

IV. THE “GREAT” TRIBULATION (Matthew 24:15-21)

- A. At the middle of this 7year tribulation (Daniel 9, 70th Week), the Antichrist or Beast – a world leader will break his treaty with Israel, enthrone himself as “god” and *persecute Jews* as never before! During this “Jacob’s Trouble”, Jesus told Jews to flee Jerusalem for their lives! (24:22)
- B. The 2-fold purpose of the tribulation is: 1) the *salvation* of Israel as God fulfils His promises to them and 2) the *condemnation* of all unbelievers. This will happen via three series of intensifying judgments (*seven trumpets, veils and bowls*; Rev. 6-19). Through all this, God’s message is clear those who reject Jesus – Jews or Gentiles – will face God’s wrath, so *now is the day of salvation!*

V. CHRIST’S SECOND COMING

- ¹¹ *"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war."* Revelation 19:11
- ¹⁵ *"Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."*
- ¹⁶ *And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."*
Revelation 19:15-16

VI. PREPARE NOW FOR HIS SECOND COMING

- ¹ *"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."*
- ² *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."*
- ³ *And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."* I John 3:1-3

**WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF THE END?
WHILE WE ARE WATCHING AND WAITING, LET US
ALSO KEEP WORKING!**

BIBLE QUESTIONS ANSWERED **Disciples Ask: What Are The Signs Of The End?** **Dr. Chris Gnanakan**

Introduction:

- A. Do you know how many questions there are in the Bible? A lot! There are over 3200 questions asked in the Bible. The first question is asked in Genesis 3 and the last question is asked in Revelation 18. The Bible is a book of both questions and answers!

These questions include numerous topics. Perhaps the most important category is that of Bible doctrine. Doctrine refers to essential beliefs found within the Bible which are systematically organized and understood.

Titus 2:1 instructs, “*But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine.*”

- B. Join us for Bible Questions Answered as we answer seven compelling questions in the Bible about seven core areas of doctrine. Come and discover the essential teachings of the Christian faith and be equipped to know what you believe and why you believe it.

Aug 17	Satan Ask: Did God Really Say That?
Aug 24	David Ask: What is Man?
Aug 31	David Ask: Where Can I go From Your Presence?
Sept 7	Paul Ask: Shall We Continue In Sin?
Sept 14	Jailor Ask: What Must I Do To Be Saved?
TODAY	Disciples Ask: What Are The Signs Of The End?
Sept 28	Jesus Ask: Who Am I?

C. TEXT Matthew 24:3-14

The Disciples' question pertains to the doctrine of prophecy.

³ *"Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?””* Matthew 24:3

HOW TO INTERPRET THE END TIMES

Eschatology is the study of “last things” yet to come! Why study prophecy? Did you know that our Bible is a book of prophecies with over 1800 references to Jesus’ return in 23 of the 27 NT books and that 1 in every 30 verses discuss this?! We must *understand* history and rightly interpret prophecies, so we can live responsibly in loving obedience, ready for His return!

Jesus’ Jewish disciples, in front of the Jerusalem temple, ask Him a crucial *question*: “What will be the sign of your coming, and the end of this age?” Note: Jesus’ *reply* in this Olivet Discourse, “signs” for Jews (4-14) directly related to their *temple* and His *return* to establish His earthly kingdom.

Three end time events are noteworthy:

- 1) The Church Age and Rapture
- 2) The Jewish Tribulation Period
- 3) Christ’s Return To Reign

So, let’s prepare *now* for His *soon* coming!

I. THE TEMPLE'S DESTRUCTION (70 AD)

- A. First, note what Jesus prophesied that has already happened. Jewish leaders rejected Him as the Messiah. He lamented and pronounced a series of warnings/woes foretelling the destruction of the Jerusalem temple (23:1-39) that the Romans executed in 70AD.
- B. The Jews were scattered (*diaspora*) among, and persecuted by, the Gentile “nations” until they repent. Yet in the future a few Jews will embrace Jesus as Lord at His 2nd Advent, when He will *Return to reign* on earth.

II. THE CHURCH'S RAPTURE

⁵¹ *"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—*

⁵² *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

⁵³ *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

⁵⁴ *So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'*

⁵⁵ *'O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?'*

⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.*

⁵⁷ *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

⁵⁸ *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."* I Corinthians 15:51-58

III. SEVEN SIGNS OF "THE END" (Matthew 24:4-8; 9-14)

A. These signs, often misinterpreted, are the beginning birth-pangs of the “Great” Tribulation. These *futuristic signs* primarily apply to “you”/Israel on earth, since the Church is raptured to heaven!

B. Their horrific persecution will be triggered by:

- 1) Deception, as false prophets lead them astray from Christ’s Gospel.
- 2) Wars and such rumors will be rampant.
- 3) Famines related to wars will deplete the economy.
- 4) Death will prevail due to earthquakes and epidemic plagues.
- 5) Martyrs will lay down lives for their faith in Christ.
- 6) Global Chaos due to lawlessness, broken homes and national crises will be the norm.

Yet, a faithful remnant of 144,000 Jewish evangelists will preach the Gospel to spread Christ’s kingdom, as it is being done by missionaries today!