

Bible Prophecy Update: Stumbling blocks and tumbling rocks

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Opening: The bible paints a specific picture of what the world will look like just before the time of the great tribulation. For the Christian we are encouraged to look up for our redemption, but the unbeliever has no such hope without repentance. Are we living in the last days? Is Jesus about to come back for His Church? Let us understand the days we live in.

1. Stumbling Blocks:

- a. **Matthew 18: 7-10** 7“Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to the person through whom the stumbling block comes!8“And if your hand or your foot is causing you to sin, cut it off and throw it away from you; it is better for you to enter life maimed or without a foot, than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into the eternal fire. 9And if your eye is causing you to sin, tear it out and throw it away from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fiery hell. 10“See that you do not look down on one of these little ones; for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.
- b. One of the most severe warnings that Jesus gives to the final generation is that **deception would be rampant**. This deception is meant to bring stumbling blocks into the paths of all of humanity. All sin is rooted in deception in one way or another.

2. Offenses shall come, the world is offended by the words of Jesus. Why? Because they loved not the truth.

- a. **We are divided by truth and lies. Consider Abortion: Genesis 9:6, Psalm 139:13-16, Exodus 20:13, Job 31:15, 1st Corinthians 3:16-17, Luke 12:6-7 “Jesus declares that human life is precious to God and life is sacred”.**
- b. Recently the US Divided again over the issue of Abortion. The good news is that states will again be able to decide what is righteousness instead of being forced to abide by another’s sinful decision. This issue will stir up persecution for the Church and Christians in America will be hated because of their allegiance to Jesus. The greatest hatred will come from those who profess to be a part of the family of faith. What did Jesus say?
- c. **Mark 13:13 And you will be hated by everyone because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.**

- d. Wickedness will abound, the love of most will grow colder. In the past few years, we have seen an escalation, causing people to give up. Churches are struggling to find people to serve and love through the ministries of the church. Many people may not come out and say it, but they have practically given up on being salt and light to the earth. Why? Offenses cause a hardening of the heart. **Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life.**
- e. People's hearts are being hardened as they become offended by those who are Lovers of pleasure more than God, those who know to do good but don't do it, Apathy amongst God's people, lukewarmness in the church neither hot or cold for God, Moral deprivation in society as we see our declining cultures, Drug addiction being tolerated, celebrated and motivated, homosexuality and gender fluidity nonsense being pumped into our school system, people becoming addicted to social media and becoming so shallow and self-centered. The narcissism in today's generation is enough to harden your heart towards the world. The abuse of power, the scandals, the corruption that people with money bring upon those who have less.
- f. **Life Lesson: All these above things are Stumbling blocks meant to distract, discourage, deceive, and depress you. Do not let it happen.**

3. **Remember these words of Jesus:** Matthew 24:5-8 ⁵For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. ⁶And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers' places. **All These are the beginning of sorrows.** Jesus is communicating His 2nd coming is still a far way off, He is speaking to the world that is going to go through the tribulation. But to the Christian, He gives us hope.

- A. **Luke 21:28 Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."** This word from Jesus concerning the last days is directed to the saved and those who are ready to meet Jesus in the rapture.
- b. These are the beginning of sorrows, and the end is not yet. He also said when these things begin to take place look up. Jesus said both statements about the end. The difference between them is who He is referencing. When the signs begin to take place (and they are right now) He says the "end" His second coming is still a far off. But when He says "look up your redemption draws nigh He is speaking of His "hidden" return for the Church during the rapture.

4. **Tumbling Rocks: Daniel 2:32-35** 32The head of the statue was pure gold, its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze, 33its legs were iron, and its feet were part iron and part clay. 34As you watched, a stone was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. 35Then the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold were shattered and became like chaff on the threshing floor in summer. The wind carried them away, and not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that had struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
- A. The Satanic agenda of the last days is to capture the nations of the earth and to deliver them into the hands of the anti-Christ. The bible says this is accomplished through a confederation of 10 Kings encompassing the whole world. The works and the building of the nations that are not in accordance with God's word will all be destroyed and brought to nothing when Christ returns. However, this time of "global government" is allowed to come to fulfill the words of prophecy.
- b. As the Tribulation approaches, we will see nations, people's, kingdoms, ideologies and even churches that are not founded on biblical truth begin to tumble to the ground.
- c. Industries will collapse or become obsolete due to new government regulations or technological advances. AI and Robot technology will put Millions of people around the world out of the jobs they currently hold.
- d. Governments of nations will become insolvent and will be dissolved and replaced or absorbed into a new global government.
- e. A new religion will be formed that will challenge all other world religions causing many to abandon the faith they had and instead embrace a new faith they have never known. This new faith is not of God but will be formed around the worship of the anti-Christ. Revelation 13:12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who live on it worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.
5. Pillars of Morality and Righteousness will be replaced with deceptive realities built on moral relativism. "What is good for you and what is right to you is truth. " or "let me speak MY truth.
- a. The modern world we have known will rapidly change into a world that is controlled by the anti-Christ system. This will be a totalitarian regime worse than all the other the world has ever experienced.
- b. The Spirit that worked in the emperor Nebuchadnezzar, Pharoah, Herod, Nero, Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot, will be unleashed again upon humanity.

- c. **Jesus summed it up this way concerning the world that is fast approaching “
Matthew 24:21-22** 21For at that time there will be great tribulation, unmatched from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be seen again. 22 If those days had not been cut short, **nobody would be saved.** But for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short.
- d. Consider the magnitude of Jesus statement. The world has never seen or will ever see again what is about to come upon the earth during the tribulation period. It will be so bad that unless Jesus ends that time himself everyone on planet earth will perish.
- e. **Key Point:** Never forget that the tribulation will see the full unleashing of Satan’s kingdom on the earth. Sin and wickedness will be unrestrained. The sin that is pleasurable for a season will give way to sin that destroys the human soul. The time of the tribulation is a different dispensation than the age of grace we are currently under. God’s wrath will be poured upon unrepentant humanity until they repent of their abominations and sins. God in a deliberate attempt will give the world one more opportunity to see the corruption they have become and surrender to Jesus.

6. **The Good news:** Many people will be saved during the tribulation. As the world systems collapse many people will surrender to Jesus Christ.

- a. **The Bad news:** Most of the population will not surrender to Jesus and will worship the beast and perish for all of eternity. It will not be easy to serve God in the tribulation and most of humanity will be deceived by the lie. What is the lie? The anti-Christ will set himself up as God and the world will believe he him.
- b. **If it all came crashing down tomorrow, would you get offended at Jesus?**
- c. **What of your life today are you holding onto so tightly that it has or may come between you and Jesus?**
- d. **Final point:** Jesus never told His people to prepare for the tribulation. He speaks to the people of that time as those who could have escaped. God’s wrath is for His enemies not His friends. The Church has hope and is not to despair.
- e. **John 3:35-36** 35The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in His hands. 36Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever rejects the Son will not see life. Instead, **the wrath of God remains on him.**” Thank God you belong to Jesus.