

The Tribulation – Part 3

In our study of the great tribulation or the tribulation period, we've looked at some things that had to have taken place before the tribulation begins. And, of course, we saw how that the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ had to take place, and it did. Then we've also seen how that the Holy Spirit would come and we saw how that the church would be established, built upon Christ Himself, how that Christ started the church. On the Day of Pentecost actually God sanctioned the church. We saw how that the Holy Spirit would come and people would be saved and the church would be established.

Well, we also saw that something would be in the future. After the church was started, there would be a time when the rapture of the church would take place, caught up. No, the word "rapture" is not in the Bible. It simply means "caught up." We will be caught up in the air to be with the Lord. Why should we teach that? Well, the Bible tells us that we're to teach that in order to comfort one another. That's to comfort the Christian. The Christian needs to be comforted in this day and time that we live in, knowing that we're not going to go through the great or the tribulation period.

Once again, I remind you that we do have tribulation on this Earth, financial difficulties, sickness, death. Certain things come upon us, but there's never going to be a time, there's never been a time, like the tribulation period that will come upon this Earth.

Let's look today at the tribulation... peace, safety, and sudden destruction. I've said this before. The tribulation will be seven years. There's going to be three and a half years of peace and three and a half years of great tribulation.

The seven years of tribulation will begin sometime after the church has been removed, and the seven-year period begins shortly after a covenant. And this is important, after a covenant or a treaty is made with the nation of Israel.

In Daniel 9:27, it says this: *And he... That's the prince of Daniel 9:26. He's the beast. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

An event takes place that causes the treaty of the beast to be confirmed. Now, the one week mentioned in Daniel 9:27 is a week of years. In other words, each day of the mentioned week represents one year, so one week equals seven years; thus, seven years of tribulation.

After the peace treaty has been signed, in the middle of this seven-year period, the covenant or treaty is broken, and the man of sin, the beast, the Antichrist, becomes the ruler of the world and demands that people worship him as God.

And Daniel 9:27 says, *And he... That's the prince of verse 26, the beast... shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations she shall make it desolate, even until the consummation... or the end... and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

Now, in Matthew 24:15-21 we read some interesting verses here. Many people look at this as speaking of the rapture of the church. It's not so. This is a tribulation passage. In Matthew 24:15, it says: ***15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place... This, of course, is the beast, the Antichrist, standing there... whoso readeth, let him understand. 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.***

It will be a time when it's never been done before. It's never happened before, and after this it'll never happen again. Well, Jesus referred to the last three and a half years as a time of great tribulation, Matthew 24:21. We've read that. This will be a time of tremendous satanic activity, and Satan's man will be the Earth's ruler and absolute dictator.

In Revelation 13:1-10, you can read that later if you would, it talks about this, and Revelation 13:2 says this: *The dragon gave him his power.* That's the Antichrist. He gave the Antichrist his power. And Revelation 13:4: *They worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast.* We're seeing devil worship today, aren't we.

Well, there's nothing like what's going to take place during the tribulation. The devil will be worshipped openly and by many openly. And we're seeing the beginning of that today. People are being programmed for this. We see

that the devil is going to be in charge. He's going to give the beast His power. Now, when I say the devil's in charge, you know, God is still God. He's going to let the devil go just so far and we're going to see that later on. God is still in charge, but He's letting the devil have reign at this point of the great tribulation.

Well, in the first part of the tribulation period, we see that there's going to be peace. In the beginning, this is after Christ removes His bride, the church, and we've already looked at the rapture and how that's going to take place. Well, how will the tribulation begin? There's going to be a false peace. A bow and arrow indicates a seemingly peaceful beginning.

Revelation 6:1-2, it says: *1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. 2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.*

Notice, he did not have any arrows. This is an indication with the bow that, once again, he has the bow but he has no arrows. This represents the fact that he's coming... the Antichrist is coming in peace. He's going to take over with his words, with his mouth, and we'll see that later on.

First Thessalonians 5:3: *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

This is speaking of the last three and a half years. People are going to be seemingly lulled to sleep. They're going to think, "Oh, boy. This is great. We've never had anything like this."

And then, all of a sudden, the great tribulation takes place and people are going to see

something that has never happened before. They're going to experience this.

I mentioned that there's going to be great peace in the beginning, and a peace treaty, but I believe this peace or treaty comes about after Gog and Magog number one. There is a Gog and Magog number two. And if you'll read Ezekiel 38 and Ezekiel 39:9 and Revelation 6:1-2, you'll read about this.

Well, will this peace come to an end? I believe that Gog and Magog I, of course, takes place at the beginning or shortly before the tribulation begins, and I believe as the Antichrist comes to the forefront that people are going to think that he actually wins the war of Gog and Magog and protects Israel and protects the whole world, and as such, people are going to accept him as a great person that is able to protect them, a great person that is able to rule the whole world and take care of everybody in the world. That's Gog and Magog I and there's going to be a Gog and Magog II, and that takes place at the end of the millennium. And we'll see more about that later on.

Well, will this peace come to an end? Yes, the red in Revelation 6:4 indicates war. Revelation 6:4: *And there went out another horse that was red... The white horse went out and now you have a red horse... and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.*

Now, the Antichrist, his true colors are being seen. He's actually now going to cause great tribulation. Will Christians go through the tribulation? The answer is an emphatic no. We've already seen and read how that the rapture will take place and in I Thessalonians 5:9-11, it says: *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ...* Salvation, caught out of here,

taken out in the rapture of the church. Verse 10, speaking of Christ... *Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.* *Wherefore comfort yourselves...* Here's that word "comfort" again... *Wherefore, comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

The church is going to be gone. Christians are not going to go through the tribulation period. But now wait a minute. We say Christians won't go through it. Will there be anybody saved during the tribulation period? Well, you know terminology has a great deal of play in these things that we're looking at. We're Christians today, of course, and we're saved and we're members of Christ's church, but will there be Christians during the tribulation period? People will be saved during the tribulation, I believe. We see Jews being saved. We see Gentiles being saved.

Look with me, if you would, in Revelation Chapter 7 if you have your Bibles. Now, I encourage you to have your Bible open to Revelation. Revelation 7:3-8: *Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.* *And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

Now, this is the children of Israel, not some cult running around saying that they're the ones that are going to be saved during this time or there's only going to be 144,000 go to Heaven. That's a cult. This is speaking of the future during the tribulation period... *and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.* *Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand.* And it goes on telling you

how many were sealed of each tribe and it ends by saying, *Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.* Twelve thousand from each tribe.

And Revelation 7:9: *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.*

Next time, I'm going to tell you who these people are in Revelation 7:9.

May the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.

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