



The Alexander SBS Summer 2025 Series

Lesson #11 – The Bema 1 of 2

Main Idea

Well, we're almost finished studying the Fruit of the Spirit elements! I have thoroughly enjoyed our time together this summer as we've explored the Fruit of the Spirit and how it serves as a perfect blueprint for how we should live our lives as followers of Jesus. I'll admit in my personal life I have a heightened awareness of the impact that sin has on my life and how sin "spoils" the work of the Holy Spirit in my life.

Over the next two weeks we are going to wrap up this series with a study on the Bema Seat of Christ. This will be a great introduction to our End Times Prophecy Series we'll start in two weeks and continue through the end of the year. Provided below is a description of the Bema Seat, or "Bema" for short.

The Bema Seat of Jesus is the post-rapture evaluation of Believers (only), where Christ assesses our works, motives, and stewardship to grant rewards for the work we do as Believers. Based on texts like 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Romans 14:10–12, this judgment concerns faithfulness after salvation, not whether or not we are saved. Think about an Olympic podium awards ceremony before the Lord where what is worthless burns away and what is worthy endures (1 Corinthians 3:12–15). Rewards include praise, responsibility, and "crowns," reflecting lives lived for His glory. The Bema calls Christians to a future hope where we are called to live in accountability and obedience, reflecting the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.

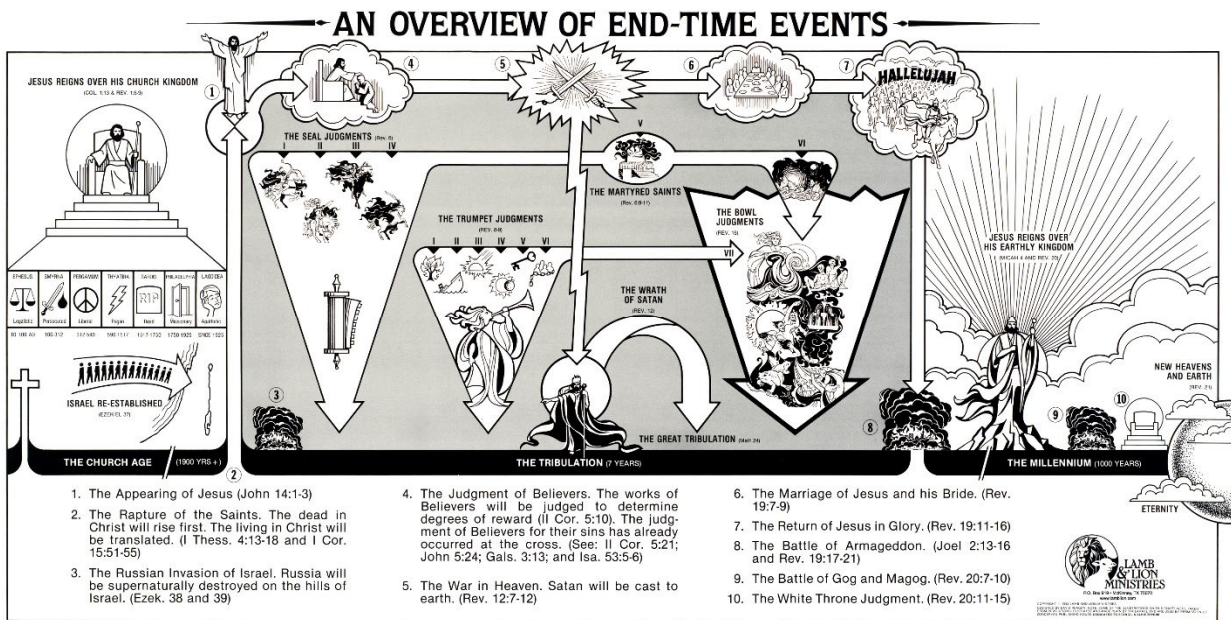
An important part of understand Biblical prophecy is the timeline. Provided on the following page is a timeline consistent with a dispensational "Bible Church" view of Scripture. We will dive into this in greater detail later this year, but at this point we'll look at Event #4 in the context of current events.

In this week's lesson we'll discuss three parts of the Bema: What is it? Who is involved? And when does it occur? Next week's lesson will cover how we can be prepared for this future Believers-only event.

Questions for Consideration

1. Why do you think God set up a system of rewards for Believers?
2. Why do you think God placed the Bema as He has done after the Rapture and before a majority of the End Time events?
3. Review the Bible passages provided in this lesson that in some way addresses the Bema. Which verse stands out most to you and why?
4. The Bema might be a new concept for some of you (which is one reason we study the Bible!). What new insights or questions do you have in study the provided passages and the contents of this lesson?





Bible Verses

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

¹ For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, ³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

⁶ Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷ For we live by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Romans 14:10-12

¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written:

"As surely as I live," says the Lord,
'every knee will bow before me;
every tongue will acknowledge God.'"

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

