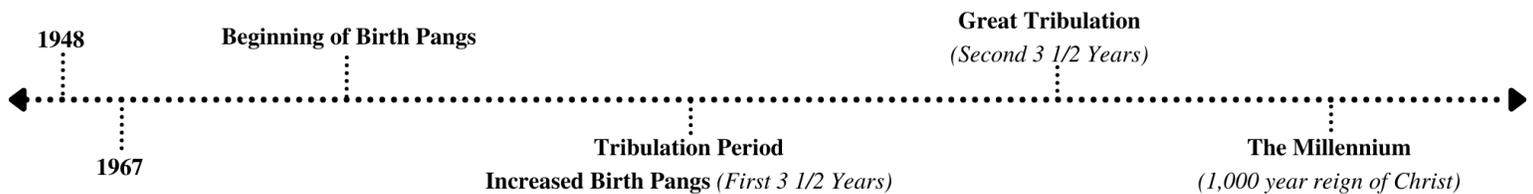


The Great Tribulation (The Second 3 ½ Years)

I. Review

- a. The Bible categorizes 4 main distinct time frames or “seasons” related to the end times. The last 7 years of this age is made up of 2 distinct time periods that each last 3 ½ years. Each season has signs that serve as indicators of that time period.



1. **The Beginning of Birth Pangs (The Beginning of Sorrows)** – Takes place over several decades.
2. **Tribulation, The Increased Birth Pangs (The First 3 1/2 Years)** – Counterfeit world peace & safety
3. **Great Tribulation (The Second 3 1/2 Years)** - Unprecedented Destruction
4. **The Millennium (1,000 year reign of Christ)**

- b. In our last session we talked about how during the “Increased Birth Pangs”, the Harlot Babylon religious system and the Antichrist will enter in to the global crisis and initiate a season of false peace and safety. Despite the false promises of peace, the praying Church will not be deceived, and because of that, will experience a dramatic season of persecution. Though the Church will be hated, persecuted, and killed, those who know their God will be strong and take action as an overcoming bride instructing many, while enduring to the end.

II. The Great Tribulation

(Matthew 24:15, 21 NASB), “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place—let the reader understand... 21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will again.”

- a. Jesus is the one who first used the term, “Great Tribulation” to describe the second half (3 ½ years) of Daniel’s 70th week. This period of time is initiated when the Antichrist stands in the Temple and openly declares that he is God (*The Abomination of Desolation*). This period of time is also referred to as “Jacob’s trouble” (*Jeremiah 30:7*). It is also referred to by its duration (*Daniel 7:25; Revelation 11:2-3*). During these final 3 ½ years in this age, great trouble will be released across the earth and billions will lose their lives. It will be the *greatest tribulation* the world has ever seen, or ever will see.
1. Daniel’s 70th week (Daniel 9:24-27) – In Daniel’s day a week could refer to a period of 7 days or a period of 7 Years. Daniel’s 70th week is a period of time that refers to the final 7 years of this age (Which is divided into two parts; the first 3 ½ years we call “The Increased Birth Pangs”, and the second 3 ½ years we call “The Great Tribulation”).
 2. The Abomination of Desolation – The Antichrist will declare that he is God by setting up his image, or idol, in the temple in Jerusalem. This is *an important sign event that indicates we are entering the final 3 ½ years of this age (Daniel 8:13; 9:26-27; 11:31; 12:11; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 13:12-18).*

- i. It's an abomination because the antichrist will defile the temple, break his covenant with Israel, and demand worship from the nations (and many will respond to this demand without hesitation).

(Daniel 9:27 NASB), "And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week [7 years], but in the middle of the week [3 ½ years] he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate."

(Isaiah 28:14-15,18 NASB), "Therefore, hear the word of the Lord, you scoffers, Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem (leaders of end-time Israel), 15 Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we have made a pact. The gushing flood [of the Antichrist] will not reach us when it passes by, Because we have made falsehood our refuge and we have concealed ourselves with deception..." 18 Your covenant with death will be canceled [The Antichrist will betray his covenant], And your pact with Sheol will not stand; When the gushing flood passes through, Then you will become its trampling ground."

- ii. The desolation can be found in two primary ways: 1) those who do not worship the antichrist will be persecuted and/or killed. 2) When Jesus returns He will violently overthrow the Antichrist and bring end to him and his world empire.

b. The pressure that arises in the Great Tribulation will come from 4 main factors at hand:

1. God's judgment against the rebellious
2. Satan, & the Antichrist's rage as they persecute the Israel & the Global Church.
3. Man's sin toward one another
4. Creation's grown through natural disasters

c. The main purposes of the Great Tribulation:

1. God will purify His people through affliction and the spotless bride will make herself ready.

(Daniel 11:35 NASB), "And some of those who have insight will fall, to refine, purge, and cleanse them until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time."

(Daniel 12:10 NASB), "Many will be purged, cleansed, and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand."

(Revelation 19:7-8 NASB), "Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself." 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."

2. Bring in a great harvest of souls (including the salvation of Israel).

(Acts 2:17, 21 NASB), "'And it shall be in the last days,' God says, 'That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind...21 And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

(Matthew 24:14 NASB), "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."

(Revelation 7:9-10 NASB), "A great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all the tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands..."

(Romans 11:26 NASB), “and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written: “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.” 27 “This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.”

3. Vindicate the righteous while exposing the apostate within the Church.

(Luke 18:7-8 NASB), “Now, will God not bring about justice for His elect who cry out to Him day and night, and will He delay long for them? 8 I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”

(2 Thessalonians 1:5-7 NASB), “This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you indeed are suffering. 6 For after all it is only right for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted, along with us, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels”

(Matthew 24:24 NASB), “For false christs and false prophets will arise and will provide great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.”

(2 Thessalonians 2:3 NASB), “No one is to deceive you in any way! For it [The return of the Lord] will not come unless the apostasy comes first...”

4. A demonstration of God’s sovereign power as he protects the saints in the midst of the shaking.

(Daniel 12:1 NASB), “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.”

(Romans 9:16-18 NASB), “So then, it does not depend on the person who wants it nor the one who runs, but on God who has mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very reason I raised you up, in order to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the earth.” 18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.”

(John 17:14-15 NASB), “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I am not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them away from the evil one.”

(Exodus 8:22 NASB), “But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living, so that no swarms of flies will be there, in order that you may know that I, the Lord, am in the midst of the land.”

5. An expression of God’s justice as he rightly judges sin and those who rebel against him.

(Revelation 19:2 NASB), “Because His judgments are true and righteous...”

(Isaiah 26:9, 21 NASB), “...For when the earth experiences Your judgments, The inhabitants of the world learn righteousness... 21 For behold, the Lord is about to come out from His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their wrongdoing; And the earth will reveal her bloodshed And will no longer cover her slain.”

(2 Thessalonians 1:8 NASB), “...dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”

6. The means to purge the earth before the millennial kingdom.

(Zechariah 13:2 NASB), “And it will come about on that day,” declares the Lord of armies, “that I will eliminate the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered; and I will also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land.”

III. Understanding The End-Time Judgments of God Rightly

- a. We can not view the Great Tribulation outside of God's principle related to His judgments: *He will use the least severe means to bring in the most amount of people to the deepest level of His love, without violating free will.* His judgments are a true and righteous (**Revelation 19:2**) acts of His mercy and love toward His people. God is slow to anger, abounding in mercy (**Psalms 103:8**), and desires that none shall perish (**2 Peter 3:9**). He will have His bride and she will be radiant and dressed in white (righteousness). The redemptive purpose of His judgments are to bring about righteousness in the earth.

(Isaiah 26:9 NASB), "...For when the earth experiences Your judgments, The inhabitants of the world learn righteousness"

- b. The main signs of the Great Tribulation are chronicled in the book of Revelation. During these final 3 ½ years we will see a 21 judgment series released by God; 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, & 7 Bowls (These are all future events):

7 Seal Judgments

1. White Horse (**Revelation 6:1-2**): Antichrist's political aggression as he's revealed as a man of lawlessness.
2. Red Horse (**Revelation 6:3-4**): A final world war and global bloodshed.
3. Black Horse (**Revelation 6:5-6**): Global famine and economic crisis.
4. Pale Horse (**Revelation 6:7-8**): Death To ¼ of the earth's population due to war, famine, plague, and wild beasts.
5. The Martyrs Cry Out (**Revelation 6:9-11**): The heavenly prayer movement of martyrs strengthens the praying church on earth.
6. The Outpouring of the Spirit & Cosmic Disturbances (**Revelation 6:12-17**): Signs in the sky and on the earth as the Joel 2 outpouring is fully released.
7. Prayer Movement Strengthened By Angels (**Revelation 8:1-6**): Fire from the altar is hurled to the earth giving power and authority from heaven to the Church as they prepare to partner with Jesus to loose the 7 trumpets.

7 Trumpet Judgments

1. Hail, fire, & blood (**Revelation 8:7**): Burning 1/3 of the Earth's vegetation and destroying the food supply.
2. Something like a great mountain burning with fire (**Revelation 8:8-9**): 1/3 of the sea becomes blood, 1/3 of the living creatures in the sea die, and 1/3 of the ships are destroyed. Food supply and sea trade severely damaged.
3. Wormwood, A great burning star from heaven (**Revelation 8:10-11**): 1/3 of the earth's fresh water is poisoned.
4. Darkening 1/3 of the light (**Revelation 8:12**): 1/3 of the Sun, moon, and stars go dark. Harming the natural energy supply.
5. Torment by demonic locusts (**Revelation 9:1-12**): Demonic locusts sting/torment men who don't have the seal of God on their foreheads for 5 months.
6. Death by 200 million demonic horsemen (**Revelation 9:13-21**): These horsemen kill 1/3 of the earth's population
7. Rapture and Jesus' 2nd Coming Procession (**Revelation 11:15-19**): Jesus, along with the angels, and resurrected saints begin to march and destroy the nations that oppose Him. The mystery of God in the Church is complete at the 7th/final trumpet (**Revelation 10:7**).

7 Bowls of God's Wrath

1. Loathsome and malignant sores (***Revelation 16:1-2***): These painful sores will come upon those who worship the beast and take his mark.
2. The sea turns to blood (***Revelation 16:3***): Every living thing in the sea dies
3. Poisoning the rest of the water supply (***Revelation 16:4-7***): Rivers and springs become blood – this judgment is directly related to the killing of the saints.
4. Scorching heat and fire from the sun (***Revelation 16:8-9***): Fire from the sun scorches mankind and they still don't repent
5. Darkness (***Revelation 16:10-11***): Deep darkness will be poured out on the Antichrist's global empire.
6. Demons lure the nations to Armageddon (***Revelation 16:12-16***): The Euphrates river dries up, preparing the way to Armageddon. Demonic beings lure the nations by performing signs.
7. Babylon's Demise and Earth Annihilation (***Revelation 16:17-21***): The greatest earthquake ever with lightning, thunder, and 100-pound hailstones, dismantle the earth.
 - c. **A common stumbling block related to God's judgments** – People are often confused when they learn that believers will be on the earth during the great tribulation not secretly raptured before hand. This confusion is often the result of a misunderstanding of God's judgments.

1. This pattern of thought is often developed out of a misunderstanding of a few bible passages that are actually referring to different matters (***1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9***). The context of these scriptures proves that Paul is not referring to the "Great Tribulation" as God's wrath. The "wrath" Paul is referring to in 1 Thessalonians is the eternal destruction for the unsaved. Paul's audience would not have been able to ignore the context of his letter and flip to the book of Revelation (It hadn't been written yet) to determine God's wrath was the Great Tribulation.
2. The bottom line is God's judgments are not released as a punishment, but as a redemptive act of mercy. We must lay hold of two foundational realities pertaining to God's wrath and the Great Tribulation: 1) *The wrath of God is reserved for the unrighteous that reject the God, not the saints.* 2) *The end of the age judgment series is directed at the antichrist empire and those receive his mark, not the saints (God is able to both judge the wicked and protect the righteous at the same time, just as he has done all throughout scripture).* The main "tribulation" that the Church will experience, in great measure, comes from the antichrist's response to God's judgments on him and his empire.

(Romans 1:18 NASB), "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness."

(Revelation 13:7 NASB), "It was also given to him [antichrist] to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority was given to him over every tribe, people, language, and nation."

IV. Introducing Cities of Refuge

- a. People often ask, "How could God let His church go through such a time?" The answer to that question is, God will sovereignly and supernaturally protect and provide for the church in cities of refuge as he did for the Israelite in the land of Goshen. The Church will walk in the greatest power and victory she ever has. God will sustain believers in the midst of the shaking.

(Exodus 8:22-23 NASB), “But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living, so that no swarms of flies will be there, in order that you may know that I, the Lord, am in the midst of the land. 23 I will put a division between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign will occur.”

(Exodus 9:4-7 NASB), “But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing will die of all that belongs to the sons of Israel.” 5 ...“Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.” 6 So the Lord did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but not one of the livestock of the sons of Israel died. 7 And Pharaoh sent men, and they learned that, behold, not even one of the livestock of Israel was dead.”

(Exodus 9:24-26 NASB), “So there was hail, and fire flashing intermittently in the midst of the hail, which was very heavy, such as had not occurred in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. 25 The hail struck everything that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, from people to animals; the hail also struck every plant of the field, and shattered every tree of the field. 26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel were, was there no hail.”

(Exodus 10:21-23 NASB), “Then the Lord said to Moses, “Reach out with your hand toward the sky, so that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even a darkness which may be felt.” 22 So Moses reached out with his hand toward the sky, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. 23 They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the sons of Israel had light in their dwellings.”

(Revelation 7:3 NASB), “...Do not harm the earth, or the sea, or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”

(Revelation 9:3-4 NASB), “Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.”

- b. The global house of prayer will be an eschatological ark of safety in the coming storm. Just like He did for Noah, God will sovereignly protect and supernaturally provide for the praying church in the days to come while the earth goes through the unprecedented shaking. God will give the praying church divine forewarning and divine blueprints to thrive in the hour of shaking. Psalm 91 talks about those who “dwell in the shelter of the Most High (That’s the house of prayer)”, having security in the hour of shaking. This is why God is raising up the house of prayer all throughout the nations. In cities where there are house of prayer (the praying church), I believe many of them will exist as pockets of mercy in the end-time shaking.

(Psalm 91:1-16 NASB), “One who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will lodge in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!” 3 For it is He who rescues you from the net of the trapper And from the deadly plague. 4 He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you may take refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and wall. 5 You will not be afraid of the terror by night, Or of the arrow that flies by day; 6 Of the plague that stalks in darkness, Or of the destruction that devastates at noon. 7 A thousand may fall at your side And ten thousand at your right hand, But it shall not approach you. 8 You will only look on with your eyes And see the retaliation against the wicked. 9 For you have made the Lord, my refuge, The Most High, your dwelling place. 10 No evil will happen to you, Nor will any plague come near your tent. 11 For He will give His angels orders concerning you, To protect you in all your ways. 12 On their hands they will lift you up, So that you do not strike your foot against a stone. 13 You will walk upon the lion and cobra, You will trample the young lion and the serpent. 14 “Because he has loved Me, I will save him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name. 15 He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. 16 I will satisfy him with a long life, And show him My salvation.”

(1 Peter 4:7 NASB), “The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.”

Questions For Discussion:

- 1) How has this teaching helped you better understand God's end time judgments?
- 2) Which of the 21 judgments (out of the 7 seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls) sticks out to you the most? Why?
- 3) What is something in the teaching that stuck out to you tonight?