

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Destruction of Jerusalem and The 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ, Part 4

Last times...after Jesus leaves the Temple for the last time, v1-3

A very important prophesy regarding the days before He returns to earth (2nd Coming)

First, “the beginning of sorrows” (Matt 24:4-8), which is a period of time

- set in motion by the fulfillment of God’s 2nd sign of judgment (Is 11:11-12, to Israel and the nations, fulfilled on May 14, 1948),
- of unspecified length
- characterized by intense spiritual deception

Second, “The Tribulation” (Matt 24:9-14), the 1st Half of Jacob’s Trouble

- Israel will have “Most Hated Nation” status during the ministry of God’s 2 Witnesses in Jerusalem
- more deception
- love will fade on earth after the Church, restraining evil in the world now, is snatched off the earth to meet Jesus in the clouds

Third, “The Abomination of Desolation” (Matt 24:15-20), the mid-point of

Jacob’s Trouble/70th Week of Daniel
(whoso reads, let him understand)

The Lord Jesus Christ expects His disciples to
understand Scripture interprets Scripture
Acts 17:11

The “pieces of the puzzle” are in 66 books

Note: Listen to the previously recorded messages if here for the first time
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This time...”Great Tribulation” (Matt 24:21-31)

Matt 24:21-31

v21 For then shall be great tribulation:

For...the reason the urgent warning to flee in v16-20

then...a marker/division of time as in v9 (“Tribulation” of v9-14) after v4-8
 (“beginning of sorrows”)

great tribulation...not just tribulation but “mega” tribulation/trouble
(different than v9-14)

Following the Abomination of Desolation (v15) is the 2nd Half of Jacob's Trouble/70th Week of Daniel, a period of time unique in the history of the world, which would include the Flood, a worldwide judgment

A time unparalleled in the history of the universe, the creation

Man living on earth in those days will have no historical reference point with which to compare their "living conditions"

- we have no point of reference to understand
- they will have no point of reference
- all man has is...the prophetic Word of God

The very worst time EVER for man on the earth
Worse than the 1st Half of Jacob's Trouble

- 50% mankind killed by war, famine, disease, beasts, demons (Rev 6:1-8, Rev 9:14-19)
- 1/3 of plant life dies (Rev 8:7)
- 1/3 sea life dies (Rev 8:8-9)
- 1/3 fresh water poisoned (Rev 8:10-12)
- 1/3 less light from sun moon and stars (Rev 8:12)

Great Tribulation will be a time of unmitigated wrath/fury

- of Satan [Rev 12:7-17] esp. on believers
 - of the Creator God [Rev 15:5 – 16:21] on unbelievers
- 7 Bowls of the Wrath of God

v22 those days should be shortened...for the elect's sake:

If those days last longer than 3½ years, no human will survive

Note: "saved" is as our brother Bob was "saved" several years ago

But, for the elect's sake, those days are shortened, therefore some humans will survive this (2nd) worldwide judgment of God on mankind

Q: Who are "the elect"?

Israel (Rom 2:28-29), the believing Jews, His "Jacob's Trouble disciples"

Ezk 20:33-44 God will pass Israel under the rod (Shepherd's) and purge the rebels

Zech 13:8-9 Israel refined as silver and gold in Great Tribulation 2/3 will perish and 1/3 will call on name of the Lord (Jesus) their God

Consider...

- The Church is already in heaven, snatched off the earth before
- Daniel was a prophet to the Jews (Dan 9:24-25, 27)
- Jeremiah was a prophet to the Jews (Jer 30:7)
- The Abomination of Desolation is in a Jewish Temple and a great offense to Jews
- Those subsequently commanded to flee are in Judea/Israel
- Sabbath was given to Israel, not to the Gentiles

Why does God curtail these days?

Because He is faithful to the promises of AI&J...

their seed will receive His promises, He will make good His Word to them
This period of time is shortened for the elect's sake, whom Jesus now addresses

v23-25 here...there...false...if it were possible:

Deception in the "beginning of sorrows"

Deception in the "Tribulation"

Deception in the "Abomination of Desolation"

Now, in the Great Tribulation, the slanderer/deceiver/destroyer pulls out all the stops (Rev 13)

There will be VERY convincing

- false Christ (*pseudochristos*, singular)...Antichrist, the "Christ" of the Abomination of Desolation
- false prophets...imposters speaking lies, one in particular Rev 16:13
- great/"mega" signs and wonders...lying miracles

Rev 16:13-14 three unclean spirits working miracles to gather the kings of the world to battle against God Almighty

2 Thes 2:3-12 Divine assistance, hard hearts hardened by God as satan the dragon works frantically and furiously to

- steal, kill, and destroy all men, especially believers in True Christ
- accomplish his lust

Is 14:12-14 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

- deceive the Jews, esp the faithful remnant who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev 12:17) being preserved/protected by God

Violence and deception will now be of greater intensity than any other time on earth...for satan knows his time is short

So deceiving that “even the elect” would be deceived, if that were possible
“Here is Christ!” (*christos*, singular)
“There is Christ!”

Jesus tells His own, these “Jacob’s Trouble disciples” to not believe any false witness regarding the Messiah...believe Him and His Word

His Word

- is Truth, absolute and unchanging
- exposes all lies, no matter how convincing
- transcends time, foretelling things that will happen in the future

The elect will **not** be deceived

Rev 12:11 they will overcome satan by the blood of the Lamb
and by the Word of their testimony

Rev 14:12 that keep the commandments of God and the faith of
Jesus

The Word of God will be their Final Authority unto eternal life

With words (v26-28) recorded only in Matthew (written to the Jews), Jesus in advance gives to His “Jacob’s Trouble disciples” a certain testimony of His coming

v26-27 Wherefore if they shall say to you...believe it not:

If/When any one says to you,

“Christ is in the desert!”,

don’t go looking because I’m not going to be there.

“Christ is in the secret chambers! (of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem)”, don’t believe it because I will not be there.

I will not be on earth in those days of Great Tribulation, but I am coming!
And you WILL see Me when I come!

as the lightning...”glare”, “bright shining”, “light” (Luke 11:36)
comes out of the east...sunrise
shines even unto the west...sunset

What “glare”, “bright shining”, “light” does that?
The sun

So will The Morning Star, Jesus Christ, when He returns to earth Mal 4 Sun of Righteousness after 2 Witnesses

Rev 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star

Lucifer, the son of the morning (Is 14:12), the counterfeit christ, the *pseudochristos* (v24) will NOT so come

Jesus Christ's 2nd Coming to earth (Luke 17:22-25) will **NOT** be clandestine!

Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see

him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.

v28 carcase...eagles:

When Jesus Christ returns to earth, His mission is

- to end the war declared on Him by satan's False Trinity
- to destroy His enemies...all unbelievers worldwide following satan
- to judge the world

Jude 14-15 Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

He will Personally confront the armies surrounding Jerusalem and destroy them in the Valley of Armageddon (Rev 16:16)

Rev 14:14-20

John's vision of the Battle

Rev 19:11-21

real time

There will be a lot of corpses!

The Lord will send His Sanitary Dept to clean up the mess...meat-eating birds

v29 Immediately after the tribulation...sun...moon...stars:

At the end of the Great Tribulation, before King Jesus returns to earth,

- the sun will be further darkened
- the moon will not reflect the sun's light
- the stars will fall from heaven..."fail" more, be turned off as the Creator pulls back the curtain (Ps 104:2, Rev 6:12-14)
- the powers of heaven will be shaken...waver, topple

Matt 27:45 before "It is finished!" is a "shadow" of what will happen before "It is done!" (Rev 16:17)

On earth, all hell is NOT breaking loose, all Heaven is breaking loose!
At the end of the Great Tribulation and before Jesus leaves heaven to come
to earth, there will be radical changes in the heavens!
Lights to govern the day and the night are failing so that darkness is
the backdrop of...

v30 then shall appear the sign:

So that every eye on this globe will see the revelation of Jesus Christ,
the Light of the world, coming from heaven to earth

The answer to the disciples' question in v3b:

The glory of God is going burst upon a darkened universe!

Ps 104:1-2 Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very
great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who
coverest *thyself* with light as *with* a garment: who
stretchest out the heavens like a curtain

At the end of Jacob's Trouble/DoL/70th Week/Great Tribulation will
be the revelation of Jesus Christ, Kok and Lol

And the inhabitants of the world will...mourn, not rejoice

John 3:19-20 *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the
world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because
their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth
the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should
be reprov'd*

Acts 1:9-11 will be terrifying to the inhabitants of the earth

v31 send His angels:

With a great/mega blast of a trumpet (used to assemble or to march to war)
the Lord of all will dispatch His angels to gather/harvest His elect on
the threshing floor (the earth)

Matt 3:11-12 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh
after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear:
he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire: Whose fan
is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his
wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with
unquenchable fire

The angels will harvest the wheat from among the
tares Matt 13:24-30, 36-43

Matt 15:13 Every plant which My Heavenly Father has not planted
shall be rooted up

His elect...
the believing Jews, the Jacob's Trouble disciples, that survived
the Great Tribulation,
not His Bride who has returned to earth with Him...
will be gathered from the 4 quarters of the (radically re-configured) earth

The parallel passages in Mark 13 and Luke 21...we will cover next week

Application

Believer

Fear not, our God is in complete control

1 Thes 1:9-10 Jesus has delivered us from the wrath to come

1 Thes 5:9 not appointed to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ

Rom 5:9 justified by His blood, saved from wrath thru Him

Rev 1:1-6

Matt 24:15b

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth
not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth

Context

Scripture interprets Scripture

1 Peter 3:12-15 For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open*
unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do
evil. And who *is* he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that
which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy
are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But
sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give*
an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that
is in you with meekness and fear

Unbeliever

Matt 16:24-27

Accept Jesus Christ's invitation to come to Him, the only Refuge from the wrath of God