

Summary

In this sermon, the pastor explores the concept of the Tribulation through the lens of worship, arguing that at its core, the Tribulation is a war for worship. Drawing from Matthew 24, Revelation 13 and 14, and Daniel, he presents the idea that Satan has always desired the worship that belongs to God alone, and that the events of the Tribulation represent His most aggressive and final attempt to seize it. The pastor outlines five specific ways Satan attacks worship, both during the Tribulation and in everyday life today: he attacks the place of worship, the process of worship, the person we worship (Jesus), the people who worship, and the power of worship (which lies in free will). Through personal stories, scripture, and practical examples, he challenges believers to recognize these attacks in their daily lives and respond by worshipping God more boldly, not less, no matter what the enemy throws at them.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today as a group of people who want to know You more deeply. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to what You want to speak to us through Your Word. Remove any distractions, offenses, or burdens that might keep us from fully engaging with You and with one another. Holy Spirit, lead our conversation today. Let this time not be about our own opinions or agendas, but about what You want us to receive. We love You, Lord, and we trust You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one place or time of day where you feel most connected to God, whether that is in the car, on a walk, at church, or somewhere else?

Key Verses

- Matthew 24:15-22
- Revelation 13:4-8
- Revelation 13:15
- Daniel 9:27
- Isaiah 14:12-14
- Daniel 7:25

Questions

- The pastor described the Tribulation as a 'worship war' at its core. In what ways do you see a battle for worship playing out in everyday life right now, not just in the end times?
- Satan is described as attacking the place of worship. Have you ever experienced something that seemed to specifically target a time or place where you connect with God? How did you respond?
- The pastor said that God cares more about the condition of your heart than the outward act of worship, while Satan only wants outward compliance. How does that distinction change the way you think about your own worship life?
- In the sermon, the pastor shared that Lucifer was once the worship leader of heaven before his fall. Knowing that the enemy understands worship deeply, how does that motivate you to be more intentional and guarded about your own worship?
- The pastor pointed out that even during the Tribulation, the beast was only 'allowed' to act within limits set by God. How does the truth that God remains sovereign even over evil bring you comfort in difficult seasons of your own life?
- The story of Eric giving to the church after his tools were stolen is a powerful example of refusing to let the enemy win. Can you think of a time when someone responded to hardship with radical generosity or worship? What impact did that have on you?
- The pastor mentioned that the power of worship lies in free will, that true worship is chosen, not forced. What are some practical ways you can make worship a more intentional and freely chosen part of your daily routine?
- The sermon ended with a call to worship God more boldly when the enemy attacks, not less. What is one area of your life right now where you feel the enemy is trying to steal your worship, and how can this group support you in fighting back?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific area of your life where you have allowed something (an offense, a distraction, a difficult circumstance, or a busy schedule) to interrupt your worship. Make a deliberate decision to worship God in that exact area. If something was stolen from you, give more. If something frustrated you, pause and praise. Keep a simple journal or note on your phone to record moments when you chose worship over worry, and bring one of those moments back to share with the group next time you meet.

Key Takeaways

- The Tribulation, at its core, is a war for worship. Satan's ultimate goal has always been to redirect the worship that belongs to God toward Himself.
- Satan attacks worship on five fronts: the place of worship, the process of worship, the person we worship, the people who worship, and the power of worship.
- Even during the most intense period of evil in human history, Satan must be 'allowed' by God to act, which means God remains sovereign over all things.
- The power of true worship lies in free will. God desires worship that comes from the heart, while Satan only wants outward compliance regardless of the heart behind it.
- Believers are called to respond to spiritual attack not by pulling back from worship, but by pressing in even harder, trusting that God alone is worthy of all praise.

Ending Prayer

Lord, we thank You for this time together and for the truth of Your Word. We confess that we sometimes let small things, offenses, distractions, and the busyness of life, pull us away from worshiping You as You deserve. Forgive us, and renew in us a hunger to worship You in Spirit and in truth every single day. We recognize that the enemy is real and that he is actively working to steal our worship. But we declare today that he will not win. You are worthy, Lord. You are worthy of every song, every sacrifice, every act of service, and every moment of praise we can offer. Protect this group, strengthen our hearts, and let our lives be a living act of worship to You this week and always. In the mighty name of Jesus, amen.