

The End Times
The Great Tribulation Period
Matt 24.21-22

[Thus far in this study we have examined,]

- [Calvary and the Dividing of Time]
- [Hades and God's revealed plan for mortal death in our time.]
- [The Church Age and God's revelation concerning this dispensation of grace.]
- [The Judgment Seat of Christ or the Bema of Christ, the accounting we will make, and the rewards we can receive.]
- [The Glorious Marriage Supper of the Lamb – A celebration that every human being should want to attend. A glorious, radiant event.]

[Now, on our chart we will begin to examine those events that will occur parallel to those wonderful events that all saints and born again Christians will attend. While we are glorified, eternally promoted, worshipping and praising in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. All who refused to receive our Lord's salvation, or failed for any reason to be adopted into our Heavenly Fathers family will endure **The Great Tribulation** Period here on this earth.]

[Think about it,

- [The Redeemed are dwelling in Eternity above – The Lost will endure seven (7) horrifying seemingly endless years here on earth.]
- [The Saved are being rewarded and greatly honored – The Lost will experience the unspeakable wrath of Satan and the Anti-Christ.]
- [The Pardoned are clothed in radiant, brilliant glory – The Lost will be blistered, blighted, and bloodied by this reeling corrupt creation.]

[Are you hesitating to be saved, are you foolishly risking your eternal soul and your eternal well-being for a few carnal morsels of sin that only bring the enticement of joy and satisfaction for a fleeting moment?]

[Listen to what the Word of God says you will endure if you are not saved.]

A. The Period Described (vs 21; Dan 12.1; Joel 2.1-2) [- The Lord Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in the flesh, who never sinned and never lied or exaggerated, said, “*For then shall be **great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*** – We get the title of this time period from our Lord Jesus Christ himself. Our Lord said it would be a time,]

- **[Of Great Tribulation (vs 21) – As we study the revelation concerning the great tribulation we will discover that it is a time of,]**
 - [Unspeakable sorrow]
 - [Undeniable suffering]
 - [Unending disasters]
 - [Unsatisfiable famine – Food and water will be in very short supply]
 - [Unaccountable mortality – Billions will die.]
- **[Of Unique Tribulation (vs 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.* - A time unlike anything this world has ever seen before.]**
 - [The terrors of Hitler’s Germany and World War II will pale in comparison to this coming time of Great Tribulation.]
 - [The death and decay of the worst plagues recorded in human history where millions upon millions of people died in a short terrifying period of time will all be forgotten in comparison to this Great Tribulation. Billions will die in a mere seven years.]
 - [The wars throughout world history will not compare with the Battle of Armageddon where the blood will flow up to the horses bridle.]

Dan 12.1

Dan 12.1

[When our Lord Jesus Christ says that this time will be unlike anything the world has seen before He is not exaggerating.]

[The Word of God says,]

[Daniel 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:**[Tribulation Period] and at that time thy people shall be delivered [Rapture], every one that shall be found written in the book.]

Joel 2.1

[Joel 2:1-2 ¹ Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: **let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;** ² A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; **there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it,** even to the years of many generations.]

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A. The Period Described

[Understand that if you miss the Rapture and all of those glorious events we have already studied then you will endure **The Great Tribulation Period**. The wisest thing I can say to you concerning this Great Tribulation Period is **don't be here for it.**]

B. The Purpose Designed (Deut 4.29-31; Jer 30.4-10; Dan 12.1; Psalm 2.1-3; Isa 24.1-7; Jer 25.30-33) [– Our Great God has a definite purpose for the Great Tribulation Period and He reveals it in His Word.]

1. [To Prepare the Jews (Deut 4.29-31; Jer 30.4-10; Dan 12.1) –

Jer 30.4

This is God's message to the Jews concerning this time period.]

[Deuteronomy 4:29-30 ²⁹ But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. ³⁰ **When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days,** if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; ³¹ (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.]

Jer 30.4

[Jeremiah 30:4-10 ⁴ And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. ⁵ For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. ⁶ Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? 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.]

[This is undeniably speaking of the Great Tribulation Period. This is God’s message to the Jews, who right now have denied that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Messiah. Listen to how God describes that the Jews will respond to the Great Tribulation Period.]

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A. The Period Described
B. The Purpose Designed
1. To Prepare the Jews

[⁸ For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: ⁹ But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. ¹⁰ Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.]

Dan 12.1

[The Jews will be brought back to God and the Lord Jesus Christ as a result of the Great Tribulation Period.]

[Daniel 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. **[To Punish the Gentiles (Psalm 2.1-3; Isa 24.1-7; Jer 25.30-33)**
– The Gentiles will be punished for rejecting the grace and mercy of God during this dispensation of Grace we call The Church Age and for Mistreating Israel.]

Isa 24.1

[Psalm 2:1-3 ¹ Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, ³ Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.]

[The heathen or the gentiles have set themselves against God.]

Isa 24.1

[Isaiah 24:1-7 ¹ Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. ² And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. ³ The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word. ⁴ The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. ⁵ The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. ⁶ Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left. ⁷ The new wine mourneth, the vine languisheth, all the merryhearted do sigh.]

[Do you think it a small thing when you ignore the Word of God and sin like there is no pay-day coming? It is for the rebellion of the Gentiles that they will endure the horrors of the Great Tribulation Period.]

[Jeremiah 25:30-33 ³⁰ Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. ³¹ A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh;]

[This is the important why in the Word of God.]

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- C.

[for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD. ³² Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. ³³ And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.]

[Will you laugh at the revelation of Almighty-God concerning the coming Great Tribulation Period. Will you mock and rebel against a glorious, holy, and just God?]

[Your Pay-Day is coming sinner and you have been warned over and over again by God.]

[Will you hear Him and repent while you still can?]

[If you miss the rapture, then it is too late to repent, you will endure this horrifying time called the Great Tribulation Period.]

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B. The Purpose Designed

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2. To Punish The Gentiles

C.

C. The People Designated (vs 21-22) [– For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 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.** – There is no doubt that the Gentiles and the Jewish nation will endure the Great Tribulation Period as we have already seen. But notice in verse twenty-two (22) that there is a special group of people mentioned. The text says that for these those days shall be shortened.]

[This is referring to **the Rapture of the Church** of our Lord Jesus Christ. All who are Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, all born again believers, all who have been saved by the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved from this Great Tribulation Period by the Rapture.]

[So that **ONLY** those who are lost will remain on this earth to endure this terrible time of Great trouble.]

[Now, don't mistake this to mean that everyone who **calls themselves Christian** will be raptured. There are many who call themselves Christian who cannot possibly be saved.]

- [A Jehovah's Witness who denies the Physical Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ cannot be saved.]
- [A Mormon who denies the unique deityship of the Lord Jesus Christ, making all mankind equal in creation to the Lord Jesus Christ cannot be saved.]
- [All who believe that their good works can save them and are not trusting in the completed work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross cannot be saved.]

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C. The People Designated

[These and untold multitudes who have faithfully attended Church and Sunday School will not be a part of the Rapture and will endure and suffer through the Great Tribulation Period.]

D. The Promise Declared (vs 22; 1 Thess 5.9-11) [- *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: **but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*** – Notice the glorious promise declared here in our text. If you are one of the elect you will be saved from this wrath that is coming.]

[I think often when children get saved, and maybe many adults for that matter, that they are thinking, "I'm getting saved from hell." And they are. But they are also getting saved from this terrible Great Tribulation Period that will one day soon consume all of this corrupt earth.]

[Who are the elect?] The elect are all those who are born again. The elect are all those whom our Lord Jesus Christ has caused to be adopted into the glorious family of God. The elect are those saved by our Lord Jesus Christ.]

[Don't you want to partake in this glorious promise that will save you from this Great Tribulation Period?]

[1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 ⁹ **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,** ¹⁰ *Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.* ¹¹ *Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.]*

[The word wrath here is talking specifically about the Great Tribulation Period. This text is saying that God does not want you to go through the Great Tribulation Period, instead God wants you to be saved by our Lord Jesus Christ.]

[So how do you become one of the elect?]

[Romans 10:9] *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.]*

[Romans 10:13] *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.]*

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Jan 25, 2015

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- D. The Promise Declared**