

JACOB'S TROUBLE

[26] I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess. You will not live long in it, but will be utterly destroyed. [27] And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. [28] And there you will serve gods of wood and stone, the work of human hands, that neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. [29] But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. [30] **When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the LORD your God and obey his voice.** [31] For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them. (Deuteronomy 4:26-31 ESV)

I. Comparing Three Foundational Texts

A. Jeremiah's prophecy of "the time of Jacob's trouble:"

*"These are the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah: "Thus says the Lord: We have heard a cry of **panic**, of **terror**, and **no peace**. Ask now, and see, can a man bear a child? Why then do I see every man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor? Why has every face turned pale? Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; **it is the time of Jacob's trouble**; yet he shall be saved out of it." (Jeremiah 30:4-7)*

B. Daniel's prophecy of the "time of trouble such has never been:"

*"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And **there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered**, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, **until the time of the end**. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." (Daniel 12:1-4)*

C. Jesus' prophecy of the "time of great tribulation:"



*“So when you see **the abomination of desolation** spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then **let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains**. Let the one who is on the housetop **not go down** to take what is in his house, and let the one who is in the field **not turn back** to take his cloak. And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that **your flight** may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. For **then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be**. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.” (Matthew 24:15-22)*

II. The Commencement of the Time of Jacob’s Trouble

*“So when you see **the abomination of desolation** spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains....**For then there will be great tribulation**, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.” (Matthew 24:15-22)*

- A. In the Land of Israel (compare Matthew 24:15-22 with Zechariah 12:1-3 & 14:1-3)
- B. In the city of Jerusalem (Rev. 11:1-3; Dan. 11:31-36; Zech. 14:1-3)
- C. After a preliminary return to the Land in unbelief (Ez. 22:19-22; 38:8; Zeph. 2:1-2)
- D. With the “Abomination of desolation” (Dan. 8:13-14; 9:26-27; 11:31; 2 Thess. 2)

III. The Length of the Time of Jacob’s Trouble

Jacob’s trouble has been ordained to be no longer than three and a half years. In the Scriptures this length of years is communicated by saying “42 months,” “1260 days,” and “a time, times and half a time.”

It will begin the day the temple sacrifices end (Dan. 11:31; Mt. 24:15, 21-22). And it will end 2,300 days after the temple sacrifices begin (Dan. 8:13-14) which is 1290 days after the sacrifices end (Daniel 12:11-13).

*“And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, **“How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?”** 7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be **for a time, times, and half***



a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished. 8 I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?” 9 He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until **the time of the end.** 10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand. 11 **And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.** 12 Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. 13 But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.” (Daniel 12:6-13)

....the temple [will be] given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city **for forty-two months.** And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy **for 1,260 days,** clothed in sackcloth.” (Revelation 11:2-3)

“...the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished **for 1,260 days.**” (Revelation 12:6)

“...the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for **a time, and times, and half a time.**” (Revelation 12:14)

“And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority **for forty-two months.** 6 It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation...” (Revelation 13:5-7)

Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, “For how long is the vision concerning **the regular burnt offering, the abomination that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?**” 14 And he said to me, “**For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored** to its rightful state.” (Daniel 8:13-14)

IV. The Unequaled Scope and Magnitude of the Time of Jacob’s Trouble

“That day is so great **there is none like it;** it is the time of Jacob’s trouble.” (Jeremiah 30:7)

“And there shall be a time of trouble, **such as never has been since there was a nation till that time.**” (Daniel 12:2)



For then there will be great tribulation, **such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.** And if those days had not been cut short, **no human being would be saved.** But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.” (Matthew 24:21-22)

“In the whole land, declares the Lord, **two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive.** And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. **They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘They are my people’; and they will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’”** (Zechariah 13:8-9)

V. The Climax and Conclusion of the Time of Jacob’s Trouble

“That day is so great there is none like it; it is the time of Jacob’s trouble; **yet he shall be saved out of it.**” (Jeremiah 30:4-7)

“...**at that time your people shall be delivered,** everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” (Daniel 12:2-4)

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. 11 On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be great.... 12 The land shall mourn, each family by itself...On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, **to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.**” (Zechariah 12:10-13:1; Mt 24:29-31; Rev 1:7)

“Behold, a day is coming for the Lord, when the spoil taken from you will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. **Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.** On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two...” (Zechariah 14:1-4)

“In that day **the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious,** and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel. 3 **And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem,** 4 **when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning.** 5 Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over



all the glory there will be a canopy. 6 There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.” (Isaiah 4:2-6)

