

Seven Key Predictions Common to Apocalyptic Literature

1.	A time of severe tribulation will proceed the new age. Normal human bonds will be broken, nature will go haywire, and unrighteousness will abound.
<p>Testament of Issachar 6:1</p> <p>2 Baruch 70:8</p> <p>4 Ezra 5:1-2, 4-5</p> <p>Jubilees 23:18, 25</p> <p>Assumption of Moses 10:5-6</p>	<p>“Know ye therefore, my children, that in the last times your sons will forsake singleness, and will cleave unto insatiable desire; and leaving guilelessness, will draw near to malice; and forsaking the commandments of the Lord, they will cleave unto Beliar.”</p> <p>“And it shall come to pass that whosoever gets safe out of the war shall die in the earthquake, And whosoever gets safe out of the earthquake shall be burned by fire, And whosoever gets safe out of the fire shall be destroyed by famine.”</p> <p>“Concerning the signs, however: Behold the days come when the inhabitants of earth shall be seized with great panic, and the way of truth shall be hidden and the land barren of faith and iniquity shall be increased...Then shall the sun suddenly shine forth by night and the moon by day: and blood shall trickle forth from wood, and the stone utter its voice: the peoples shall be in commotion, the outgoings (of the stars) shall change.”</p> <p>“Behold the earth shall be destroyed on account of all their works, and there shall be no seed of the vine, and oil; for their works are altogether faithless, and they shall all perish together, beasts and cattle and birds, and all the fish of the sea, on account of the children of men...And the heads of the children shall be white with grey hair, and a child of three weeks shall appear like an old man of one hundred years, and their stature shall be destroyed by tribulation and oppression.”</p> <p>“And the horns of the sun shall be broken and he shall be turned into darkness; and the moon shall not give her light, and be turned wholly into blood. And the sea shall retire into the abyss, and the fountains of waters shall fail, and the rivers shall dry up.”</p>

2.	The time of tribulation will culminate in a great battle against Israel. God (often through the Messiah) will destroy the ungodly and usher in an era of peace.
<p>Sibylline Oracles 3:663-64, 67-73, 89-91</p> <p>4 Ezra 13:33-35, 49</p> <p>2 Baruch 72:2, 6</p> <p>Qumran, War Scroll 1:10, 12</p>	<p>“But again the kings of the nations shall throw themselves against this land in troops, bringing retribution on themselves...In a ring around the city the accursed kings shall place each one his throne with his infidel people by him. And then with a mighty voice God shall speak unto all the undisciplined empty-minded people, and judgement shall come upon them from the mighty God, and all shall perish at the hand of the Eternal. From heaven shall fall fiery swords down to the earth...And God shall judge all with war and sword, and with fire and cataclysms of rain. And there shall be brimstone from heaven...And then shall they know the Immortal God, who ordains these things.</p> <p>“It shall be, when all the nations hear his [the Messiah’s] voice, every man shall leave his own land and the warfare which they have one against another; and an innumerable multitude shall be gathered together, as thou didst see, desiring to come and to fight against him...he shall destroy the multitude of the nations that are gathered together, he shall defend the people that remain.”</p> <p>“My Messiah...shall both summon all the nations, and some of them he shall spare, and some of them he shall slay...all those who have ruled over you, or have known you, shall be given up to the sword.”</p> <p>“On the day when the Kittim [Romans] fall, there shall be battle and terrible carnage before the God of Israel, for that shall be the day appointed from ancient times for the battle of destruction of the sons of darkness...And it shall be a time of [great] tribulation for the people which God shall redeem; of all its afflictions none shall be as this, from its sudden beginning until its end in eternal redemption.”</p>

3.	The unrighteous will be judged and punished, the righteous saved.
2 Baruch 24:1	“For behold! the days come and the books shall be opened in which are written the sins of all those who have sinned, and again also the treasuries in which the righteousness of all those who have been righteous in creation is gathered.”
4 Ezra 7:33-34	“And the Most High shall be revealed upon the throne of judgment: (and then cometh the End) and compassion shall pass away, (and pity be far off), and longsuffering withdrawn. But judgment alone shall remain, truth shall stand, and faithfulness triumph.”
4 Ezra 8:3	“Many have been created, but few shall be saved.”
Qumran, 1QpHab 10:5, 13	“He will bring him thence for judgment and will declare him guilty in the midst of them, and will chastise him with fire of brimstone...they...[will be] punished with fire who vilified and outraged the elect of God.”
Jubilees 36:10	“But on the day of turbulence and execration and indignation and anger, with flaming devouring fire as He burnt Sodom, so likewise will He burn his [the sinner’s] land and his city and all that is his, and he shall be blotted out of the book of the discipline of the children of men, and not be recorded in the book of life, but in that which is appointed to destruction...”

4.	The Messiah will rule (again, according to many, but not all, apocalyptic writings).
4 Ezra 7:28-30	“For my Son the Messiah shall be revealed, together with those who are with him, and shall rejoice [with] the survivors four hundred years. And it shall be, after these years. that my Son the Messiah shall die, and all in whom there is human breath. Then shall the world be turned into the primaeval silence seven days, like as at the first beginnings; so that no man is left.”
4 Ezra 13:25-26, 35, 37-38	“These are the interpretations of the vision: Whereas thou didst see a Man coming up from the heart of the Sea: this is he whom the Most High is keeping many ages (and) through whom he will deliver his creation...he shall stand upon the summit of Mount Sion...But he, my son, shall reprove the nations that are come for their ungodliness...and shall reproach them to their face with their evil thoughts and with the tortures with which they are destined to be tortured...”
Psalms of Solomon 17:35-36, 40-41, 42	“And he (shall be) a righteous king, taught of God, over them, and there shall be no unrighteousness in his days in their midst, for all shall be holy and their king the anointed [Messiah] of the Lord...He will bless the people of the Lord with wisdom and gladness, and he himself (will be) pure from sin, so that he may rule a great people. And he will rebuke rulers, and remove sinners by the might of his word...God will make him mighty by means of (His) holy spirit, and wise by means of the spirit of understanding, with strength and righteousness.”
Testament of Levi 18:2-3, 8-9	“Then shall the Lord raise up a new priest. And to him all the words of the Lord shall be revealed; and he shall execute a righteous judgement upon the earth for a multitude of days. And his star shall arise in heaven as of a king. Lighting up the light of knowledge as the sun the day. And he shall be magnified in the world...And there shall none succeed him for all generations for ever. And in his priesthood the Gentiles shall be multiplied in knowledge upon the earth, and enlightened through the grace of the Lord: In his priesthood shall since come to an end, and the lawless shall cease to do evil.”

5.	God will deal decisively with the Gentiles.
Psalms of Solomon 17:32-34	“And he shall have the heathen nations to serve him under his yoke; and he shall glorify the Lord in a place to be seen of all the earth; and he shall purge Jerusalem, making it holy as of old: So that nations shall come from the ends of the earth to see his glory...”
Qumran, War Scroll 14:8	“Among the poor in spirit [there is power] over the hard of heart, and by the perfect of way all the nations of wickedness have come to an end: not one of their mighty men stands, but we are the remnant [of Thy people].”
2 Baruch 68:5	“Zion will again be builded, and its offerings will again be restored, and the priests will return to their ministry, and also the Gentiles will come to glorify it.”
Tobit 13:11 (NRSV)	“A bright light will shine to all the ends of the earth; many nations will come to you from far away, the inhabitants of the remotest parts of the earth to your holy name, bearing gifts in their hands for the King of heaven.”
Assumption of Moses 10:8, 10	“For the Most High will arise, the Eternal God alone, and He will appear to punish the Gentiles, and He will destroy all their idols. Then thou, O Israel, shalt be happy...And thou shalt look from on high and shalt see thy enemies in Ge(henna) [Hell], and thou shalt give thanks and confess thy Creator.”

6.	The New Age will commence. The temple will be restored or replaced, the exiles will return to Israel, God and/or the Messiah will reign, and nature will be revitalized.
Sibylline Oracles 3:702-706	“Then again all the sons of the great God shall live quietly around the temple, rejoicing in those gifts which He shall give...For He by Himself shall shield them, standing beside them alone in His might, encircling them, as it were, with a wall of flaming fire.”
2 Baruch 73:1-2, 6	“Joy shall then be revealed, and rest shall appear. And then healing shall descend in dew, and disease shall withdraw, and anxiety and anguish and lamentation pass from amongst men, and gladness proceed through the whole earth...And wild beasts shall come from the forest and minister unto men, and asps and dragons shall come forth from their holes to submit themselves to a little child.”
Sibylline Oracles 3:741-46, 749-51	“But when the fated day shall reach this consummation, and there shall come to mortals the judgement of the Eternal God, there shall come upon men a great judgment and empire. Fore Earth the universal mother shall give to mortals her best fruit in countless store of corn, wine and oil. Yea, from the heaven shall come a sweet draught of luscious honey...He will cause sweet fountains of white milk to burst forth. And the cities shall be full of good things and the fields rich: neither shall there be any sword throughout the land nor battle din”
4 Ezra 6:25-28	“And it shall be that whosoever shall have survived all these things that I have foretold unto thee, he shall be saved and shall see my salvation and the end of the world. And the men [Enoch and Elijah] who have been taken up, who have not tasted death from their birth, shall appear. Then shall the heart of the inhabitants [of the world] be changed, and be converted to a different spirit. For evil shall be blotted out, and deceit extinguished. Faithfulness shall flourish, and corruption be vanquished.”
Tobit 13:16 (NRSV)	“The gates of Jerusalem will be built with sapphire and emerald, and all your walls with precious stones. The towers of Jerusalem will be built with gold, and their battlements with pure gold.”
Assumption of Moses 10:1	“And then His kingdom shall appear throughout all His creation, and then Satan shall be no more, and sorrow will depart with him.”

7.	The righteous dead will enjoy eternal life (with or without specific mention of bodily resurrection).
2 Baruch 30:1-2	“And it shall come to pass after these things, when the time of the advent of the Messiah is fulfilled, that He shall return in glory. Then all who have fallen asleep in hope of Him shall rise again.”
4 Ezra 7:32	“And the earth shall restore those that sleep in her, and the dust those that are at rest therein.”
Sibylline Oracles 4:179-80, 187-91	“But when at last everything shall have been reduced to dust and ashes and God shall quench the giant fire, even as he kindled it, then God Himself shall fashion again the bones and ashes of men, and shall raise up mortals once more as they were before...all who are godly shall live again on earth when God give breath and life and grace to them, the godly. And then all shall behold themselves, beholding the lovely and pleasant sunlight.”
Jubilees 23:30-31	“And the righteous shall see and be thankful, and rejoice with joy for ever and ever, and shall see all their judgments and all their curses on their enemies. And their bones shall rest in the earth, and their spirits shall have much joy...”
Qumran, 4Q521:1-2, 8, 11-12; cf. Isa. 61:1-3; Luke 4:18-19	“[The hea]vens and the earth will listen to His Messiah, and none therein will stray from the commandments of the holy ones...He [God] who liberates the captives, restores sight to the blind, straightens the b[ent]...And the Lord will accomplish glorious things which have never been...For he will heal the wounded, and revive the dead and bring good news to the poor...”

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