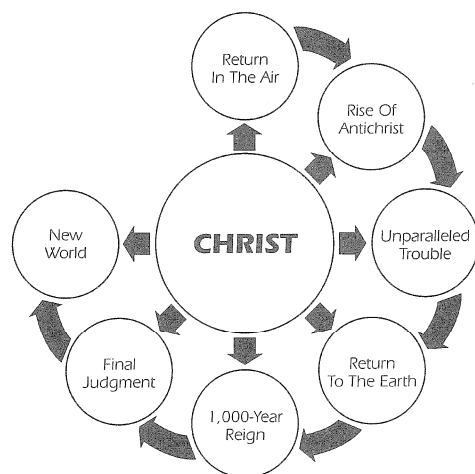


## 05 ET - END TIMES - The Tribulation - Matthew 24

PP: Slide 2



The 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Luke's Gospel tells us of a time right at the start of Jesus' ministry, when He stood in the Synagogue in Nazareth. He was handed a Scroll containing the book of Isaiah and He commenced to read:

*(Luke 4:18-21) "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; [19] To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

*[20] Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. [21] And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

**Now, we know from the original passage that Jesus stopped reading mid-sentence!** If He continued He would have read ...

***(Isa 61:2-3) To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, [3] to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."***

**Jesus stopped His reading in the Synagogue at that point because His ministry at His 1<sup>st</sup> Coming would stop at that point!**

**BUT, the very next event listed in the prophecy of Isaiah concerned "the day of vengeance of our God..." and then the comfort that would come from His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming!**

**Towards the end of His ministry, as Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives talking with His disciples, they asked Him about the SIGNS of His Coming and of the End of the Age.**

**This was His reply:**

**READ: Matt.24:4-8 (PP: Slide 3)**

**It's hard to know exactly where these verses fit in to the prophetic plan. Certainly some of what we read can be seen in the events of the past century**

**• There have been many claiming to be CHRIST! (v5) (PP: Slide 4)**

- Sun Myung Moon
- Jim Jones
- David Koresh BRANCH DAVIDIAN
- Marshall Applewhite Heaven's Gate

**At least 21 'pretenders' over the last century have claimed to be Christ!**

- There have been WORLD WARS and a string of famines and earthquakes already v7

BUT, since Jesus said: “All these are the BEGINNINGS of sorrows” (v 8), it is possible that the main application of these verses comes in the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the tribulation period.

What we do know is that very soon after the RESTRAINER (the Holy Spirit working in the Church?) is taken out of the way, the ANTICHRIST will come to power and he will make a TREATY with Israel

**READ: Dan.9:27**

(“a covenant with many for one week”)

- Because of his power, this WORLD LEADER will protect Israel and even allow them to re-build their TEMPLE on Mount Moriah
- This must have an immediate impact on the Jews, for Paul tells us that the people will say, “PEACE AND SAFETY” [1 Thess 5:3].

So, this covenant marks the commencement of the time we refer to as the TRIBULATION period. **A DEFINITION:** (PP: Slide 5)

The TRIBULATION is a 7-year period upon the earth in which God pours out His judgment on unbelieving Gentiles and disobedient Israel

Let’s look at where the the TRIBULATION fits into a prophetic plan of End Times.

**PP: Prophetic Plan** (PP: Slides 6-10)

It may be helpful at this point to ask, (PP: slide 11) **WHY is there to be such a TIME on earth?**

The answer to that question has 3 parts:

1. **A time of RECKONING** and RETRIBUTION for SIN across the world

*(Isa 13:6-11) Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. [7] Therefore all hands will be limp, Every man's heart will melt, [8] And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of*

*them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames. [9] Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. [10] For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. [11] "I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.*

**BUT, as God's people, we take heart from this assurance given by JESUS**

*(Rev 3:10) "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*

**2. A time of TRIAL and PREPARATION for Israel to receive her MESSIAH**

*(Jer 30:2-7) "Thus speaks the LORD God of Israel, saying: 'Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you. [3] 'For behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,' says the LORD. 'And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.'" [4] Now these are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah. [5] "For thus says the LORD: 'We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. [6] Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, And all faces turned pale? [7] Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.*

3. **The time to BRING IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS** spoken of by Daniel

*(Dan 9:24) "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.*

So through TRIBULATION, God is working toward the fulfilment of His purposes, including judgement on all the WORLD, the restoration of the remnant of Israel, and the ushering in of RIGHTEOUSNESS upon the Earth.

**WHAT HAPPENS during the TRIBULATION?**

To understate it: "It's NOT GOOD!"

John introduces the 1<sup>st</sup> part to us with a scene of WORSHIP in HEAVEN!

**READ: Rev 5:1-5, 9-14**

NOTE:

- Jesus opens the SEALS
- He is the CENTRAL person of history
- The LAMB who was slain
- The KING of Kings
- THIS IS THE APPOINTED TIME

There are SEVEN SEALS:

**PP: Seven Seals** (PP: slide 12-13)

This time of Judgement seems largely addressed to Gentile nations.

*(Isa 26:20-21) Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past. [21] For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity...*

**AFTER 3½ YEARS** have passed and we reach the MID-POINT of this period, ANTICHRIST breaks his TREATY with Israel (Dan 9:27).

He now sets up an abomination in the TEMPLE and demands worship (2 Thess 2:4)

Jesus made direct reference to Daniel's prophecies in 9:27 and in 11:31 as He now warns Israel to flee what is coming!

**READ: Matt.24:15-16**

All HELL is starting to break loose!

Following the SEVEN SEALS are the SEVEN TRUMPETS, possibly about this time at the mid-point of the TRIBULATION period.

**SEVEN TRUMPETS:**

**READ: Rev 8:1-6**

**PP: 7 TRUMPETS** (PP: slide 14-15)

This is to be followed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> series of Judgments known as the 7 BOWL judgments (Rev 16) aimed at ANTICHRIST and his followers.

This is certainly going to be a terrible time on the earth with increasing devastation as man

moves towards the conclusion of the TRIBULATION PERIOD!

In His Matthew 24 warning to Israel to flee, Jesus continues:

**READ: Matt.24:17-22**

John is given revelation concerning the out-working of this escape. He speaks of Israel in symbolic terms as a woman...

**READ: Rev. 12:5-6** (PP: slide 16)

**Ray Yerbury speculates:** “During these terrible last days, Israel will flee across the Dead Sea into Jordan, or more specifically to the area known as Petra which is the ancient land of Edom. Petra today is a rock fortress located 200 km south of Amman, the capital of Jordan, and about 150 km south-east of Jerusalem. The area is a labyrinth of caves in one of the most mountainous areas on the Arabian Peninsula.

Apparently those who choose to flee the invading forces of the Antichrist surrounding Jerusalem

will be protected by God in this mountainous region (Rev.12:13-17)".

**Life for the rest of the Jews in that 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the tribulation will be horrific:**

*(Zec 13:8-9) "And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: [9] I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"*

Now, if we were to stop our study there, it would be a gloomy and depressing time indeed.

However, Rev 7 reveals that vast numbers will actually be saved during the TRIBULATION period, although most of them will be martyred for their faith.

**Question:** If the RESTRAINER (Holy Spirit) is "taken out of the way" (2 Thess 2:7) at the RAPTURE, how will people be saved?

**ANSWER:** The wording of this verse (in Thessalonians) does not suggest the HS is taken right away from the Earth, just *out of the way of the Antichrist coming to power!* THERE WILL BE PEOPLE SAVED IN THIS PERIOD and the HOLY SPIRIT must be involved!

We are told in **Rev 7:4**, of 144,000 Jews who will come to faith and witness to Jesus as Saviour. **Rev 11:3** tells us of TWO WITNESSES who will prophesy for 1260 days in Jerusalem and then we are told of "TRIBULATION SAINTS" – a great multitude of Gentiles, "... who come out of the great tribulation... (who) washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb" (Rev 7:9, 14)

Even further to that, we then read in **Rev** **14:6-7** of an... *“ANGEL flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth; to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people; [7] saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”*

Now, with the whole earth in turmoil, it would seem that some type of rebellion breaks out against ANTICHRIST. Armies gather to fight one another in a series of battles grouped together and referred to as “The Battle of ARMAGEDDON”.

As these armies gather to fight one other, the *“SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN”* spoken of by Jesus appears in the heavens (Matthew 24:30).

Now, with the realisation that Jesus Christ is about to return to earth, hostilities towards one another cease, and these armies unite against the Lord. The TRIBULATION period comes to an end with the **RETURN of CHRIST and His defeat of this huge army!** (PP: slide 17)

### **Why has God given us so much detail?**

(PP: slides 18-20)

1. **To warn us** that we must be watching and be ready for Christ’s imminent return for His people. **NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION!**
2. **There has** to be A PURGING OF THE EARTH to bring in everlasting righteousness
3. **I believe** He has given such detail so that those who find themselves in the tribulation period might know that God has already foretold it and as they see its fulfilment, they might **PLACE THEIR FAITH FULLY IN GOD.**

4. **No matter** how much Satan may try to control or destroy God's people, **HE IS ALREADY A DEFEATED FOE!**
5. **To remind** us in the midst of persecution and all that the world may throw against us, **JESUS WINS IN THE END!!**

<b>Rev 6:2</b>	<b>SEAL 1</b>	“White horse”	<b>CONQUEROR</b>	Antichrist conquering; establishing authority
<b>6:4</b>	<b>2</b>	“Red horse”	<b>WAR</b>	Open warfare everywhere
<b>6:5-6</b>	<b>3</b>	“Black horse”	<b>FAMINE</b>	Worldwide famine
<b>6:8</b>	<b>4</b>	“Pale horse”	<b>DEATH</b>	¼ of people die by sword, hunger, disease
<b>6:9</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>MARTYDOM</b>	Tribulation saints
<b>6:12-14</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>NATURE’S CONVULSIONS</b>	
NOTE: 6:16-17			Wrath of the lamb	
<b>8:1</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>SILENCE IN HEAVEN</b>	

<b>Rev</b> <b>8:7</b>	<b>TRUMPET</b> <b>1</b>	<b>1/3 VEGETATION DESTROYED</b>	hail / fire
<b>8:8-9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1/3 SEA DESTROYED</b>	meteor??
<b>8:10-11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1/3 FRESH WATERS POISONED</b>	meteor??
<b>8:12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1/3 SUN, MOON andSTARS DARKENED</b>	
<b>9:1-11</b>	<b>5</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> WOE</b>	<b>“LOCUSTS” from the pit TORMENT UNBELIEVERS</b>	demonic?
<b>9:14</b>	<b>6</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> WOE</b>	<b>ANGELS RELEASED</b>  <b>200,000,000 horsemen</b>  <b>1/3 MANKIND KILLED by PLAGUE</b>	
<b>11:15</b>	<b>7</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> WOE</b>	<b>Proclamation of Ultimate Victory, then MOST SEVERE of all tribulation about to be unleashed</b>	Christ is soon to come