

**The Kingdom Of Heaven**  
**The Tribulation, Part I**  
**Matt 24.15-22**

**In the last two weeks we have studied the precursors to the End Times. We saw,**

- **[The Re-establishment of Israel as a Nation – May 14, 1948]**
  - [World War I prepared the land for Israel – Before WWI **The Ottoman Empire** controlled Jerusalem – Muslims]
  - [World War II prepared the Jew for Israel]

[These are Precursors to the fulfillment of Bible Prophecies.]

- **[Jerusalem the Capital of Israel – President Trump Declared Jerusalem the Capital of Israel on December 6, 2017.]**
- **[The Great Falling Away]**

*[2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, **except there come a falling away first**, . . . ]*

[We are living in this falling away.]

- **[Perilous Times]**

*[2 Timothy 3:1-5 This know also, **that in the last days perilous times shall come.** <sup>2</sup> For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, <sup>4</sup> Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; <sup>5</sup> **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.** ]*

- **[The Famine of the Word of God]**

*[Amos 8:11-12 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send **a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:** <sup>12</sup> **And they shall wander from sea to sea,***

*and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.]*

- [The Severe Judgment, Warning, and Calling of God]

*[Amos 4:6-12 And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. <sup>7</sup> And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. <sup>8</sup> So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied; yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. <sup>9</sup> I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. <sup>10</sup> I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. <sup>11</sup> I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. <sup>12</sup> Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel. ]*

All of these are the precursors to what is next to come, The Tribulation Period.

#### A. The Period Described (vs 21)

*Matthew 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.*

1. Its Distinction - (Matt 24.21-22; Jer 30.7; Dan 12.1) [It is unique.]

*[Matthew 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.]*

- [Historical Terror]

[**Antiochus Epiphanes (c. 190 B.C.)** - Name Meaning "God Manifest." Ravaged Jerusalem because he felt that the Jewish people were building a rebellion against him. As they had heard that he had been killed in a battle with Egypt, and they rejoiced.]

### **The Abomination of Desolations and Antiochus Epiphanes**

*[Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see **the abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)]*

The Kingdom Of Heaven  
The Tribulation, Part 1  
Matthew 24.15-22

- A. The Period Described – Great Tribulation (vs 21)  
1. It's Distinction

[There is a common teaching in Bible Colleges and Seminaries today that states that the Abomination of Desolations mentioned by Daniel (Daniel 9.27; 12.11) was fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes in the inter-testamental period. However, that is not possible as our Lord here mentions it as something yet to come and connected with the Great Tribulation Period.]

### **[The terrors of history]**

**[The Roman Emperors and their persecution of Christians -** Domician is said to have lined the Roman Road stakes, every 3 foot, with Christian heads on top of the stakes.]

**[Adolf Hilter in the 1940's** who killed more than 6 million people in is pursuit of a master race.]

- **[The Terror Yet To Come.** A time unlike any time before.]

*[Matthew 24:21-22 For then shall be great tribulation, **such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.***

Jer 24.21

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

*[Jeremiah 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. ]*

Dan 12.1

*[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. ]*

1 Thess 5.3

2. **Its Destruction (Joel 1.15; 1 Thess 5.3) [- The Human Element.** As seen in the Seven Seals.]

*[Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a **destruction from the Almighty shall it come.** ]*

*[1 Thes. 5:3 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. ]*

[Destruction means ruin or destruction, as in to ruin one's plans, in both the Hebrew and the Greek.]

Zeph 1.18

[The Human Politics of our corrupt world,]

- [The White Horse of worldly Peace (Rev 6.1-2)]
- [The Red Horse of the sword and death (Rev 6.3-4)]
- [The Black Horse of famine (Rev 6.5-6)]
- [The Pale Horse of death and hell, forth part of the earth (Rev 6.7-8)]
- [The Martyr's of Corrupt Human Politics (Rev 6.9-11)]

[The Destruction caused by corrupt Human Politics and people will be astounding yet again.]

3. **Its Devastation (Zeph 1.18) [- The Natural Element.** The land devoured. As seen in the Seven Trumpets.]

*[Zeph. 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; **but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy**: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land. ]*

Rev 8

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- A. The Period Described – Great Tribulation (vs 21)
1. It's Distinction

[Devour means to consume away.]

[The Seven Trumpets,]

- [One Third of all trees and green grass burnt up (Rev 8.7)]
- [One third of the Sea's and creatures of the sea, and ships killed and destroyed (Rev 8.8)]
- [One third of all fresh water poisoned (Rev 8.10-11)]
- [One Third of all lights darkened (Rev 8.12-13)]
- [Fifth Trumpet, Woe – Bottomless pit opened five month torment (Rev 9-1-6)]
- [Sixth Trumpet, Woe – 1/3 of all mankind killed (Rev 9.13-19)]

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**A. The Period Described – Great Tribulation (vs 21)**

1. It's Distinction
2. It's Destruction
3. It's Devastation

Rev 9.20

**[An Astounding Revelation,]**

*[Revelation 9:20-21 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet **repented not of the works of their hands**, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: <sup>21</sup> **Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.**]*

Zeph 1.14

4. **Its Damnation (Zeph 1.14-15; Rev 6.15-17) [- The Supernatural Element. The Wrath of God. As seen in the Seven Vials.]**

*[Zeph. 1:14-15 The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. **15That day is a day of wrath**, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,]*

*[Rev. 6:15-17 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;*

*16* And said to the mountains and rocks, *Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17* **For the great day of his wrath is come;** and who shall be able to stand? ]

[Wrath - The anger exhibited in punishment.  
Vehement indignation.]

### [The Seven Vials]

- [1 - The grievous sore (Rev 16.2)]
- [2 - Everything dies in the sea (Rev 16.3)]
- [3 - All fresh water as blood (Rev 16.4-7)]
- [4 – Men are scorched by the sun (Rev 16.8-9)]
- [5 – Painful darkness by the Beast’s Authority (Rev 16.10-11)]
- [6 – The Gathering for Armageddon (Rev 16.12-14)]

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Matthew 24.15-22**

#### **A. The Period Described – Great Tribulation (vs 21)**

1. It’s Distinction
2. It’s Destruction
3. It’s Devastation
4. It’s Damnation

**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) – This is God’s message to the Jews concerning this time period.]**

Dan 12.1

*[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.]*

*[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.]

*[ 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. ]***

[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.]

Jer 25.30

*[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.]***

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**A. The Period Described – Great Tribulation (vs 21)**

1. It's Distinction
2. It's Destruction
3. It's Devastation
4. It's Damnation

**B. The Purpose Designed**

1. To Prepare The Jew for his Messiah

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

*[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.]*

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**B. The Purpose Designed**

1. To Prepare the Jew for his Messiah
2. To Punish the Gentile

[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.]

*[**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**

1. To Prepare the Jew for his Messiah
2. To Punish the Gentile

**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.]

[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.]

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**B. The Purpose Designed**

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**C. The People Designated – The Elect**

**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 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, June 28, 2020

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**A. The Period Described – Great Tribulation (vs 21)**

1. It's Distinction
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4. It's Damnation

**B. The Purpose Designed**

1. To Prepare the Jew for his Messiah
2. To Punish the Gentile

**C. The People Designated – The Elect**

**D. The Promise Declared – God's Deliverance**