

END TIME SERIES

LESSON #2

LAST WEEK – RAPTURE

1. Before the Wrath of God is poured out on the wicked world. The Lord will return to catch His church away.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

2. The Anti-Christ can not come into full power until the restraining force; The Church is removed by the Rapture.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: **only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.**

2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2Th 2:9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

(Trans) But its activities are restricted until what I have called the “RESTRAINING POWER” is removed. (Phi)

(Trans) At present there is a power (you know what I mean) which holds him in check, so he may not shew himself before the time appointed to him (Knox)

THE TRIBULATION PERIOD

The Three Main reasons for the Tribulation:

1. To bring Israel to its knees to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
2. To Judge the Wicked
3. To bring all nations around Israel to Judge them.

A TIME OF TROUBLE

1. After the catching away of the church to be with the Lord in the air, the earth will experience “a time of trouble such as was not since the beginning of the world, nor ever shall be...”

Mat 24:19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

Mat 24:20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Dan 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

2. **Man of Sin Revealed:** During this period called the Tribulation, there will arise from the Revised Roman Empire, a man that will be called the Anti-Christ. Who will influence the affairs of the entire world.

Rev 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

Rev 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

DIFINITION OF THE WORD TRIBULATION

1. **The word “tribulation” comes from the Latin word “Tribulum,”** which means a flail, and instrument used in beating out the grains of wheat from the chaff. God is going to beat out sin and judge this Christ-rejecting world. This period is know as the “Great Tribulation,” which is reserved for the end time judgment to this world.
2. **This word, also, mean “To Press” (as grapes),** and refers to times of oppression, affliction and distress. The word is translated variously as “Tribulation”, “Affliction”, “Anguish”, “Persecution”, “Trouble” & “Burden.”

TRIBULATION FALLS INTO TWO CATEGORIES

1. A time of testing, trials, and suffering even unto martyrdom for the Church.
2. A definite Period of time, (Seven years in duration), at the end of this age. After the Rapture of the Church and proceeds the visible return of the Lord at Armageddon. It is referred to as “Time of Jacob’s Trouble”; “The Great Day of His Wrath”; “The Great Tribulation;” and Etc.

Jer 30:7 Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: it *is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

Rev 6:17 For the great day of his wrath *is* come; and who shall be able to stand?

FIRST CATEGORY – THE CHURCH

1. **Jesus used the word “tribulation” in reference to the Churches time of Test, Trials, and persecution.**

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Mat 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but endureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

2. The strait and narrow (Tribulatory way...) :

Mat 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

3. **Paul exhorted the church to expect afflictions and tribulations:**

Act 14:21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

Act 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

4. **Tribulations cannot separate one from Christ’s Love:**

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rom 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Rom 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Rom 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5. **It is only for a moment, soon to bring glory:**

2Co 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

6. **Paul endured much affliction and tribulation because of the gospel:**

2Co 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

2Co 4:8 *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair;

2Co 4:9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

2Co 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

THE SECOND CATEGORY OF TRIBULATION

1. **The second category of this term, “tribulation,”** is a brief period of terrible judgments which will come upon this Christ-rejecting world between the Dispensation of the church and the Dispensation of the Kingdom Age.
2. **This period is designated as the time for the purification of Israel.** God will once more deal with them as a people, and eventually as a nation. The Gentile nations will be directly affected by this same judgment.
3. The church, however, will be gone during this time. Caught up to heaven to be with Jesus...God has not appointed the church unto this wrath...(1 Thess. 5:9).

1Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

THE FACT OF THE TRIBULATION

1. The time of Jacob's Trouble: (Jer. 30:4-7).
2. The passing under the rod: (Ezek. 20:33-38).
3. The Lord Cometh....to punish the inhabitants of the Earth: (Isa. 26:20-21).
4. It shall come as a destruction from the Almighty: (Isa. 13:6-13).
5. The indignation of the Lord is upon all Nations: (Isa. 34:1-5).
6. The Lord shall punish... the Kings of the earth: (Isa. 24:17-21).
7. I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth: (Jer. 25:29-33).
8. The Lord goeth forth with fury: (Jer. 30:23-24).
9. And blow upon you in my fury: (Ezek. 22:19-22).
10. The day cometh that shall burn as an oven: (Mal. 4:1).
11. The day of the Lord is near upon all the heathen: (Obadiah 15:)
12. Treading the winepress of the wrath of Almighty God:

Isa 63:1 *Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.*

Isa 63:2 *Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the wine vat?*

Isa 63:3 *I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and*

trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.
Isa 63:4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.

THE DARKEST TIME IN HUMAN HISTORY

1. Except those days be shortened, there shall no flesh be saved: (Matt. 24:21-22).
2. A Time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation. (Dan. 12:1).
3. Affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation this time. (Mark 13:19).
4. Alas, for that day is great, so that none is like it. (Jer. 30:7).
5. A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness. (Joel 2:2).
6. A day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress. (Zep. 1:14-15).
7. The day of the Lord is great and very terrible; who can abide it? (Joel 2:11).
8. Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord (Second Coming) (Amos 5:18-20).
9. Who shall be able to stand? (Rev. 6:15-17).