

Matthew 24:3-11 ³ *And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?* ⁴ *And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.* ⁵ *For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.* ⁶ *And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.* ⁷ *For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places.* ⁸ *All these are the beginning of sorrows.* ⁹ *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.* ¹⁰ *And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.* ¹¹ *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

I. Introduction (Mt 24:1-2)

- A. Context: last time Jesus visited the temple
- B. Jesus knew that he was going to the cross
- C. His disciples still did not understand that he was going to die
- D. His disciples were in awe of the beauty of the temple building
- E. And Jesus predicts that in the future not one stone will be left standing on top of each other
- F. They all come to top of Mount of Olives
- G. His disciples had all kinds of questions for Him

II. The Period of the Tribulation

A. Description of this Period

- 1. 70th week of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27)
 - a. This prophecy given to Israel (not the church)
 - b. Timeline begins when 2nd temple rebuilding starts (book of Nehemiah)
 - c. Word “weeks” means groups of “sevens”
 - d. Messiah cut off (dies) at the end of “69 weeks” or 483 years
 - e. Last set of seven = last 7 years of prophecy of Israel (book of Revelation)
 - f. What about the time period between Messiah’s death & the book of Revelation?
 - The mystery (hidden secret) of Christ – the predominant Gentile church (Eph 2:19-20, 3:4-6, 3:9-10, 4:4, 4:11-12, 4:16)
- 2. God has not appointed the church to God’s wrath (1 Thessalonian 5:9-10)

3. God protects church from Hour of Temptation (Revelation 3:10)
4. Israel scattered to all the nations of the earth. Then Jerusalem walked upon by Gentiles until end of the times of the Gentiles (Luke 21:24)
 - a. Dome of the Rock continues on Temple Mount to this day
5. Time of Jacob's Trouble – the worst time in Israel's future history (Jeremiah 30:7)
6. Midpoint of Tribulation (middle of 7 years) (Matthew 24:29)

B. Divisions of this Period

1. Count of days or months based on 360-day calendar (Jewish calendar)
2. Last 3-1/2 years called the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21)
3. Day of Christ comes first, then Son of Perdition revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:2-4)
4. Israel will make treaty with Antichrist to rebuild temple during Tribulation period similar to 2nd temple (Matthew 24:15)
5. Power behind Antichrist the false Messiah is the Great Dragon also known as the Old Serpent or the Devil or Satan (Revelation 12:9, 12)
6. Antichrist will suffer deadly head wound, but he will survive. He will be worshipped as a god (Revelation 13:3-4)
7. Antichrist (false Messiah) will break treaty with Israel, He will prevent any animal sacrifices (Daniel 9:27)
8. Abomination of Desolation standing in the Holy of Holies (Matthew 24:21)
9. Last half of Tribulation counted as 42 months or 3-1/2 years (Revelation 13:5)

III. Progression of the Tribulation

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3: ² *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.* 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.*

A. Deception of Satan

1. The whole world will worship the Antichrist Beast (Revelation 13:4, 6)
 - a. They will ultimately give worship to the dragon (Satan/Devil)
 - b. Satan & Antichrist will blaspheme God, His name, & those who live in heaven
 - c. There will lies based on deceptions

B. . Destruction by God's Judgement

1. Book of Revelation (chapters 6-19) describe God's judgements during the Tribulation on earth (7 seals, 7 trumpets, & 7 bowls)
2. Judgements before the Tribulation (Matthew 24:6)
 - a. Greater frequency of self-imposed disasters or natural disasters
 - b. Wars & rumors of wars

- c. Nations & kingdoms against each other
- d. But the end has not yet arrived
- 3. Progressions (Matthew 24:7)
 - a. War
 - b. Famine following drop in food production
 - c. Pestilences/epidemics/pandemics arising out of malnutrition
 - d. Illness & death with drop in population
- 4. Some judgements in first half of Tribulation
 - a. Second Seal of red horse: world-wide war across the earth – Antichrist Beast in Europe, False Prophet in Middle East, & Kings of the North (Russia), East (China-India), & South (Africa) - Revelation 6:3-4
 - b. Third seal of black horse: Extreme food scarcity (Revelation 6:5-6)
 - One day's wage for one day food supply
 - But the wealthy food supplies unaffected in world economy
 - c. Fourth seal of pale horse: death by various means (Rev 6:7-8)
 - By the sword (murder) or by war
 - By hunger & malnutrition
 - Killed by animals (animal predators extremely hungry)
 - d. First trumpet judgement: 1/3 of all vegetation burned up (Revelation 8:7)
 - e. Second trumpet judgement: extreme marine disaster (Revelation 8:8-9)
 - 1/3 of world-wide oceans became blood
 - 1/3 part of marine life died
 - 1/3 part of ships destroyed
 - f. Third trumpet judgement: 1/3 of all fresh water becomes bitter (Revelation 8:10-11)
 - a. Fresh water too contaminated for people to drink
 - b. Many people die
 - g. Fourth trumpet judgement: solar radiation reduced by 1/3 across all galaxies (Revelation 8:12-13)
 - h. Fifth trumpet judgement: locusts with stingers from bottomless pit (Revelation 9:1-12)
 - Power to torment humans for 5 months
 - No death possible during this tormented time
- 5. Midpoint in Tribulation period
 - a. Jerusalem outside temple walls given to the Gentiles for another 42 months (Revelation 11:1-2)
 - Time of the Gentiles conclude at the end of the Tribulation
 - b. Two witnesses (Revelation 11:3-14)
 - Prophesied previous 1260 days (42 months or 3-1/2 years)
 - Killed by Antichrist beast
 - But resurrected by God
- 6. Second half of Tribulation period
 - a. First bowl (vial) judgement: foul smelling sours (Revelation 16:2)

- b. Second bowl judgement: all oceans turned to blood & all marine life die off (Revelation 16:3)
- c. Third bowl judgement: all fresh water turned into blood (Revelation 16:4-7)
- d. Fourth bowl judgement: sun overheated scorching human on earth with blisters & sores (Revelation 16:8-9)
- e. Fifth bowl judgement: full total darkness on Antichrist's capitol city & regions (Revelation 9:16:10-11)
 - Humans gnawed their tongues from the pain of their blisters & sores
- f. Sixth bowl judgement: coming to the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:12-16)
 - 3 unclean spirits out of the mouth of the dragon, the Antichrist Beast, & the False Prophet
 - River Euphrates dried up
 - Demon spirits to bring all humanity together into land of Israel for the Great Day of God Almighty

IV. Purpose of the Tribulation

A. As It Relates to Israel

1. Release Israel from Gentile control (Jeremiah 30:7-9)
2. To refine Israel to call on Messiah's name (Zechariah 13:8-9)
 - a. Only 30% of Jews will survive Tribulation period
 - b. God has a purpose for every trial
3. To renew Israel (Isaiah 59:19-20, Romans 11:25-27)
 - a. Israel partially blind until fullness of the Gentiles has finished
 - b. Redeemer Deliverer will come to Zion (Jerusalem)
 - c. God will forgive their sins

B. As It Relates to the Nations

1. Warning to predominant Gentile church (Romans 11:21-22)
 - a. God may choose to not spare the Gentile church
 - b. Continue in God's goodness
 - c. If not, you will be cut off
2. Retribution to the nations (Psalm 2:1-2, 2:6-9)
 - a. Nations angry & conspire against God & His anointed Son
 - b. Lawless One only revealed after Holy Spirit removed from earth (2 Thessalonians 2:6-9)
 - c. Humans will not repent from their sins (Revelation 9:20-21)
 - d. God declares that He will give His Son the nations for His inheritance
3. Repentance of the people (Revelation 6:9-11, 7:9, 7:13-16)
 - a. Multitudes of saints saved early in the 7-year Tribulation period & killed for their testimony & faith