



May 20, 2018

## The Great Tribulation and the Second Coming!

*Matthew 24:15-28*

This is part of the great Olivet Discourse in response to the disciples' questions in vs. 3.

- Some of the signs or “birth pangs” – vs. 8 (4-14).
- The Abomination of Desolation (get sermon from 2 weeks ago).

Now, from vs. 15-28, let's look at four things concerning the Great Tribulation (vs. 21) and our Lord's Second Coming (vs. 27).

1) Israel's Response to the setting up of the Abomination of Desolation – vs. 16-20.

- Let's ask the question – how do you live under the threat of a zero TOLERANCE policy? The answer is, “you don't, you run, you flee!”
- Revelation 13:15 – worship or die! Receive the mark of the beast, or die (vs. 16-17)!
- Read Matthew 24:16-20 ... the message? Flee, leave everything and go, if you want to live (vs. 16-18).
- And woe to the person who is hindered in doing that (vs. 19-20)!
- It's hard to communicate the sense of urgency in this passage.
- But, what a beautiful picture of the Gospel! Our sinful, wretched world is passing away, headed toward an awful conclusion, so flee to the Savior ... receive forgiveness of your sins ... become part of the winning side ... entrust your life to Christ!

2) The Ruination that will occur at that time – vs. 21-22.

- This will be a time unparalleled in human history! Some highlights ... read Revelation chapters 6-18; Zechariah 12-14.
- But the Tribulation IS NOT REALLY about the wrath of man (although there will be plenty). It is about the wrath of God, unleashed on a sinful, rebellious world, as Jesus take the title deed to the earth and breaks its 7 seals. The 7<sup>th</sup> seal results in the 7 trumpet judgments and the 7 final bowls of God's wrath, culminating in the slaughter at Armageddon, as we return to reign with Christ.
- This will all add up to be the worst time in the history of the world!
- Look at vs. 22.
- 2 ways to look at this verse.
- Duration – God only allows this to go on for 1,260 days, 3 ½ years.
- Any longer, all life would cease to exist, especially Israel, and those chosen (elect) of God, who are being severely persecuted.

- “No flesh would be saved”.
- Secondly, God shortens the actual daylight hours! Revelation 6:12-14, 8:12, 16:10.
- I believe both are appropriate. God is merciful, even in severe judgment with His own.

3) The Resolve it will take to STAY TRUE in that time – vs. 23-26.

- Christ warns Israel not to look for easy answers ... this will be a time of profound satanic activity and deception – false christs, false prophets, real (but false) miracles – so as to mislead if possible (but it’s not) even the elect. Satan’s alternatives will be that compelling! Even as it is today!
- How do we know all these christs, prophets and signs are phonies?

4) The Return of Christ! – vs. 27-28.

- Listen to Zechariah 14:1-5.
- Listen to Revelation 19:11-21.

When He returns, there will be no guesswork! It will be in great glory and splendor! No mistaking that day!

Are we ready?

### ***Suggested Devotional Reading***

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- Monday:** Read Revelation 1-3  
**Tuesday:** Read Revelation 4-6  
**Wednesday:** Read Revelation 7-10  
**Thursday:** Read Revelation 11-15  
**Friday:** Read Revelation 16-18  
**Saturday:** Read Revelation 19-21

### **TABLE TALK**

Read Revelation 19 through 21 in their God-given context. The harlot is judged (19:1-6), the marriage of the Lamb takes place (vs. 7-10), we return with Christ (vs. 11-16), Armageddon (vs. 17-21), Satan chained for 1,000 years (20:1-3), the millennium (20:4-6), a brief rebellion (20:7-10), the great white throne judgment (20:11-15), the new heavens and earth (C. 21 & 22). It’s all there, just as God intended! Revelation 1:3, 22:7.