

FELLOWSHIP NOTES ~ Sunday, April 14th, 2024



Part 6: “The Coming Tribulation” (Part 1) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Important Facts About the Rapture:

1. The Rapture concludes the current _____ we are currently living in (Titus 2:11; Rom. 6:15)
2. The Rapture ushers in the _____

What is the Day of the Lord?

The “day of the Lord” usually identifies events that take place at the end of history (Isaiah 7:18-25). One key to understanding these phrases is to note that they always identify a span of time during which God personally intervenes in history, directly or indirectly, to accomplish some specific aspect of His plan. The phrase “the day of the Lord” is used often in the Old Testament (e.g. Isaiah 2:12; 13:6, 9; Ezekiel 13:5, 30:3; Joel 1:15, 2:1,11,31; 3:14; Amos 5:18,20; Obadiah 15; Zephaniah 1:7,14; Zechariah 14:1; Malachi 4:5) and several times in the New Testament (e.g. Acts 2:20; 1 Cor. 5:5; 2 Cor. 1:14; 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Thess. 2:2; 2 Peter 3:10). It is also alluded to in other passages (Rev. 6:17; 16:14). It generally applies to both the judgment that will climax the seven-year tribulation and the judgment that will occur following the 1,000-year reign of Christ known as the millennium. The day of the Lord marks the end of man’s day as God acts in judgment to take back control of the earth from both human and demonic rulers. It will be an unprecedented time of cataclysmic judgment on all unrepentant sinners. In short, the day of the Lord includes everything that happens from the rapture forward through God’s timetable, especially the tribulation.

“Wail! For the day of the Lord is near. It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore, everyone’s hands will become weak, and every man will lose heart. They will be horrified; pain and agony will seize them; they will be in anguish like a woman in labor. They will look at each other, their faces flushed with fear. Look, the day of the Lord is coming – cruel, with rage and burning anger – to make the earth a desolation and to destroy its sinners.” Isaiah 13:6-9

“Blow the horn in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the residents of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; in fact, it is near – a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and total darkness...” Joel 2:1-2a

“Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! What will the day of the Lord be for you? It will be darkness and not light. It will be a man who flees from a lion only to have a bear confront him. He goes home and rests his hand against the wall only to have a snake bite him. Won’t the day of the Lord be darkness rather than light, even gloom without any brightness in it?” Joel 2:18-20

“The great day of the Lord is near; near and rapidly approaching. Listen, the day of the Lord – then the warrior’s cry is bitter. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of destruction, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and total darkness.” Zephaniah 1:14-15

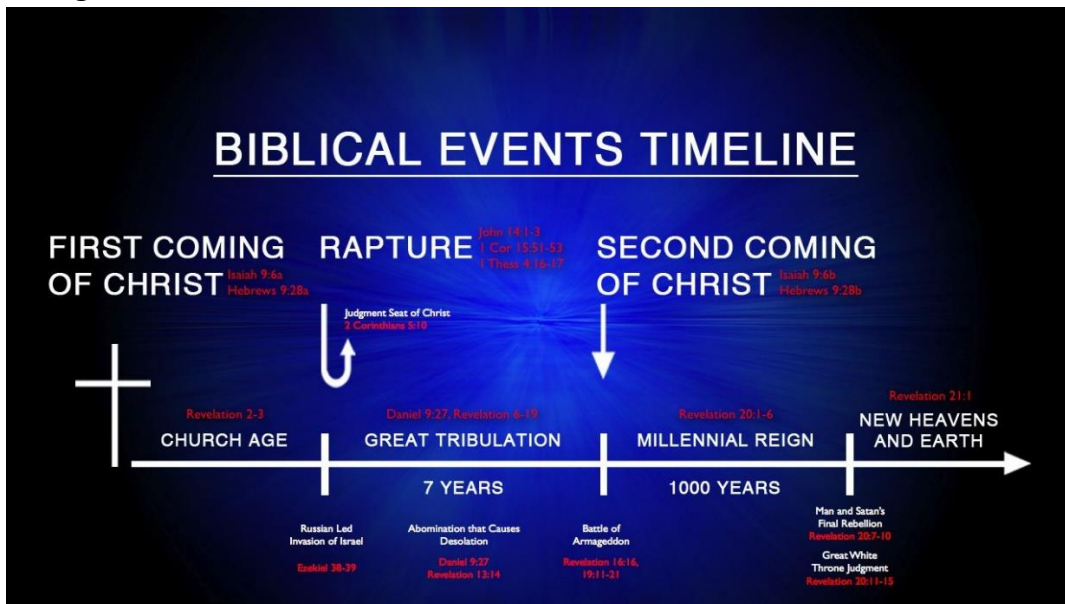
“For look, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, when all the arrogant and everyone who commits wickedness will become stubble. The coming day will consume them,” says the Lord of Armies, ‘not leaving them root or branches.’”

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief; on that day the heavens will pass away and with a loud noise, the elements will burn and be dissolved, and the earth and the works on it will be disclosed.” 2 Peter 2:10

What is the Tribulation?

The tribulation is a future seven-year period when God will finish His discipline of Israel and finalize His judgment of the unbelieving world. The church, comprised of all who have trusted in the person and work of the Lord Jesus, will not be present during the tribulation. The church will be removed from the earth in the rapture. The tribulation (also known as “Daniel’s 70th Week”, and the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble”) is one part of an overall period of end-times prophecy referred to as “The Day of the Lord” which stretches from the rapture of the church forward. The Tribulation is a period in which God’s judgment is poured out on sinful humanity as described in detail in Daniel 9, Matthew 24 and Revelation chapters 6-19 (over half of this prophetic book is dedicated to the subject). The Antichrist’s rise to power is associated with this time period. The crescendo of the Tribulation is the Second Coming of Christ. The Bible provides more information about the tribulation than any other prophetic event except the second coming itself. In summary, the tribulation is the seven-year period in the end times in which humanity’s decadence and depravity will reach its fullness, with God judging accordingly. Also during that time, Israel will repent of their sin and receive Jesus as their Messiah, setting up a time of great blessing and restoration (Zephaniah 3:9–20; Isaiah 12; 35).

What is the Timing of the Tribulation?



Why a Time of Tribulation?

1. To bring an end to _____ (Dan. 9:24).
2. To fulfill Israel’s prophecies and _____ (Ezekiel 36-37; Daniel 9; 12:5-7).
3. To shake man from his _____.
4. To force man to choose _____ (Rom. 1:18; 2 Thess. 1:11-12; Matthew 25:32-34).
5. To complete Christ’s (and the church’s) mission that all peoples be _____ with the gospel (Matt. 24:14).

Will People Be Saved During the Tribulation?

Yes, but only those unreached (having never heard the gospel before) at the time of the rapture will have the opportunity to hear the gospel and be saved during the tribulation – and many will be saved, but many of those will pay for it with their lives in martyrdom (Rev. 7:9-17). Those who hear the gospel before the rapture and fail to respond will believe the delusion and the lies of the Antichrist and follow him which will mean an eternal death penalty in the lake of fire (2 Thess. 2:9-12). What are the implications of these truths for all believers today?

Resources

At the Tower (beside the Welcome Center):

The Judgment Seat of Christ and The Great White Throne Judgment

In Fellowship Café

What's Next? Israel – Gaza War – Connecting Today's Headlines to Tomorrow's Prophetic Events

Israel on High Alert – How Conflict and Wars in the Middle East are Setting the Stage for the End Times

Israel and the Church – An Israeli Examines God's Unfolding Plans For His Chosen Peoples

Basic Bible Prophecy – Essential Facts Every Christian Should Know

Bible Prophecy – The Essentials: Answers to Your Most Common Questions

The 8 Great Debates About Bible Prophecy

The End-Times in Chronological Order – A Complete Overview to Understanding Bible Prophecy

Assault on the Image of God – Understanding and Responding to Attacks on the Bible, Human Life, and the Church

The Last Hour – An Israeli Insider Looks at The End Times

Growth Groups Study Guide for the Week of April 14th – 21st

Reminders:

- This week, conclude the daily readings in our study book, 40 Days Through Bible Prophecy. If you're not that far continue reading to complete the study.
- Next Sunday we'll continue our study of "The Coming Tribulation"
- Reminder: Our annual Spring Spruce-Up Day is Saturday, April 27th at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome and encouraged to come out and assist our deacons in a variety of projects to spruce up our building and grounds. Approximately 25 people are needed to complete these projects in a timely fashion. See the projects list at the Welcome Center. Bring appropriate tools if you are able.

Group Discussion:

1. How is your life different today than it was seven years ago (examples: where you live, children, gray hair, job, etc.)?
2. In what ways do you think your life will be different seven years from now?

Digging Deeper

1. Discuss any thoughts or questions you have from last weeks reading in our 40 Days of Biblical Prophecy book.
2. Discuss from the Sunday morning notes what the Day of the Lord is and what the Tribulation is and any questions you may have between the two. Remember, the latter is part of the former.
3. A lot can change in seven years. Yet in the grand scheme of things, seven years is really a very small amount of time. On Sunday morning we began looking at the major prophecy event that follows the rapture – the tribulation. Look back at the Prophecy Timeline on the front page of these notes. What are three observations you make by examining this future timeline (try to focus on the tribulation aspect of the line)? Discuss these observations.

- 1.) _____
- 2.) _____
- 3.) _____

4. What terms does the Bible use to describe the Tribulation? Look up the following verses...
- 1.) Isaiah 24:20-23 _____
 - 2.) Isaiah 26:20-21 _____
 - 3.) Jeremiah 30:7 _____
 - 4.) Joel 1:15 _____
 - 5.) Joel 2:2 _____
 - 6.) Revelation 3:10 _____
 - 7.) Rev. 6:16-17 _____
 - 8.) Rev. 14:7; 19:2 _____

What do these verses and terms tell us about the tribulation? _____

5. The Length of time for the Tribulation:

Daniel was a former Jewish captive who was living in Babylon around 550 B.C. He had been reading Jeremiah’s prophecy, which predicted that after a 70 year captivity period, God would permit the Jews to return to Jerusalem (Jer. 25:11; 29:10). As Daniel studied those words he began to pray, confessing both his sins and the sins of Israel. During this powerful and tearful prayer, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and related the prophecy of the “seventy weeks”. Read Daniel 9:24-27.

This prophecy was written to Israel. The term “seventy weeks” means literally seventy sevens or 490 years. God was telling Daniel that he would continue to deal with Israel for another 490 years before bringing in everlasting righteousness. This period was to begin with the command to rebuild Jerusalem’s walls. This was fulfilled in Nehemiah chapters 1 & 2. The approximate date was March 14, 445 B.C.

The prophecy contained three distinct time periods:

First Period: Seven weeks (49 years). The rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls (Nehemiah 2-6).

Second Period: Sixty-two weeks (434 years). Ends with the crucifixion of Christ (Dan. 9:26).

Time-Out Period: We are currently living in this period of time. It began with the death of Christ and will continue until shortly after the rapture (the exact timing between the rapture and the tribulation is not mentioned in Scripture). This time gap between the 69th & 70th week was unrevealed and unknown to the Old Testament prophets (See Eph. 3:1-10; 1 Peter 1:10-12).

Third Period: Two one-half week periods (3 ½ years each) – Dan. 9:27.

Only 69 weeks have been fulfilled so far. One week (7 years) has never been fulfilled and will occur yet in the future. This is the tribulation. Daniel 9:27 tells us that a peace treaty will be signed between the Antichrist and Israel. At this point the tribulation will begin and will last 2,520 days until Christ’s return to earth.

Group Discussion: What does knowing this information from the Scriptures encourage us to do when it comes to current world events?

6. Read the last question on page 2 of the notes about salvation during the tribulation and discuss the implications of the limited nature of salvation during the 7-year tribulation and why it’s important for us today to be faithful witnesses for Christ to the lost and unreached.

Wrapping Up / Closing in Prayer

As you close in prayer, pray for those you know who don’t know Christ as Savior, for the unreached in our community, out nation, and the world, and ask God to give you a growing heart for the spiritually lost like our God has. Pray also for the nation of Israel as they face the new onslaught from Iran.

