

The Eschatology of the Servant Mark 13:15-27 “What is the Tribulation?”

Please Stand and Open your Bibles to 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

We are continuing our study of Mark’s account of the Olivet Discourse where the disciples asked a couple of questions...

Mark 13:4

“Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?”

This of course was in response to them being corrected for thinking that Jesus was restoring the kingdom to Israel immediately. We must understand this in context of what we are looking at today. Here is a reminder of the breakdown of our study:

The Eschatology of the Servant Mark 13

13:1-13 “Context, Context, Context”

13:14 “Who is the Antichrist?”

13:15-27 “What is the Tribulation?”

13:28-31 “Who or What is the Fig Tree?”

13:32-36 “The Doctrine of Imminency”

13:37 “The Pretribulation Rapture of the Church”

We saw in our first study the context for this entire sermon and the answer to the when. We saw the “Signs for all the Times”

or “The Beginning of Sorrows” that is the Birth Pangs that lead up to the time we are going to talk about today.

Then we saw the first sign of the “What” they asked about. We discussed what is the Abomination of Desolation in Daniel. Today we are going to finish this part in this section by answering the question “What is the Tribulation?”

Before we do that let us remember the context. They were still under the impression that Jesus was going to set up His kingdom in Jerusalem. We know they did not understand any of what He is teaching today until after the day of Pentecost...

Acts 1:6

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

And even after this sermon while they were at the last supper...

Luke 22:24

Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.

Understanding this is so important to understand Jesus’s answer to them. It is in context to when the kingdom will be restored to Israel and what will be the sign of it when it comes. As I will show you today there is a two-fold purpose for the

Tribulation and Jesus is only talking about one of them in His answer. Let us quickly review last week...

Mark 13:14

“So when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not” (let the reader understand)

So, if you look at the one side of the paper, I passed out you can see what we reviewed last week.

Daniel 9:24

“Seventy weeks (Seventy seven year periods) are determined for your people (The Jewish People) and for your holy city (The City of Jerusalem), to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.

Daniel 9:25

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince (Jesus Christ), there shall be seven weeks (49 years) and sixty-two weeks (434 years); the street shall be built again, and the wall (March 5, 444 BC), even in troublesome times.

Daniel 9:26

And after the sixty-two weeks (March 30, 33 AD Palm Sunday) Messiah shall be cut off (The Cross), but not for Himself (For

you and me!); and the people (Rome) of the prince (Antichrist) who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. (Destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD) The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.

Daniel 9:27

Then he (The Antichrist) shall confirm a covenant with many (A global peace treaty with Israel and all the nations) for one week (Seven Years) ; but in the middle of the week he (The Antichrist) shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate (What Jesus is talking about), even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”

This describes to us that there is still one seven-year period left over for Israel. Jesus expects the reader to know that and have that perspective to what He says now.

The Israelites run for their life!

Mark 13:14-18

We can see clearly what group it is that is escaping this event...the Jewish people! We read about this escape in Revelation 12...

Revelation 12:13-14

Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman (Israel) who gave birth to the male Child. But the woman (Israel) was given two wings of a great

eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place (Petra), where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

We know this will be a time of great persecution for the Nation...

Zechariah 13:8-9

And it shall come to pass in all the land,” says the Lord, “That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; and each one will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’”

The Tribulation

Mark 13:19-20

What we need to consider is the statement “In those days”. What days? The days when the Abomination of Desolation happens. Many take this to mean “After”, meaning the second half or last three- and one-half years. They get that from Matthew’s account...

Matthew 24:21

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be

One thing you never want to do in Bible study is to assume something. It is clear that it does not say “After”, it says “For then” that means at the same time. During the time that the reader is to understand there will be this horrible time in human history that is if not shortened no one would survive.

Now let's deal with this...

Mark 13:20

And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the **elect's sake, whom He chose**, He shortened the days.

Many come to this verse and say, “Ah Ha!” see the church is in the Tribulation! Case closed let's move on. Not so fast! If we use our Hermeneutical rules of determining context who has He been talking about? The Jews! Not the church.

Deuteronomy 7:6-7

For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples.

A parenthetical warning to the reader

Mark 13:21-23

This is the continued warning of false Christs and false prophets. All throughout history this has happened and will come to a climax during the reign of the Antichrist. Another thing to think about is that not all signs and wonders are from God. Many come today saying they had this vision or that. Make sure you are screening everything through the word of God!

The Second Coming of Christ

Mark 13:24-27

Jesus is letting us know that it will be at the end of this time period that He is coming again. We know that these cosmic signs will happen at the end of the seven years. People like to combine the rapture/resurrection and this together and say that it is the same event. A couple of things to note, first notice that it is “they” that see him and not “You”. Who is that? The earth dwellers as we are seen coming back with Jesus in Revelation 19. Two, if the gathering of His elect is the rapture, who is left to populate the Millennium? Three, again, the context on the elect is the Jewish people as we see an Old Testament reference to their regathering...

Isaiah 11:12

He will set up a banner for the nations, And will assemble the outcasts of Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

This is Jesus's description of this time known as the Tribulation. It goes by many names in the Bible. Even though His description has to deal with Jews by comparing scripture with scripture we discover that it is two-fold and to make it easy for us I created this chart for you...

As you can see, I have divided the seven years into two different timelines. Both are connected by the Abomination of Desolation at the midpoint. This chart is in no way exhaustive. I have only pulled some of the main points to show you that there are two different groups being affected in this time for two different reasons. Let's go through the top first and this The Nation of Israel going through the tribulation. It known as

For the Jews it is called:

Jeremiah 30:7

Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

Daniel 9:27

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. and on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined,
Is poured out on the desolate.

Isaiah 28:15

Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood we have hidden ourselves.”

Daniel 12:1

At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.

And there are many more that reference this time as it relates to the Jewish people. Notice the timeline of things that happen specifically to them...

And for the Gentile nations it is referred to as...

Zechariah 14:1

Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.

Isaiah 13:6

Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

Jeremiah 46:10

For this is the day of the Lord God of hosts, A day of vengeance, That He may avenge Himself on His adversaries.

Ezekiel 30:3

For the day is near, Even the day of the Lord is near; It will be a day of clouds, the time of the Gentiles.

Joel 1:15

Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.

Zephaniah 1:15

That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness

The Bible is very clear about this time coming upon the nations of the world. Let's look now at the lower part of the chart...

So, from all of this we can determine these two reasons for the seven-year tribulation period...

To * finish the last seventieth week for the Jewish people
To judge the Nations for rejecting His offer of salvation

How was this idea applied to the early church?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath (The Day of the Lord), but to obtain salvation (Deliverance from it) through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Daniel's Seventy Weeks

Your Key to Bible Prophecy!

Church Age!

- 490 Years for the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem
- At the end of it will bring the forgiveness of sins for the Nation and to bring in the Kingdom

Dan. 9:24



- 483 Years Until the Coming of the Messiah
- From Mar. 5, 444 BC the date the command went to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. Nehemiah 2:1

Dan. 9:25



- Jesus will be presented to the nation on Mar. 30, 33 AD - Palm Sunday (Exactly 483 Years!)
- Messiah will die
- Rome will come and destroy the temple 70 AD

Dan. 9:26



- Seventieth Week Starts with:
- Israel's Covenant with Antichrist
- Three and one half years the Abomination of Desolation will happen

Dan. 9:27



But of that **DAY** and **HOUR** no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.
Matthew 24:36

The Nation of Israel

*"Alas! For that **DAY** is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of **Jacob's** trouble, but he shall be saved out of it."* Jeremiah 30:7

