Upsilon to the right of Kappa Tauri over Jerusalem

Is there a sign in the heavens for the event of sacrifices being made on the altar? **Aries** is one of the constellations of the zodiac, located between Pisces to the west and Taurus to the east. Its name is Latin for Ram, and its symbol is ♈ representing a Ram's horns. This must be a sign of the Ram sacrifice on the altar.

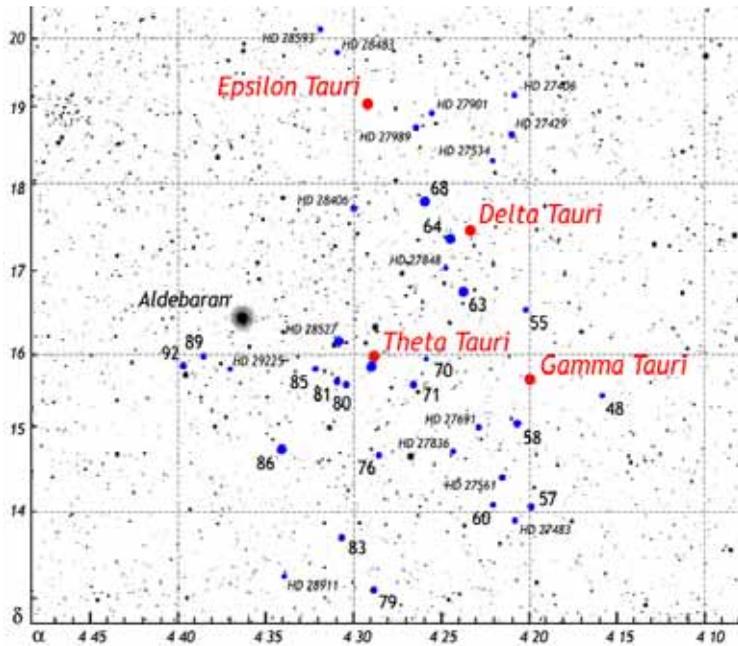


Aries depicted as at Ram (Jehoshaphat Aspin, 1825)

Constellation of Aries:

*Ancient Greek astronomers visualized Aries as a ram lying down with its head turned to the right. The stars α , β and γ Arietis mark the ram's head and horns, according to Ptolemy's *Almagest*. In Hellenistic astrology, the constellation of Aries is associated with the golden ram of Greek mythology. Phrixos sacrificed the ram to the gods and hung its skin in a temple, where it was known as the Golden Fleece. "Ram" via association with the legendary figure of Dumuzi the Shepherd.*

This heavenly event occurs in the evening after the signing of the covenant by the Antichrist. This must represent the continuation of the regular sacrifices made in the evening. What a short timeframe for such a significant change of events in the heavens. The beginning of the Tribulation is symbolized by a morning event of a partial eclipse of the sun and moon highlighting the Constellation of Scutum, symbolizing the cross shield. This is followed by this nightly event of the Constellation of Aries being highlighted with radiant light and the changing of stars in the heavens within the same star cluster.



The Hyades Star Cluster Map (GNU)

The Hyades Star Cluster:

The four brightest member stars of the Hyades are all red giants that began life as A-type stars and have now evolved off the main sequence. All are located within a few light years of each other. Their Bayer designations are Gamma, Delta, Epsilon, and Theta Tauri. The distance to the cluster's center is ~153 light years from Earth.

Note: Haydes Cluster to Hades.

The radiant light coming from what appears as the stars Upsilon and Kappa Tauri is actual coming from the sun's partial eclipse which is a reflection off the moon. It is interesting that this nighttime event follows after the "serpent-bearer," Ophiuchus Constellation is seen during the daytime. This is followed by the planets and stars fallen from the night sky. We will see these same two stars again fallen to the earth during Christ's Millennium Reign. This relates to the doom of the Beast and False Prophet. This is a true wonder in the skies that the Prophet Joel had stated in Joel 2:30 "I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth." This event in the heavens can be assured to be a wonder due to the fact that two stars in the heavens change position in the same star cluster.



December 2390 Stars of Upsilon and Kappa Tauri are falling to earth



Ypsilon by Geoffroy Troy (1529)

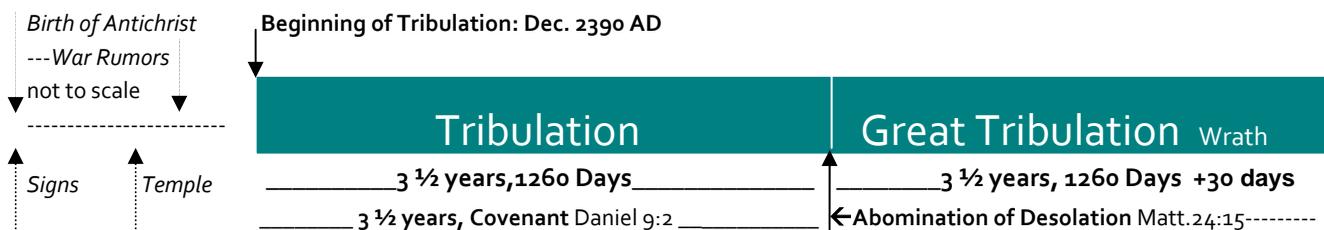
The Geek Υ figure to the left, which represents the Greek letter of Upsilon in a picture sketch by Geoffroy Tory called Ypsilon. The fire is below the left side of the Geek Υ letter, and a man dropping into the fire. Does that reflect as a sign of a Satanic star fallen to the earth such as the Antichrist? Could the dual stars of Upsilon and Kappa be the sign of Antichrist and the False Prophet? Both planets Neptune and Pluto are following the stars as well. The planet Neptune is a sign of “deception” and Pluto is god of Hades, the underworld. The above event looks like the stars are fallen from the heavens. In the Υ figure, the King with his hand over the beast given them authority is on the right side of the Geek Υ letter. The person climbing has multiple beasts roaring over him as he climbs the right branch to the King seated.

Wasn't the sun darkened by the eclipse of the moon during the day? Didn't Christ say something about this occurring immediately after the tribulation? This seems to be similar to the gathering of His Bride from this earth. We will see that during the Rapture the moon doesn't “give it light” upon the earth. Could this be a significant sign when “moon will not give its light” to mark an important event?

Matthew 24:29 **“But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”**¹¹⁸

In the commentary written by I.D. Campbell in “Opening up Matthew” it states the following:

*The subtlety of Satan is seen in the fact that false prophets will appear, promising to give an easier option and to be the true prophets of God. So the church will be physically persecuted but will also be tempted to embrace seductive and attractive heresies. These have always been Satan's twin weapons against the church. However, God will not leave his people in this situation for ever. For the sake of his own people he will shorten the days of trial. His appearance will be as sudden as a flash of lightning, and the trials and tribulations of his people will come to an end.*¹¹⁹



The Apostle Paul said that there would be a time that the man of lawlessness, the beast or the Antichrist would be revealed. This is not the time Antichrist is revealed or given authority for forty-two months by God.

¹¹⁸ *New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 (Mt 24:29). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

¹¹⁹ Campbell, I. D. (2008). *Opening up Matthew* (147–148). Leominster: Day One Publications.

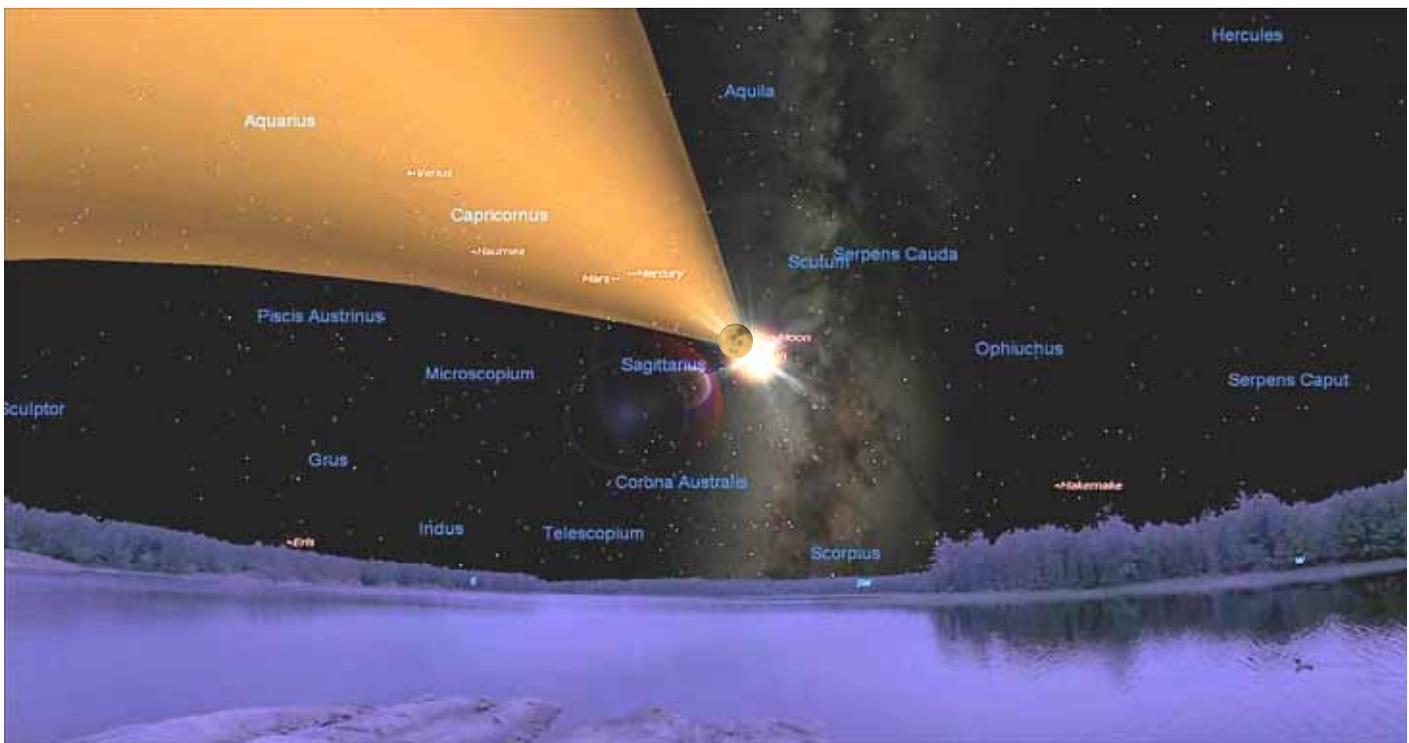
2 Thessalonians 2:3 ***“Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,”***¹²⁰

We open this chapter with the statement that this was the beginning of birth pains which would be followed by the time of Tribulation. In the same commentary written by I.D. Campbell, it makes the following statements about pangs.

These are birth pangs, not death pangs, and will result in something glorious. However, the natural disasters will be accompanied by spiritual declension. The church will experience persecution, with apparent Christians betraying other Christians and turning away from their profession of faith. The sign of genuine Christianity, according to Jesus, is not that people start living a life of discipleship, but that they complete it! It is those who ‘endure to the end’ who will be saved (v. 13).

*In spite of these difficulties, however, the gospel will continue to be preached. This state of affairs should not lead to pessimism, however. Some readers of the Bible have focused on passages like this and have suggested that we can expect nothing in the days preceding our Lord’s return but gradual spiritual decline. The fact that the gospel is to be preached is, however, an indication that the decline in some places will be matched by growth and blessing in others, since the Word of God always results in sinners being saved. We must, therefore, persevere with the worldwide evangelization of the nations, knowing that Jesus will return.*¹²¹

How do we know from this heavenly event that this is the beginning of the Tribulation? It is because of the events that follow in the heavens in subsequent months. The Tribulation would be marked by darkness and gloom according to the ancient Prophets. Starting with the month of January 2391, the sun is darkened in the sky. This is due to the continuation of solar eclipses of the moon or planets in the heavens, which is very unusual to occur month after month. This is followed in March 2391 with a sign of war and darkness on the earth.



January 2391 Sun and the partial eclipse of the moon

The radiant sun seems to send light from the moon that points into the heaven above at Mars and Mercury. Is this a sign of the Antichrist going into war in the near future?

¹²⁰ *New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 (2 Th 2:3). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

¹²¹ Campbell, I. D. (2008). *Opening up Matthew* (145–146). Leominster: Day One Publications.

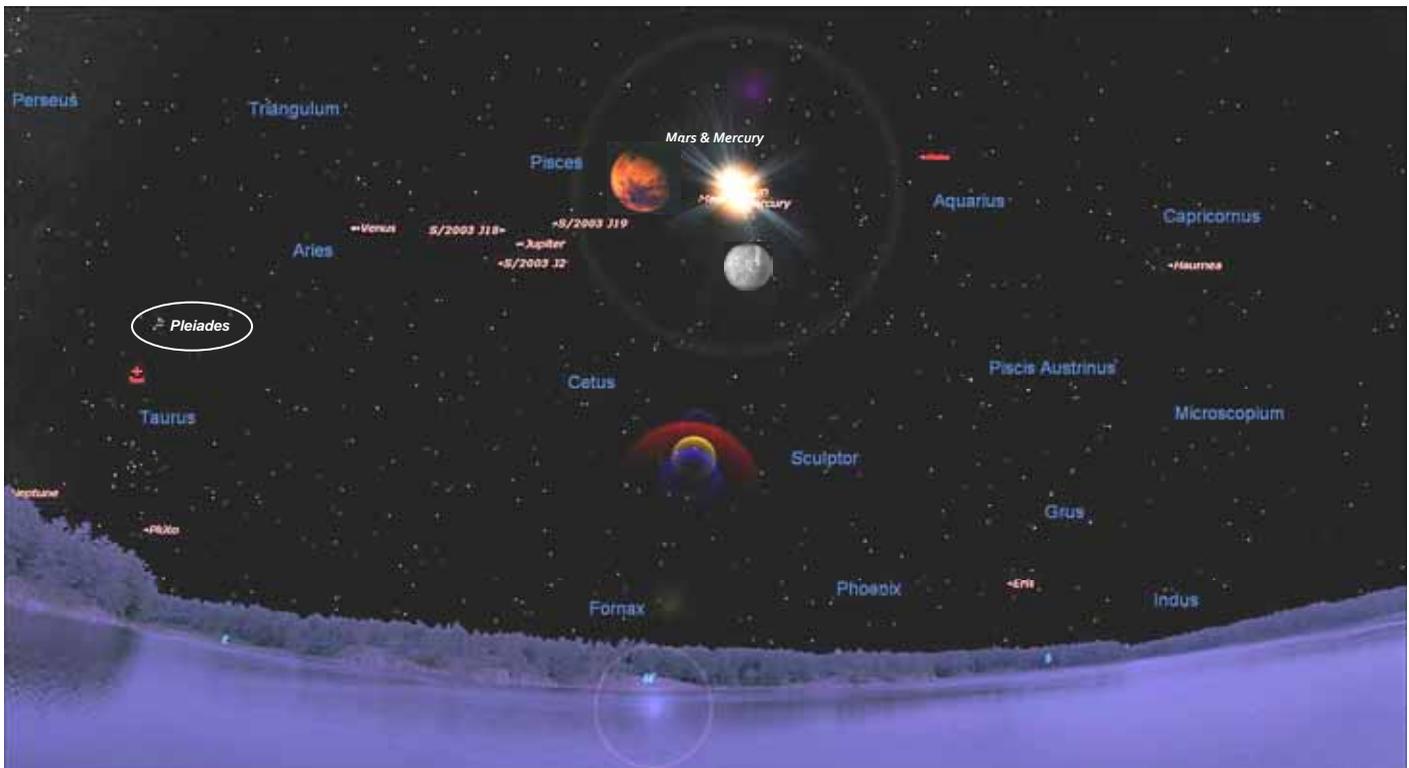
Mercury, the messenger of the gods, represents a deceptive communicator and ruler, the Antichrist.

Mars the god of war, who is the ruler over war. Mars is named after the ancient Roman god of war. It is well-suited to the red planet's bloody color as representing war.

The Second and Third Seals

In March of 2391, there is an eclipse of the sun with both planets of Mercury and Mars. See the previous chapter entitled “*Rumors of War*.” The second seal that is broken in Revelation has to do with war and the red horseman.

In Revelation 6:4, it is written: “And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another...”¹²²



March 2391 Eclipse of Sun with both Mars and Mercury over Jerusalem

There is a sign in the heavens relating to war, which follows after the beginning of the Tribulation. This is the eclipse of the sun with both the Mars (War) and Mercury. The princess of the southern Islamic alliance has previously brought a peace arrangement to the United European nations which is the prophesied reconstruction of the Roman Empire. This princess could be the rider on the white horse, which bring a “*Peace Arrangement*” to the North. We know that Mars represents bloody war from a “*descendant*” of the alliance who “*takes peace*.” The red horse represents one of her descendants that wages war against the United European nations. It is the new king of the South that removes the Princess from power? The Islamic forces take the silver and gold from Europe down into Egypt. Please notice the Pleiades crown of authority is not overhead, but it is far to the left. We can see that God doesn’t give authority to the Islamic alliance, which make up a New Persian Empire. We have seen this crown is given (page 60) to the United European Empire during the retaliation of the Islamic invasion. This occurs just prior to the Rapture of Christ’s Bride. Does the black horse represent the United European nations with the Euro currency which symbolizes a “*denarius*” of the Roman Era? In Zechariah 6:6 it states the white horses follow the black horses “*going forth to the north country*.” Revelation 6:6 makes the statement:

¹²² *New American Standard Bible : 1995 update*. 1995 LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

“And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine.”¹²³

A “denarius” was a full day’s wages in the time that the Apostle John had written this passage. If the sun is darkened, how could plants including vegetables grow without sunlight? Would it result in famine on a worldwide scale? Would this affect the feed for cattle on the earth? This would inherently result in a shortage of food both in meat and vegetable products. Would this change the value of money? Would this cause hyper-inflation of currency throughout the world? This would be independent of one world currency. Darkness over the earth is due to the continuation of solar eclipses of the moon or planets in the heavens. This monthly occurrence is a very unusual. His Living Elect at this time should be prudent knowing the coming darkness and be prepared for the famine. The world will be like the days of Noah and the Great Flood and not be prepared for this time of Tribulation. Is there a greater significance in the Parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25 which is after Christ’s description of His Coming for His Bride? *“The oil in flasks along with their lamps”* in the Parable must be a warning of the darkness prior to the famine in the land and the Rapture by the bridegroom, who is Christ.

Parable of Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-9 ***“Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.***

2 ***“Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.***

3 ***“For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,***

4 ***but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.***

5 ***“Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep.***

6 ***“But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’***

7 ***“Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.***

8 ***“The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’***

9 ***“But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’”***¹²⁴

The five prudent virgins had just enough lamp oil for their lamps to not go out. They were unable to share their oil; but, told the less prudent virgins to go and buy some from the dealers. Nevertheless, the prudent virgins were ready for the bridegroom, who represents Christ our Savior and Lord. The believers in Christ are considered His Bride. Is this a sign of being prepared for the return of Christ by storing-up supplies necessary for the prolonged famine caused by darkness over the earth prior to the Rapture of the believer? Is this why this parable follows logically after Christ’s warning in Matthew 24 of His Return for His Bride? In a commentary, that is written by R. Jamieson, *A commentary, critical and explanatory*, it says the following:

And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out—rather, “are going out”; for oil will not light an extinguished lamp, though it will keep a burning one from going out. Ah! Now at length they have discovered not only their own folly, but the wisdom of the other class, and they do homage to it. They did not perhaps despise them before, but they thought them righteous overmuch; now they are forced, with bitter mortification, to wish they were like them.¹²⁵

But the wise answered, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you—The words “Not so,” it will be seen, are not in the original, where the reply is very elliptical—“In case there be not enough for us and you.” A truly wise answer this. “And what, then, if we shall share it with you? Why, both will be undone.”¹²⁶

¹²³ *New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

¹²⁴ *New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 (Mt 25:1–9). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

¹²⁵ Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., Fausset, A. R., Brown, D., & Brown, D. (1997). *A commentary, critical and explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments* (Mt 25:8–9). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

¹²⁶ Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., Fausset, A. R., Brown, D., & Brown, D. (1997). *A commentary, critical and explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments* (Mt 25:8–9). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Wedding Feast

In Mathew 25 the statement is made that there was no time “to make the purchase and the bridegroom came,” which is Christ. This is a statement that Christ will come in a short time after the beginning of the Tribulation.

- Matthew 25:10-13 **“And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.**
11 “Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’
12 “But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’
13 “Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.”¹²⁷

Those who are saved and have the indwelling Holy Spirit, the seal of Christ in them, should be prepared for this event. For Paul, the Apostle of Christ said that we should not be overtaken as a thief in the night.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 **“But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night, nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.”¹²⁸**

It is interesting to find the Wedding Feast spoken of in Matthew 25:10 to mirror the description in Revelation.

- Revelation 19:7-10 **“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”**
8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.
9 Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.”
10 Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”¹²⁹

His Living Elect at this time will behold the warnings of imminent famine and war on the earth and be prepared. This may mean building a store-house of supplies of food, water and fuel for energy for a short time period. The believer should have faith for this is a temporary event for them. This period of Tribulation will truly test one’s faith on being delivered. In scripture, it says the believer will be delivered from the Wrath of God. However, we must “not sleep as others do, but be alert and sober.” The image below is a figure of the timeline of War and Famine on the earth. The Rapture will occur during the invasion by the North to capture a well-fortified city of the Islamic alliance. The Apostle Paul said that there would be a time that the man of lawlessness, the beast or the Antichrist would be revealed. This is not the time Antichrist is revealed or given authority for forty-two months.



¹²⁷ New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995 (Mt 25:10–13). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

¹²⁸ New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995 (1 Th 5:4–6). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

¹²⁹ New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995 (Re 19:7–10). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.