

TOPIC: What Will Happen?

In this segment I want to talk to you about some of the major events the Bible says will transpire during the seven-year Tribulation. Why? Well, if you know ahead of time what's going to happen, you can be better prepared spiritually, emotionally, and physically to navigate your way through these challenges to the best of your ability. And make no mistake: there **WILL BE** unprecedented challenges. Jesus said in Matthew 24:21 that "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will." Unfortunately, you are going to witness this Tribulation firsthand, so you will see that these are indeed TRUE words spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, these are going to be challenging, devastating, and deadly times. But as you witness the events that the Bible said would happen in the Tribulation, let the fulfillment of these prophecies strengthen your faith. The fulfillment of Bible prophecy is solid visible proof that the Bible is trustworthy and that the God of the Bible is more than worthy of your trust. As if I need to state the obvious, you have already witnessed the Rapture of the Church! Perhaps by now you've also witnessed the emerging of a new world leader that can solve many of the world's problems, and the signing of a seven-year peace covenant with Israel. Many more prophecies are going to come true very soon if they haven't already! As I said, it is likely you are already seeing them unfolding before your very eyes.

Here are some things you can expect to read about or see in the news, or witness with your own eyes. But here's an important disclaimer: do not expect the World System to credit the God of the Bible for these events. They will bring forth every reason BUT the fact that this was predicted in the Bible. It's part of the deception strategy of the Antichrist! We've already seen an incredible fake news machine take over what we see, and social media platforms do nothing more than push the "agenda" forward. They will never credit the God of the Bible for these judgments, but they will blame natural causes, cosmic events, global warming, and many other distractions. It's all a lie. **YOU WILL SEE THINGS THAT WILL BOLSTER YOUR FAITH IN THE BIBLE AND IN JESUS CHRIST!** From one point-of-view: it would be impressive and incredibly amazing to witness all these things coming true—if it weren't for the severity and death and destruction. The tribulation is no joke...and unfortunately, you will have a front-row seat. So, let us begin, because it is better to know than not to know.

There will be a massive military attack on Israel that ends with a supernatural decimation of Israel's enemies. This is spoken about in Ezekiel 38–39. Sometime, probably in the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation while the Jews are dwelling securely in the land (Ezekiel 38:11), they will be attacked by a massive coalition of armies from what are mostly Muslim countries today. When this prophecy was written centuries ago, the countries were called Magog, Tubal, Togarmah, and Persia in Ezekiel's day. In modern times, these countries have names like Iran, Russia, Libya, Sudan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. Using a massive earthquake, a plague, and hailstones mixed with fire and burning sulfur, Ezekiel 39:4 tells us that God is going to quickly and totally destroy every last soldier that opposes Israel. This may be what creates favorable circumstances for the Jews to finally rebuild their temple in Jerusalem...because at least temporarily no enemy nation will be able to oppose them anymore. So, be on the lookout for this military invasion and God's miraculous intervention on behalf of the Jews.

Another thing to be on the lookout for...

The rise of a cunning, charismatic political ruler the Bible calls the Antichrist. A Gentile (non-Jewish) man energized and controlled by Satan (Revelation 13:2) will rise to political power in Europe (Daniel 9:26), the ancient Roman Empire. His coming, the Bible says, "is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders" (2 Thes. 2:9). So, working in conjunction with Satan himself, he will be able to perform great signs and wonders. This world leader will seemingly be able to solve many (if not all) of the world's problems but is **NOT to be trusted**. And that goes for his false prophet, who is a religious leader who also performs deceitful signs and commands people to worship the Antichrist.

Another event to be on the lookout for...

The Antichrist's signing of a 7-year covenant or treaty with Israel. The exact beginning of the seven-year Tribulation will overlap with the signing of a seven-year covenant between Israel and the Antichrist (Daniel 9:26–27). Most Bible commentators believe that this will be some sort of peace treaty or agreement for peace that will solve problems in the

Middle East, though we can't be certain because the Bible does not say exactly what the terms will be. But from the signing of that covenant until the return of Jesus Christ to the earth will be exactly seven years of 30-day months. This equals 2,520 days, or 7-years, or 84 months, or 2 periods of 42-months. Mark it on your calendar! If you are curious how far into the 7-year Tribulation you are do this simple date math: take today's date and subtract the number of days since the **exact date** of the signing of that covenant, then divide by 2,520 days. It should lead to the percentage of how far into the tribulation you find yourself.

Also, look out for the construction of a new Jewish temple on the temple mount in Jerusalem. In AD 70, Roman soldiers completely destroyed the second Jewish temple that stood in Jerusalem in Jesus's day. But it will be rebuilt, authorized we believe, by the Antichrist and the peace treaty he signs with the government of Israel. You can expect animal sacrifices will once again be offered there. This is spoken about in Daniel 9:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; and the Book of Revelation chapter 11.

This next prophecy will be completely unmistakable! Look for the powerful ministry of two men clothed in sackcloth in Jerusalem. Revelation 11:3–13 tells us that two individuals dressed in sackcloth will prophesy (i.e. to proclaim God's Word) in Jerusalem (Revelation 11:8) for 1,260 days (3.5 years) during the first part of the Tribulation. The two witnesses will be protected by God until their ministry is complete (Revelation 11:3–6). Anyone who seeks to harm them will be destroyed by fire. When their ministry is complete, God will permit the Antichrist to kill them. Their bodies will be left rotting and unburied on the street in Jerusalem for 3.5 days for the wicked to rejoice over (Revelation 11:10). But after three days, both men will miraculously come back to life (Revelation 11:11) and ascend visibly up into Heaven. Immediately following this there will be a large earthquake in Jerusalem that will result in the death of 7,000 people (Revelation 11:13).

The abomination of desolation is a key prophecy that will finally wake up the Jewish nation to the fact that the man they thought was the Messiah is actually the Antichrist. At the midpoint of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will step into the newly constructed temple in Jerusalem and desecrate it when he performs "the abomination of desolation" (Daniel 9:27). Bible scholars speculate this might suggest that he sacrifices a pig—which is an unclean animal forbidden to Jewish dietary law. But that is speculation, because we don't know for sure. Among the other blasphemies he perpetrates, he will also declare himself to be God (2 Thessalonians 2:4). Not the God of the Bible. Jesus also referred to this event in Matthew 24:15 and indicated that great tribulation would ensue...and indeed it will, because it is widely accepted that the second half of the 7-year tribulation period will be more severe than the first half...so much so that it is called the Great Tribulation. Pay attention to the warning that Jesus gives to YOU: the second part of verse 15 it literally says: "...**let the reader understand**". God wants you to know what is going to happen so that WHEN IT IS DONE, WHEN IT IS FULFILLED TO THE LETTER, THEN YOU WILL KNOW THAT **HE IS THE REAL GOD** and the way to salvation. To ignore this is foolishness.

Now, this is where we come to a series of devastating judgments. During the Tribulation, God will pour out a series of judgments on the earth that will begin to intensify like labor pains. Some of the judgments will include deadly famines (Revelation 6:8), huge out of control fires (Revelation 8:7), an asteroid that crashes into the sea and kills a third of the living creatures in the sea and destroys a third of the world's ships. There will be a prolonged drought (Revelation 11:6), demons that will be unleashed and permitted to torment **UNBELIEVERS** for five months (Revelation 9:1-5). There will be incurable, open, oozing sores on the worshipers of the Antichrist—only those people who take the mark of the beast (Revelation 16:2). Other judgments include intense heat that will scorch the earth (Revelation 16:8-9). Darkness across the planet (Revelation 16:10). There will be a worldwide earthquake so powerful that the cities of the nations will fall (Revelation 16:19). As a result of the earthquake, the Bible says that islands are going to disappear, and mountains are going to crumble (Revelation 16:20). And the very next verse, Revelation 16:21, says that there will be "huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each [that] came down from heaven upon men." As you can imagine, there is going to be widespread panic and fear. By the end of the Tribulation, the earth, its environment, and its cities are going to be devastated. The Book of Revelation tells us that more than half of the world's population will die during this time in two massive waves. In Revelation 6:7–8 a fourth of the world population will die, followed by Revelation 9:13–15 where another third will die. The world population at the time of this recording is 7.8 billion. So, after subtracting for those that were raptured, half of that number will be dead in just a few years' time...that's several **BILLION** people dead. Will

you be among them? Don't you understand your need for Christ and for the second-chance opportunity YOU have been given to be born-again to gain everlasting life? Please call out to Jesus now and don't delay!

We're not done yet. Watch with anticipation for the Antichrist to apparently resurrect. Revelation 13 indicates that the Antichrist will be assassinated or killed (Revelation 13:3) or at least appear to be killed. But the Bible says his fatal wound will appear to be miraculously healed. The healing (or let's agree to characterize it as a counterfeit resurrection) will be so deceiving "the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast" (Revelation 13:3). **DON'T FALL FOR IT!** This is an impersonation and parallel to the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Now listen carefully, because we'll talk about this in great detail in another segment but look out for the requirement to have a mark on your right hand or forehead to buy or sell. And to be clear, there will likely be many compelling benefits and perks included to entice people to take this mark. The Antichrist's worldwide government is going to **require** people all over the world to show their **allegiance to him** by receiving a mark on their right hand or forehead (Revelation 13:16–18) in order to buy or sell anything. **But beloved, DO NOT take the mark!** It would be better to die as a born-again martyr than receive the mark. Why? Taking the mark is a sign of allegiance to the Antichrist and Satan instead of Jesus Christ and God. And God is going to judge and condemn to eternal hell all who receive it. So serious are the consequences of taking this mark, we devote an entire expanded segment to it. Remember: don't take the mark!

Another thing to be aware of ahead of time is...an increase in the persecution of Jews and Christians. The Antichrist and his followers are going to take out their anger and hatred of God on the Jewish people and on Christians (Revelation 6:9–10, 13:7). The Bible indicates that persecution will be global and not just isolated to a specific country or region like it is today. In Matthew 24:9, Jesus said to His followers that they "will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of Me." So, prepare for that. This doesn't mean that every Jew will be killed, because we know that a Jewish remnant will survive. We also know that many born again believers will also make it all the way through to the end of the Tribulation period because there has to be a surviving remnant to enter into the Millennial Kingdom and repopulate the earth. Thinking of the Lord's desire to save as many as possible, in Matthew 24 Jesus warned his followers that when they see the abomination of desolation in the Jewish temple, they must "flee to the mountains" (Matt. 24:16). So, listen to me: you too, can flee from danger. In Matthew 10:23, Jesus told His disciples, "whenever they persecute you in this city, flee to the next." So, God is not calling you to line up for internment camps or guillotines or gas chambers. It would be better to try and survive **as long as you are able** so that you can be a light to others, to help other people who are suffering, and so on. But, as I mention in other segments, there is also no reason to fear if you are captured and put to death by the Antichrist's enforcers, or even killed in one of the judgments. Why? "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life" (John 3:36). Friend, if you are killed, not only will you instantaneously be in Heaven with Jesus, but later you will rule and reign with Christ when He returns to the Earth in the Second Coming (Revelation 20:4). We will talk more about your eternal future in more detail later! **Spoiler alert: we WIN!**

Also, there will be an angel preaching the gospel! Be on the lookout for reports or even the sound of an angel who will proclaim the good news of the gospel throughout the entire world. It is extremely likely that YOU will hear this angel and no—it is not a figment of your imagination! Revelation 14:6–7 says there will be an angel who will fly around "carrying the everlasting Good News to preach to the people who belong to this world—to every nation, tribe, language, and people." **THIS IS ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES FOR THE TRIBULATION.** The trials of the Tribulation are not just God's judgment on the wicked; these trials, tribulations, and difficulties **are also intended to wake people up and lead them to repentance.** Peter said, "THE LORD IS...NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, BUT THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE" (2 Peter 3:9). And many people "from every nation and tribe and people and tongue" will repent during the Tribulation (Revelation 7:9–14). If you have become a believer in Jesus Christ, know that you are not alone. Millions all over the world will be turning to the Lord as well. If it is safe for you to do so, seek out other believers so that you may encourage and help one another.

Towards the last part of the 7-year tribulation period, there will be a massive battle at Armageddon in northern Israel. Everyone on earth will know about this battle. The resulting disorder brought on by all of God's judgments during the Tribulation is going to create opposition to the Antichrist (Daniel 11:40–45). Because he will be unable to fulfill his promises of peace and prosperity, a worldwide revolution will take place and major portions of the world will rebel

against his authority (Dan. 11:40–45). This climaxes in a gigantic war that begins to unfold in the plain surrounding Mount Megiddo (Revelation 16:13–21). But look up Brothers and Sisters! Because while the events of Armageddon are going on, Jesus said in Matthew 24 that “The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the Earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:29-30). Revelation 19 tells us that Jesus is going to descend from Heaven to the Earth on a white horse. Revelation 1:7 says, “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him.” He will capture the Antichrist and his false prophet and throw them into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20), and you, Brothers and Sisters, will never see or hear from either of them ever again! As I’ve mentioned elsewhere, in the end Jesus wins! And because He wins, **we who have accepted** His gift of salvation and **called out on His name** will likewise win in the end. I PRAY THAT YOU REPENT AND BELIEVE. It is eternally critical that you do so. You want to be on the winning side, don’t you? Of course, you do! I have faith that you will choose Jesus Christ and accept Him as both your LORD and your SAVIOR!

One important truth will help you educate and win others into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments all happen sequentially. One right after the other and in the same order that you see them in Revelation. This can become a very POWERFUL WITNESSING opportunity, because when you speak to others about what the next prophecy is and then it happens exactly as the Bible foretold, then it gives YOUR testimony about Jesus more weight and authority. Especially if this track record of correct prediction and fulfillment happens over and over—repeatedly coming to fruition exactly as you shared with others. In effect, like me, you are a **Watchman for the Lord** and one of your key roles is to WATCH and WARN and pass on the **GOOD NEWS of the GOSPEL of JESUS CHRIST** to a lost and dying world population! *You are now an evangelist, and like me and other Watchmen, you have an Ezekiel 33 responsibility and thus accountability to share what you know with others! Note you are **not** accountable for their reaction—perhaps including their outright rejection of the Gospel—you, my Friend are only responsible to **warn**. The rest is between **THEM** and the LORD!*

So, in conclusion, review these major events that are coming, and note what Jesus said: “when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28). Jesus Christ will return at the end of the 7-year tribulation period to rule and reign the earth (Revelation 19–20). And the Bible says that those of us who were in Heaven prior to the Tribulation will be coming down to the earth WITH Him (Revelation 19:14). So, we will see you soon, Beloved!

I’d like to conclude this difficult discussion by sharing that Paul encourages us with these words from Eph. 6:10: “Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might”. COME TO HIM, SERVE HIM, see how He redeems YOU for all eternity! In our next segment, we will be spending more time developing this notion that you will have every opportunity to step up into a potentially significant role during the Tribulation. I want to help you think this through.