Well, it's time to get into God's Word and we're going to rejoin by the way our study in the book of <u>Revelation</u>. Of course, the last few weeks and through the summertime we had some unique messages related to evangelism, various things like that. And last week, Velcompel to share a message is related to the importance of being involved in church life. Involved in the fellowship of believers as we read from the book of <u>Hebrews</u>, to not for sacred neglect, giving together the saints for the purpose of edifying and building each other up.

Even so, much more we should, as we see, the reality of Jesus's return on the horizon. So, we looked at that last week and I shared some analogies. I think some of you guys found kind of funny. Shared with old Henry and the old, when the squirrels over ran, the church is back in the 60s in that whole situation.

There's one I didn't share though. Let me share this before I transitioned into today's study. There was a guy who was stranded on an island all by himself. He'd been there for years and finally they found him, they located him.

And when they located him, they found that he had built three different buildings on the island. And they were kind of curious as to why he had done that. Of course, they figured one of them was when he would live. And he said, well, the first one is my home.

The second one is the church that I went to. The other one is the church that I go to when I get mad or offended by the people at that other church. That was pretty interesting. Kind of drives home a spiritual truth, all right?

The reality is that we need to be connecting the body of Christ. As we read from Closch and chapter three last week, we are unique. We've got unique personalities and temperaments. We're supposed to be loving and patient and kind and encouraging.

That's not condoning sinful lifestyles, by the way, but that is encouraging each other, recognizing the uniqueness of who we are and just being the body of Christ knowing that Jesus is the head and giving him complete control and authority. With that, I'll transition now into our study today. The book of <u>Revelation</u>, we worked our way up through chapter 12. We've been doing a verse by verse study looking at the historical context.

And also, it was very important for you and I today is the application, the spiritual application for us today. So you would think we're going to jump into Revelation 13 today, but we're not. I'm going to do some preparatory work for that today and I'll tell you why. Now that we transitioned into roughly the midpoint of the book of Revelation, just a little past, which chapter 12, I felt compelled to go through information that kind of shares the sequence of the events that are occurring in the book of Revelation.

Now, if you think as you study the book of <u>Revelation</u> that everything is laid out in order sequentially, well, that's not the case. So as we work our way through this, it's important that we understand and I do my best to communicate you guys in certain places that we're in. For example, right now in the study that we're doing in the chapters we're in, it's a parenthetical section, meaning that God is expanding and giving us additional information about information He's already revealed in the previous chapters. And somebody had asked me the guestion, well, what is the

sequence, the scope of sequence of things that will be happening during the book of Revelation?

And I felt compelled to do this this week and it'll probably take another Sunday because there's quite a bit of information to share with you today. So I want you to hold on to your spiritual huggies. We're going to go through a lot of verses and encourage you to write these down. And these will be posted on the website, by the way, so you can actually go back through this PowerPoint, have these available to you.

And I think you'll see the importance of understanding this because some of you that have never done a book studying the book of <u>Revelation</u>, it is fairly complicated in some respects. And so we're going to help you through this. Some of you who have a familiar knowledge, please be patient and let the Lord speak through this to people. And I think He'll all be blessed by Him.

So what we're going to do, we're going to start out again. You see the title here on the slide, the seven-year tribulation, and probable, a probable sequence of events. Because even within the body of Christ and the experts, the Bible scholars, they have various perspectives on when some of this stuff may transpire. But by and large, I think what we'll see here is some things that you can see that will probably be the probable sequence.

Now there's some unique perspectives here. Before the tribulation event actually begins to occur. So what's called the Seventh Week of <u>Daniel</u>, or the time of Jacob's trouble, but by the way are very Jewish terminologies, there are going to be some things that will have to occur. Some events that are earthly related initially but quickly will become events that will be occurring in heaven.

The first one would be this. A little event called the rapture of the church, the body of Christ, the harpodzo. You see the verses that are listed there. I'm going to quickly go through one of the hallMark sections, 1st islone in chapter 4, verses 13 through 18.

And those will be posted up here. You can do your split screen thing up there probably. And we'll see what we've got here. You can follow along with your Bibles.

We find this in verse 13 and 1st islone in verse 4. And now to your brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so that you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell you this directly from the Lord.

We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. So Paul is communicating this truth to the church at Thessalonica initially, but it's a spiritual truth that is relevant to the entire body of Christ throughout the ages now. He goes on to say this in verse 16, for the Lord himself will come down from heaven with the commanding shout with the voice of the archangel and with a trumpet call of God. First the Christians who have died will rise from their graves.

In verse 17, then together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up. You know, that's what that word rapture means, by the way. The Greek word is harpazone, it means to be caught up. There are those who will argue that the rapture is not in the Bible, there are actual words like trinity is not in the Bible.

What we know, of course, the communication that there is a triune, there's one God who has revealed himself who is triune nature, father, son, holy spirit. What we find is that this reality of a rapture is communicated very clearly here through the original language and being caught up. The issue is the word rapture comes from the Latin vulgate. It's a Latin term, rapio.

That's where you care that from. So people have adopted that term, but it is very plainless language when it says that those who are alive and remain, they will be caught up. That's exactly what's going to happen. Jesus will catch those who are part of the body of Christ up to be with him, to meet the Lord in the ear.

Then we will be with the Lord forever. Of course, it closes out then with that wonderful encouragement, so encourage each other with these words. So these are events that will be happening in a scope of sequence. The rapture will occur.

Some events that will be relevant to us of the body of Christ shortly after that will be the bane of seed, the judgment seed of Christ. Go with me to 1 Corinthians chapter 3. Looking at the hallMark verses here, we're just going to point out a few of these. Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit speaking to the church at Corinth, again, spiritual truth to all of us, it relates to the judgment seed of Christ, which is the place that every believer will stand before.

If you're a Christian, you will stand before this seed, the name of seed of Christ. We find that the Word of God tells us this. For we are both God's workers and you are God's field and you are God's building. Speaking of the work of God, establishing the body of Christ, adding to those who are part of the body.

Paul says this in verse 10, because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it, but whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. So Jesus is this foundation, as he says in verse 11, for no one can lay any foundation other than a wind that we already have, that is Jesus Christ. So that means if you've accepted him as your Lord and Savior, that foundation is in place.

Now you have a life to live that you are accountable and responsible for. He goes on to share that truth in verse 12. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials. Gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw.

Now he's speaking metaphorically, guys, about how we live our lives, the works, the things we're doing in our lives. Summer of value done with the proper motivation, those are equated to be like golden, silver, and jewels. Those things are done in the flesh. They're not done with the proper motivation.

Like wood, hay, and stubble. And we see the result here of what will happen as we stand before the Lord. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value.

So it's a refining process. God is using this symbolic terminology to show us that there is going to be a refining process. Again, as God looks in our lives, this will be happening in this sequence of events. He goes on to say this then.

Verse 14, if the work survives, the builder will see, will receive a reward. Remember the study that we did call the life God rewards? Those of you who've been through that study, you know the value of that. Such an important study.

Verse 15 goes on to say then, but if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. Boy, I don't want to be that kind of person who basically, in essence, what he's saying here is a person who accepted the grace, the ring salvation, and we're born again by the Spirit of God. But beyond that, they did very little in service to God.

They were saved. They are in heaven. You're not going to be before this place, by the way, the judgment seat of Christ, unless you're born again. But it's sad.

They basically escaped hell because they were saved, but they didn't use their lives for the sake and the cause of Christ. So they will not receive much reward if any. So that's something we're going to see. There's also the reality of being a marriage, supper of the land that will occur.

Some important events that are relevant to the body of Christ. For example, we find the <u>2 Corinthians</u> chapter 11 verse 2. Paul alluded to this. He says, for I am jealous for you with a jealousy of God himself, I promised you as a pure bride to one husband who is Messiah Christ, right?

The <u>Revelation</u> 196 tells us this important reality, something that will occur, but in the scope and sequence, this will be later on. And we'll see this in depth as we get into <u>Revelation</u> 19 at some point. In verse 6, <u>Revelation</u> 19, it says, then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of a mighty ocean, waves or the crows of loud thunder. Praise the Lord for the Lord, our God, the Almighty reigns.

Verse 7, let us be glad and rejoice and let us give honor to him for the timeless come, for the wedding feast of the Lamb and his bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear for the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people. So there's this reality, this spiritual truth that in eternity, those who are part of the body of Christ will be united with Christ as his bride in an amazing sequence of events that will occur, very, very powerful. Also something that will be happening is these wonderful songs of worship that are just declared before the Lord.

We saw this when we were in <u>Revelation</u> 4 and 5 and so I want to quickly share from <u>Revelation</u> chapter 5, the verses that we have there, verses 9 through 14. Show you how powerful they are. How important the relevance of worship is, by the way, for us. And we see what <u>John</u> saw as he had this incredible vision, verse 9, <u>Revelation</u> 5, and they sang a new song with these words.

You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered and your blood has ran some people from God, from every tribe and language and people in nation. Verse 10 says, and you have caused them to become a kingdom of priests for our God and they will reign on the earth. Then I looked again and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and of the elders.

Can you imagine seeing this like <u>John</u> saw, this reality that occurs and even now the hosts of heaven worshipping the Lord our God continually. Verse 12 says, and they sang in a mighty chorus, worthy is the lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing. And then I heard every creature in heaven on earth and under the earth in the sea and they sang, blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the lamb forever and ever. And the four living beings said, amen.

And the 24 elders fell down and worshipped the lamb. You and I will fall on our faces before the Lamb of God in His very presence. Because I don't know about you but when you're in God's presence and you're worshipping Him just spending that time as presence, you feel compelled just to fall on your face. Sometimes in my prayer time, guys, sometimes in my worship time, I'll do that.

It's okay to do that. If you start rolling around a barking like a dog, there's a big problem. Now that's a whole nother ball game. You crossed a line.

You crossed a line. That's definitely not biblically relevant. But you know that happens sometime to some places. That's not biblically sound, folks.

Reality is though. I mean, if you humble yourself before God and you feel compelled to get on your knees before Jesus, the reality is He is worthy. He deserves our adoration. There's nothing wrong with that.

And we see this incredible reality here that the 24 elders that they fell down and they worshiped the lamb. So some really powerful stuff occurring there. And then also in the scope of sequence, we see the reality that Jesus the Lamb received the seven sealed scroll. Now this is all stuff quite prior to.

Now the Mary suffered the lamb. There's some interesting elements there. And like I say, we'll talk about the complexity of that later on. But the tribulation hour hasn't exactly started yet because the seals haven't been broken.

And we'll talk about this. We'll expand. But we see in <u>Revelation</u> chapter 5, then, this scene. John sees the scene where they're asking who is worthy to open the scroll.

We find that Jesus steps forward. And verse 7 says, he stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand, the one sitting on the throne. That was speaking of the Father. And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb.

Boy, here they go again. That's cool, though, right? Each one had a harp and they held gold, bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And so the seven sealed scroll was handed to Jesus.

What was the purpose? Well, now, as we look at the probable sequence of events, we see the beginning of the tribulation hour. Now, we know from God's word, for example, in Daniel chapter 9, let's look at this particular verse, that there is going to be something unique that occurs that will really trigger the beginning of the tribulation hour. Now, let me share something with you guys.

There's kind of an enigma here. There's kind of a mystery. Some people assume, and it could be, but some people assume that the rapture is the trigger for the tribulation. That's not necessarily the case.

There could be a period of time between the catching up the bride of Christ and the actual beginning of the tribulation. Now, something that could occur during that time frame, if there is a window, is it would give the world certainly an opportunity. And as quickly as people change in this world, they would quickly forget that the bride of Christ was ever here, that the church was ever here. How easily would they acclimate to the system that the Antichrist will introduce?

So we don't know what that time frame will be. Could it be triggered right off the bat with the tribulation it could be? But we do know this, that there will be a seven-year peace treaty that the Antichrist enforces with the nation of Israel. And that is a critical element.

Verse 27 and <u>Daniel</u> chapter 9 tells us this. The ruler or the prince will make you treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven. But after half of this time, so that's what, three and a half, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrificial object that causes desecration until the fate decreed for this to fire there is poured out upon him.

So what <u>Daniel</u> is shown by the Lord centuries before <u>John</u> ever has his vision we're studying here is showing him historically what would happen with the Antichrist and it's really kind of an outline of some major events in history. As he tells him that there will be a treaty that's made with God's people, the Jewish people. But after half of that time frame that there will be sacrifices and offerings that ceased, by the way, that speaks to the reality that there will be a temple that exists. We saw that in <u>Revelation</u> 11, we'll talk about that more.

But so in the sequence of events here, there will be this seven year peace treaty. I just spoke of the reality of the temple rebuilt. We see this here and also in <u>Revelation</u> chapter 11, verse 1, we saw that reality as well. And at this point, I don't think we'll read that.

That's not too far removed from our study, but I encourage you to take your time to read that. So there will be, the temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. Now, speaking of that sequence and that particular time frame that could exist between the rapture and the beginning of the tribulation, some speculate that maybe that's when the Jewish people will be able to actually rebuild the temple. That will lead up to the initiation of the seven year peace treaty that there will be some kind of a thing worked out.

And so for the nation of Israel to be able to enter into this treaty, perhaps that person who is the Antichrist or the people who are in a position of influence and power that time will facilitate this happening. And we do know that there will be a temple built in Jerusalem rebuilt. Also another very important thing that will occur then. There will be the reunited Roman Empire, the revived Roman Empire, will emerge in a tenation region or a confederation.

<u>Daniel</u> speaks of this reality and also in <u>Revelation</u> chapter 17, verse 12, we see this reality as well. And we just went through some of this stuff not too long ago as well. And for the sake of time, I'm going to move beyond this, but something that I do want to share with you today that is so incredible in terms of Bible prophecy. We see the world quickly emerging and transitioning into all of this coming to fruition and God fulfilling this truth.

One of the things that we see and we're not quite sure because there is some room here with this and riddle room, whether these ten nations will come out of the revived Roman Empire speaking specifically, for example, the European Union because those nations that they're speaking about could come out of that particular entity. But something that has occurred within recent history that could also play a role in this is this trend to globalization. You're hearing it all the time. You're seeing it all the time.

By the way, just this last past couple of weeks, the United Nations has called for the groups of nations to come together and really push for one world currency to get away with the American dollar. We saw world leaders calling for that over this past

year, but now the United Nations is calling for that as well. So we see things happening. But what we see, just like we see the European Union, is we see this trend, continental age for nations to come together and to form these groups together.

Okay? There's a movement going on in the Middle East to come together to have a Mediterranean Union. Okay? The African nations have already done it.

Most people don't even realize that. And Mo Markodafi of Libya has been appointed to be the head of that particular group of nations that have come together to form a union much like the European Union. It's happening here in South America. They're moving to come together to form a union there as well.

And I know some people say, well, it's kind of conspiratorial to talk about this kind of stuff and some people blow it off. But there are those who believe, and boy, there's more and more evidence in spite of what some people will say that there's a move to bring about a North American group, which would be Canada and America and Mexico is the North American Union. Whether that happens, we'll see. There's a lot of people who are saying that's a bunch of hogwash, and if you think that's happening, then you're up in the night and your hair brain and freaking out.

But we see that trend globally. So here's the interesting thing is it relates to these 10 regions. It'd be that what was spoken up prophetically here is a group of 10, basically groups that are encompassing the entire world instead of just 10 nations that will come out of Europe. I don't know.

We'll see in the future. Maybe we won't see, because maybe we'll be out of the loop and we won't have to experience that. But in the scope of sequence of things, those are some of the reMarkable things that will be happening. In the first half, the three and a half years of the Tribulation Hour, some other very important things.

As we saw in <u>Revelation</u> chapter 5, Jesus took the scroll and he was beginning to open it. In <u>Revelation</u> 6, we see that he does that. That the seven seal judgments begin. He opens the first seal.

So as the seven seal judgments are happening, some of the things will happen as well. The reality that God establishes this unique group of people, the 144,000 Jewish believers which are young men who have committed their lives to your shoestring Messiah and Savior and that He uses them supernaturally in evangelism to impact the world, such a powerful reality. In fact, we find this in Revelation chapter 7, verses 4 through 8. It says this in verse 4, and I heard how many were Marked with the seal of God.

144,000 were sealed from all the tribes of Israel. And he goes on to list 12,000 from each one of these 12 tribes that's listed all the way up through verse 8. Now it's interesting to note that of course there are religious systems in the world. One of them you may have heard of before called Jehovah Witnesses who believe that according to their scheme and their thinking, their theology that 144,000 is their very key people who have been diligent to follow through with their teachings.

That's not at all what the truth teaches here. It's just, I got to do a study God's word in context by the way folks. What happens is when people take verses of scripture outside of context, they can extrapolate, make all kinds of stuff up. No, these 144,000 is clearly communicated or a group of young Jewish people we know as we study this out.

Besides the verse that we have here, there will be young men who are committed to the service of God. He will supernaturally use them to impact the world for Christ. We'll work our way up then to a point, the midpoint of the tribulation, the scope of sequence. Now this is an interesting thing that some people who are experts who are Bible scholars are not all on the same page.

You know what that's okay? Because it is going to work out the way God has intended. When we look at <u>Ezekiel</u> 38 and 39, we see the stage even now being set for that. What we find in <u>Ezekiel</u> 38 and 39 and <u>Daniel</u> 11 refers to this as well, is that there will be a coalition of nations led by Russia, by the way.

It will involve Libya. It will involve modern day Iran. It will involve modern day Turkey, which would encompass Beth Hugaraman, those ancient nations who were listed. There will basically be a conglomeration of nations that come together under the leadership of Russia.

All those other nations, by the way, will be Islamic and they are today. And they're even right now developing stronger ties and what will happen in the future at some point is those nations under the leadership of this one who comes out of Russia, Gog, will lead these nations against Israel. Now the timing on that is kind of up in the air. Some believe it will occur before the seven-year tribulation begins.

And that's they very well could be. Chances of us being here to see that are probably slim. We could probably be raptured by that time. It could even occur if there's a window between the tribulation or the rapture and the beginning of the tribulation that could happen during that time frame.

One of the things I find intriguing that tells me that it could be during the tribulation hour is how God divinely intervenes and the nations declare they understand the God intervened. So they're forced to realize that and proclaim that. Now where I find it interesting is if they understand it before the tribulation ever begins, you think they would respond to that and they would be influenced by that. But obviously the world isn't.

And also the whole issue of a Psalm 83 we went through that before, which prophetically is probably one of the things it's about to be fulfilled. And that is the reality that all those Islamic nations that are surrounding Israel that share a common border with Israel, that they are preparing for war with Israel. And I'll tell you what it truly is a powder cake. And as Israel is counting down, they're a probable strategic attack on Iran to keep them from getting their nuclear weapons.

I don't know if you're paying attention to the news, but every day more and more developments on that. God tells us through Psalm 83 that there will be a conflict in which Israel basically takes out all of those nations that are immediately surrounding Israel. Now we talked about this before because when we look at Ezekiel 38 and 39, those particular nations that are listed in Psalm 83 that Israel will destroy are not part of the group that are listed in Ezekiel 38 and 39. Why not?

It would make sense if they're all enemies of Israel. They all hate Israel. They all want to destroy Israel. Why wouldn't they all come against Israel together?

Well if those nations are listed in Psalm 83 have already been taken out prior to it, it will happen <u>Ezekiel</u> 30 and 39. That explains why they're not involved in <u>Ezekiel</u> 30 and 39. So continue to watch what's happening in the Middle East. It continues to get increasingly more intense over there and something could transpire at any time and

also <u>Isaiah</u> chapter 17 verse 1 which is a prophecy that's never been fulfilled tells us that the capital of Syria which is Damascus will be obliterated.

Now they're increasingly strong ties and they're getting increasingly stronger all the time between Iran and Syria and by the way Syria and Lebanon, Hamas has been all those terrorist groups or just Syracists of Iran. Basically they're just puppets of Iran and by the way Russia as well, they're all working together. But God is doing some awesome stuff to tell us that we're certainly in the times and seasons some of this stuff being fulfilled. So as it relates to our sequence of probable events or what their probable sequence could be, this may very well happen during the tribulation hour instead of before.

We know this too that the midpoint of the tribulation that the anti-Christ will break his covenant with Israel. Remember we read that in <u>Daniel</u> chapter 9 verse 27. Let's reflect on that again quickly. He says this in <u>Daniel</u> 9, 27 that the ruler will make a tree with the people for a period of one set of seven but after half of this time, 1260 days or three and a half years he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings.

There's a climax to all his terrible deeds. He will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out upon him. So what he's speaking of here is what is the desolation or the bombination of desolation. Jesus himself spoke of this prophetically when he was speaking to four disciples in <u>Matthew</u> chapter 24.

In fact, as Jesus is communicating to them as they asked him a question, what will be the sign of the end of the age and of your return? And he says, okay, you want to talk about end times theology? I'll talk end times theology with you and that's why it's important to understand the context of what Jesus is talking about. He's projecting forward to the end times he's talking to them.

And as he's going down through a list of things that will be happening, he comes to verse 15 of Matthew 24 when he tells him this, the day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about. We just read that, right? What Daniel the prophet spoke about, the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the holy place, reader, pay attention or beware. Jesus, the Holy Spirit wants us to be so aware and he wants that audience, he's communicating that truth to be aware of what will happen.

So at the midpoint of the tribulation, anti-Christ is going to throw off all this nicey nice with the nation of Israel or anybody else and his fangs are about to really be exposed major league. It's going to be incredible, we'll be happening, a horrible thing that will occur during that time. By the way, second disillusion, let me share this with you as well as relates to that. This is on the chapter 2 verse 4, Paul the Apostle gave us some insight to this when he said, but he or he, speaking of the anti-Christ, will exalt himself and to fight everything that people call God and every object of worship.

So he's sending himself up every religious system, right? Doesn't he say that? He will exalt himself and to fight everything that people call God and every object of worship. So whether people or worship the one tree living God or a false God, he will exalt himself over all these things.

Goes on to say this, he will even sit in the temple of God claiming that he himself is God. Incredible, but there's only one tree living God, but he's going to set up a system in which he will be worshiped. As we move our way, when we jump into Revelation 13, you're going to see this with the anti-Christ. We're going to see the

false prophet and we're going to see what God is doing that time frame using these guys in terms of judgment and what's occurring there, by the way.

So the anti-Christ will break his covenant and here's an interesting thing. He will invade the land as part of this process. Again, looking at our scope and sequence here. In <u>Daniel</u> chapter 11, we see this reality again of what is going to happen.

Anti-Christ begins to consolidate his empire by plundering Egypt, Sudan and Libya. That's why some people believe that <u>Ezekiel</u> 38 and 39 will happen at this point in time. As God destroys these enemies that have come against Israel, which would incorporate, by the way, Egypt, Sudan and Libya, that they would be right for the picking. So anti-Christ would take advantage of that opportunity that's set before him.

Again, you can read <u>Daniel</u> 11, 42, and 43 in <u>Ezekiel</u> 38 and 39. Also, anti-Christ will respond to the Israeli insurrection and he will destroy many as well because it tells us that something will happen where he turns on Israel and he begins to kill Israel's right and left. In fact, there's a coming Holocaust again. The ones that have occurred throughout history, they're not the end.

The one that occurred under Hitler is not the end. There will be more that die during this heinous attack by the anti-Christ, during the tribulation hour than before, but there will be a remnant. The God will touch and save. And like the things we just read about here, the anti-Christ setting up the abomination, the cause of desolation in the temple, the second desolation is those things that we read, it's just absolutely staggering to see the reality of what he does there.

Something else that will be occurring during this time frame as well. It's amazing how fast this time goes. Anti-Christ. Now, this is an interesting thing.

You know I've got a question Mark there. Anti-Christ is killed in a war or by assassination. Now, there are some Bible scholars as they look at this, some wonder if it's speaking about this actual entity known as the anti-Christ, who will be this man who's totally given over and empowered possessed by Satan himself, or if it's speaking symbolically about a power that exists at that point in time about nations, about the Revive Roman Empire, that it received a wound and God allowed it to be revived. So either way, something supernatural occurs here.

And for the sake of what we're doing right here, we'll say that it is this entity known as the anti-Christ, that something happens where he is killed. We find this in <u>Revelation</u> 13, by the way, verse 3. It says, I saw one of the heads speaking of about a position of authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery, but the fatal wound was healed.

The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast. Now, when we get into <u>Revelation</u> 13, and I'll say this for then, some wonder about how could he actually be killed, be actually dead and be resurrected? Doesn't God alone have the power to resurrect? Can God alone bring life?

So we'll leave that till that time when we jump into <u>Revelation</u> 13. We'll look at that a little bit more in depth. It's incredible to see what was happening here. Also in <u>Revelation</u> 13, we see this in verse 12, that he exercised all the authority of the first beast, and he required all the eartheness people to worship the first beast whose fatal wound had been healed.

Wow, and we get into this chapter here in a couple weeks, I think you're going to be amazed if you haven't gone through this before. It's truly pretty re<u>Mark</u>able. Verse 14 also says this, with all the miracles, he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast. He deceived all the people who belonged to this world.

He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. So this is stuff that will be occurring again, thinking about the probable sequence of events during this time frame. Something else that we saw in our study of Revelation chapter 12 was this reality that Satan is cast down from heaven, and at that point he launches his all-out attack against Israel, which we'll see this incredible Holocaust when he attempts to completely again destroy the nation of Israel, and he uses the two beasts as part of this process. Now, when we are in Revelation chapter 12, we define this, and some people find it interesting to know that up until this point, that even now, guys, the Satan's called the Prince of the Power of the Year, when you look at the terminology used for the word heavens, okay, when it's in the Greek, for example, and the Hebrew both, when it looks, talks about the heavens, the first heaven would be the atmosphere that directly surrounds us.

You and I are breathing it. The second would be the stars, the sky, the space out there. The third would be God's literal abode, the dwelling place of God. That's why Paul said he was caught up to the third heaven.

That's what he was speaking about. Well, even until this point in time during the midpart of the tribulation, Satan is allowed access to the presence of God. Isn't that incredible? He's allowed access, but at that point in time, he will no longer be allowed access.

He will be thrown down, and he will be relegated to only operate here on the earth and in the atmosphere above here as the Prince of the Power of the Year. So that is something that's going to happen. And let's quickly read those verses again in Revelation chapter 12, verse 7 that relate to that. And we'll read a few more verses that encompass that to get the big picture.

Verse 7 says this, then there was war in heaven, and Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. Then there was war in heaven. Verse 9, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, this is just in the verse 9. This great dragon, the ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world, was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

Verse 10, then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, it has come at last, salvation and power in the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. For the accused of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth, the one who accuses them before our God, day and night. Verse 11, and they have defeated him by the blood of the lamb and by their testimony, and they did not love their lives so much they were afraid to die. So it communicates truth that those who accept Jesus as Messiah during the tribulation will also give their lives.

But the reality is spiritually they've overcome the enemy just as you and I do by the blood of the lamb. When you and I accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, when anybody accepts Jesus and is sacrificed, the shedding of his blood on the cross at Calvary is death in his resurrection, then they overcome the enemy by the blood of the lamb and your testimony then needs to be that Jesus is your God, he's your Lord, your King, your Savior, and as you've been saved by grace through faith and we need to be willing to share that testimony with the hurting and a dying world today

folks, we really do. Something else that happens and we'll close up with this today because we're at the midpoint of the tribulation hour. Something will happen then that as Satan is cast down as he begins to pour out this all out of salt upon the Jewish people that the faithful Jewish remnant that exists at that point will flee to Petra in modern day Jordan and that the Lord will protect them from the rest or for the rest of the tribulation.

So that's an intriguing reality that we see that. In fact in Matthew chapter 24 we see this in verse 16. Jesus said then those in Judea must flee to the hills. A person out on the deck or a roof must not go down to the house to pack and a person out in the field must not return even to get a coat for how terrible it will be for pregnant women for nursing mothers in those days and pray that your flight will not be in winter on this Shabbat, the Sabbath.

Do you see how the Jewishness of this too by the way? Interesting huh? Reflecting back to Revelation chapter 12 and verse 15 is a relates then. It says then the dragon tried to drown the woman which is symbolically speaking of Israel if you read chapter 12 when the first of verse we define those terms when we were back in Revelation 12 then the dragon who was Satan tried to drown the woman with the flood of water that flowed from his mouth whether that was literal whether it would be a literal attempt to destroy them through drowning them or if it's speaking again as a metaphor for however he's going to try to destroy them it will happen.

But there's something unique that's going to happen again. God is going to protect the nation of Israel. This is a literal place guys. If you've ever seen uh, Raiders of the Lost, not Raiders of the Lost Ark but it's it's one of the Indiana Jones it's a the Holy Grail one whatever they call that one.

Well there are some scenes that they take that they fill in that particular place and God's word speaks prophetically about the nation of Israel the ones who are left alive fleeing to this place and being preserved. This is one of the entry points I know that picture is a little fuzzy and I apologize but some of these are clear. There's steep canyons and only small entry points so it'd be really tough for a modern-day army to get in there and not only this is going to be a place so it'd be tough for people to attack the nation of Israel but you have to realize the most important element is God's supernatural protection over the nation of Israel because they could be standing out in a field with no protection for anything like this and God would still preserve them but the reality is as God is going to have a place for the remit to be during their time away from there isn't that incredible. The reality is is to out these structures and throughout these canyons in this area they've estimated that it can support the neighborhood of one and a half million people and these structures have been here for centuries centuries ago these were built and they've been awaiting their prophetic fulfillment to harbor those Israelites who in the midpoint of the tribulation will flee for safety isn't incredible.

In fact you know what there are some Christian groups who have placed tracks there in Hebrew for the people and have already placed some provisions there for them so that when the tribulation now begins that there's some stuff there for them but the Lord will be their provider some more pictures I thought you'd find intriguing from that particular area if you've never seen them before. They've been pretty amazing to be there and to go through throughout that area you can see how throughout the mountain size throughout the rock all these various caves and dwellings have been built so if you were to see the vastness of that overall area you would see that it would be able to house many many people.