

# **The Return**

## **Eschatology**

**A study of the end of times**

**Return Church**

Wednesday evening

Bible study

April 8, 2026

Lesson #8

# Questions and answers

- If you have any question about the end times you may ask me.
- Please write your question down and give it to me on a piece of paper.
- Or you can e-mail me your question at:

[bch@chrbillst.com](mailto:bch@chrbillst.com)

- I will pray over them and answer the ones that the Lord leads me to answer.
- We will try to have this question-and-answer session soon. Maybe we will begin this at the end of a shorter lesson next week.
- Also, we will have a children's program on Wednesday evenings soon.

# The Return

1. The Coming Kingdom
2. The Millennium Reign of Jesus Christ
3. The Mysteries of the Kingdom
4. The Rapture of the Church
5. The 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus Christ
6. Signs of the times
7. The Anti-Christ
8. **The Tribulation Period**
9. The End of time, into Eternity
10. Israel and the Church

# **The Tribulation Period**

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.

***Matthew 24:21 NKJV***



# What is the tribulation really all about?

- About 70% of the book of Revelation is describing the Great Tribulation. Most of Revelation chapters 6-18 is dealing with just the 3 ½ years of great tribulation.
- We are about to see that God pours out His wrath upon the earth in a greater way than ever before.
- Never in the history of the world has the earth and its inhabitants had to suffer such pain and misery. It is literally going to be hell on earth.
- Why? We must remember that God is a God of love and judgment, grace and truth, mercy and justice.
- The past 2,000 years have been called the church age, also called the dispensation of grace. We have lived in this age for our entire lives. We have never witnessed God's wrath before. All we know is that God is a God of love, grace and mercy.
- Most of the world is so nonchalant about sin. It's no big deal. But you are about to see how God really feels about sin.
- God is holy, righteous and just. He must judge sin. His nature has both sides. **He is equally a God of love and a God of judgment.** God hates sin.

# God wants everyone to repent

The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to **repent**. *II Peter 3:9 NLT*

But unless you **repent** you will all likewise perish. *Luke 13:5 NKJV*

The kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent**, and believe in the gospel. *Mark 1:14 NKJV*

- What are we to repent of? Can Christians still have sin in their hearts? Yes, of course! We all have sin in its thousands of forms. Christians still sin and they need to repent of it.

# Don't fear

- What you are about to hear is that for a brief 3 ½ years, sometime in the future, the inhabitants of the earth will literally experience hell on earth. But we as believers are not to fear. Why not?
- **First: There could be a pre-tribulation rapture where all Christians escape the wrath to come. I hope and pray this is the case, but I am not 100% confident that this will happen.**

And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. ***1 Thessalonians 1:10 NKJV***

- Is that verse speaking of the wrath of God in hell, or in the tribulation?
- But this idea of a pre-tribulation rapture has only been around since 1830, and there are a lot of scriptures that prepare us for suffering and persecution.
- The question is: will the end times church have to suffer like the early church did?

# Could believers go through the tribulation

Immediately after the tribulation of those days....Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven,..... and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. ***Matthew 24:29-31 NKJV***

**Order of events: The Tribulation – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming – The gathering.**

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake....And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. **But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**  
***Matthew 24:9-13 NKJV***

# The woman fled into the wilderness

**Second:** If Christians do go through the tribulation period, God can protect them.

Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. ***Revelation 12:6 NKJV***

But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ***Revelation 12:14 NKJV***

- This could be talking about the Jews.

# **Saints do get persecuted during the tribulation period**

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute **the saints** of the Most High,.....Then **the saints** shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. ***Daniel 7:25 NKJV***

I was watching; and the same horn was making war against **the saints**, and prevailing against them, ***Daniel 7:21 NKJV***

It was granted to him to make war with **the saints** and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.  
***Revelation 13:7 NKJV***

# **The sealed are protected**

**This is talking about the Jews.**

Saying, Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads. And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred *and* forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed: ***Revelation 7:3-4 NKJV***

They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ***Revelation 9:4 NKJV***

**I have always believed this was talking about a figurative group, spiritually.**

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ***Revelation 14:1 NKJV***

# The 10 plagues of Egypt

The tribulation period could be similar to the time when God was judging Egypt, and the children of Israel were there in Egypt as their slaves. God judged Egypt and protected Israel at the same time. He sent 10 plagues.

1. Blood
2. Frogs
3. Gnats/Lice
4. Flies
5. Livestock
6. Boils
7. Hail
8. Darkness
9. Death of the firstborn

# The Cry of the Martyrs

I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth? Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed. **Revelation 6:9-11 NKJV**

- There are many people that die a martyr's death during in the tribulation period.
- The good news is that their souls and spirits immediately go into the presence of the Lord in heaven. Our hope is not in this world.
- Also, they will get resurrected bodies and come back with Jesus, when He returns, to live with Him during the Millennium Reign.

# **The tribulation was prophesied in the Law of Moses**

**Written over 3400 years ago.**

And the Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you.....

**When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days**, when you turn to the Lord your God and obey His voice (for the Lord your God *is* a merciful God). ***Deuteronomy 4:27-30***  
***NKJV***

# **A time of distress**

**Prophecy from Daniel. Written over 2500 years ago.**

And there will be **a time of distress** such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. ***Daniel 12:1 NASB***

**The words of Jesus. *Written over 2,000 years ago.***

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. ***Matthew 24:21 NKJV***

# The Tribulation period

- Is the tribulation period 7 years or 3 ½ years long?
- The vast majority of Christians believe that it is 7 years long.
- I have always leaned toward a 3 ½ year tribulation.
- It might be a simple question of semantics.
- The 7-year camp believes that the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 ½ years will be a time of peace under the rulership of the Anti-Christ. Then at the 3 ½ year point, he will break the covenant with Israel and then the Great Tribulation begins.
- There is really not a lot of difference here.
- The only real question that arises here is: will there be a 3 ½ year period of peace under the rulership of the Anti-Christ before the Great Tribulation?

# 3 ½ year Tribulation period

And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* forty-two months. And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. ***Revelation 11:2-3 NKJV***

Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. ***Revelation 12:6***

But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ***Revelation 12:14 NKJV***

And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. ***Revelation 13:5 NKJV***

Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. ***Daniel 7:25 NKJV***

# **The disciples asked Jesus 3 questions?**

**The confusion stems from the Olivet discourse.**

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down. 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 24:1-3 NKJV***

**The question is, what verses pertain to what question? I have believed that it is like this.**

- Matthew 24:4-14 – **The end of the world.**
- Matthew 24:15-20 – **Tribulation (The destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D.)**
- Matthew 24:27-33 – **The 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus Christ.**

# The end of the world

And Jesus answered and said to them: Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ, and will deceive many. **And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.** ....Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake..... **But he who endures to the end shall be saved.** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, **and then the end will come.**

***Matthew 24:4-14 NKJV***

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus Christ

For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be....Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, .... **and they will see the Son of Man coming** on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.....***Matthew 24:27-33 NKJV***

# **Tribulation preceding the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD**

**Remember Jesus said:**

Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down....the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things be? *Matthew 24*

Therefore, when you see **the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet**, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. *Matthew 24:15-20 NKJV*

# 70 AD Rome destroys Jerusalem

**But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.** Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. **And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.** *Luke 21:20-24 NKJV*

# 70 weeks

Seventy weeks are determined for **your people** and for **your holy city**, 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. Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, *there shall be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. ***Daniel 9:24-25 NKJV***

- Your people – Israel
- Your holy city – Jerusalem
- Only Jesus could have done these things.

# Messiah cut off in the middle of the week

And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it *shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.* 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. ***Daniel 9:26-27 NKJV***

- The prince could be Titus, the Roman general in 70 AD
- Jesus brought an end to the sacrifice and offerings. He also came to confirm God's covenant with Israel, but they rejected Him.

# **Jesus's week (7 years) to the Jews**

- 70 weeks =  $70 \times 7$  years = 490 years
- $62 + 7$  weeks =  $69 \times 7$  years = 483 years
- In the middle of the week =  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  years.
- **Jesus came to the Jews for  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  years as a lamb.**
- He was cut off in the middle of his week to the Jews.
- Jesus will finish His week to the Jews in the tribulation period.
- **Jesus's wrath will come to them as a Lion for  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  years during the tribulation period.**

# Abomination of desolation

Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand.)  
***Matthew 24:15 NKJV***

- Did this happen in 70 AD?
- Or is this going to happen in the middle of a 7-year tribulation period?
- The previous verses makes me think the former, but the next verse makes me believe the latter. Maybe both are true?

And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there shall be* one thousand two hundred and ninety days. ***Daniel 12:11 NKJV***

# Peace

- This is where people get the idea that the tribulation period is 7 years long.
- There will be a 3 ½ year period of peace. The Anti-Christ enters into a covenant with Israel. He brings world peace.
- The Anti-Christ seems to be a great ruler, a great leader, the entire unbelieving world follows him.
- Then the Anti-Christ breaks the covenant with Israel and then turns on them.
- Remember, this shows us what God really thinks about sin. This is a period of God's righteous judgments poured out upon the earth.
- Now, let's look at some of the things that happen during this time of hell on earth.

REVELATION



The Seven Seals



# First 4 Seals

## The 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse

- **The White Horse - The Anti-Christ** - He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. **Rev 6:1-2**
- **The Red Horse - War** - And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that *people* should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. **Rev 6:3-4** (Here we see the tribulation period begins with a war.)
- **The Black Horse - Famine** - Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice from among the four living beings say, A loaf of wheat bread or three loaves of barley will cost a day's pay. And don't waste the olive oil and wine. **Rev 6:5-6**
- **The Pale Horse - Death & Hell** - Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death. **Rev 6:7-8**

# **Fifth Seal: The Cry of the Martyrs**

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. **Revelation 6:9-11 NKJV**

# **Sixth Seal: Cosmic Disturbances**

I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth,....., and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. **Revelation 6:12-17 NKJV**

# Seventh Seal – Silence in Heaven

When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ***Revelation 8:1 NKJV***

- This is the calm before the storm.
- It is the silence of foreboding, of intense expectation, of awe at what God is about to do.
- For the 7 Trumpet Judgments and the 7 bowls of wrath are yet to come.

# Why is this happening?

- God has shown the world grace for 2,000 years. This is called the church age, or the dispensation of grace.
- Since our entire life-time has been spent in this age, most of us know very little about the judgement side of God.
- But remember that **God has 2 equal sides**. Love and Judgment, Grace and Truth, Mercy and Justice.
- The only time we have seen His wrath, was when it was poured out upon His son Jesus at the cross of Calvary.
- God has held His wrath back for 2,000 years, but now, during the tribulation period, He pours it out upon the earth.
- He judges the unbelievers, that have rejected Him and rebelled against Him.
- For 3 ½ years mankind finally gets to see how God really feels about sin.
- Remember, God loves the sinner but hates the sin.
- God is not being mean here, He is simply judging sin that He hates.

# The wrath of the Lamb

And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from **the wrath of the Lamb!** For the great day of **His wrath** has come, and who is able to stand? *Revelation 6:16-17 NKJV*

## God's wrath.

The nations were angry, and Your **wrath** has come, *Revelation 11:17 NKJV*

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, Go and pour out the bowls of **the wrath of God** on the earth. *Revelation 16:1 NKJV*

# **God saves many Jews during this time**

- The Jews will realize during the tribulation period that the Anti-Christ is a deceiver and a false Messiah.
- God will seal 144,000 Jews during the tribulation period.
- When Jesus comes back to the earth, many will see and understand who He is. They will repent and get saved.
- There are also many Gentiles that will get saved during the tribulation period. They do not take the mark of the beast. Many of them die a martyr's death, while others of them survive the tribulation period and enter into the Millennium reign.

# Many get saved

Even when God pours out his wrath, his fundamental purpose is not to punish, but to bring people to the end of themselves, so they will repent and receive Jesus as their Savior.

Behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes,.....Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from? And I said to him, Sir, you know. So he said to me, These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ***Revelation 7:9,13-14 NKJV***

# THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
						
Green grass and 1/3 of the trees are burned up. Rev. 8:7	1/3 of sea becomes blood; 1/3 of ships and sea life destroyed. Rev. 8:8-9	1/3 of waters turn bitter. Rev. 8:1-11	1/3 of sun, moon, and stars do not shine. Rev. 8:12	"Locusts" wield the Beast's military power. Rev. 9:1-12	200-million-man army; a third of mankind killed. Rev. 9:13-21	The Kingdom of God is declared. Rev. 11:15-19

# Trumpet Judgments

- **First Trumpet:** 1/3 of trees burned up, all green grass burned up. (hail, fire, blood thrown to the earth. **(Rev 8:7)**)
- **Second Trumpet:** 1/3 of the fish die, 1/3 of the ships destroyed. (A great mountain like fire thrown into the sea and sea became blood.) **(Rev 8:8-9)**
- **Third Trumpet:** *Wormwood*. A star burning like a torch fell into 1/3 of the rivers making them bitter, causing many men to die. **(Rev 8:10-11)**
- **Fourth Trumpet:** 1/3 of the sun, 1/3 of the moon and 1/3 of the stars were struck, so that 1/3 of them were darkened. **(Rev 8:12)**

# Fifth Trumpet

## The Locusts from the Bottomless Pit

Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not given *authority* to kill them, but to torment them *for* five months. Their torment *was* like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. **Revelation 9:1-6**  
**NKJV**



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# **Fifth Trumpet**

## **The Locusts from the Bottomless Pit**

The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces *were* like the faces of men. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' *teeth*. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings *was* like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power *was* to hurt men five months. And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things. ***Revelation 9:7-12 NKJV***

# Sixth Trumpet

## The 4 Angels from the Euphrates

Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates. So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen *was* two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses *were* like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three *plagues* a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails *are* like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm. ***Revelation 9:13-19 NKJV***

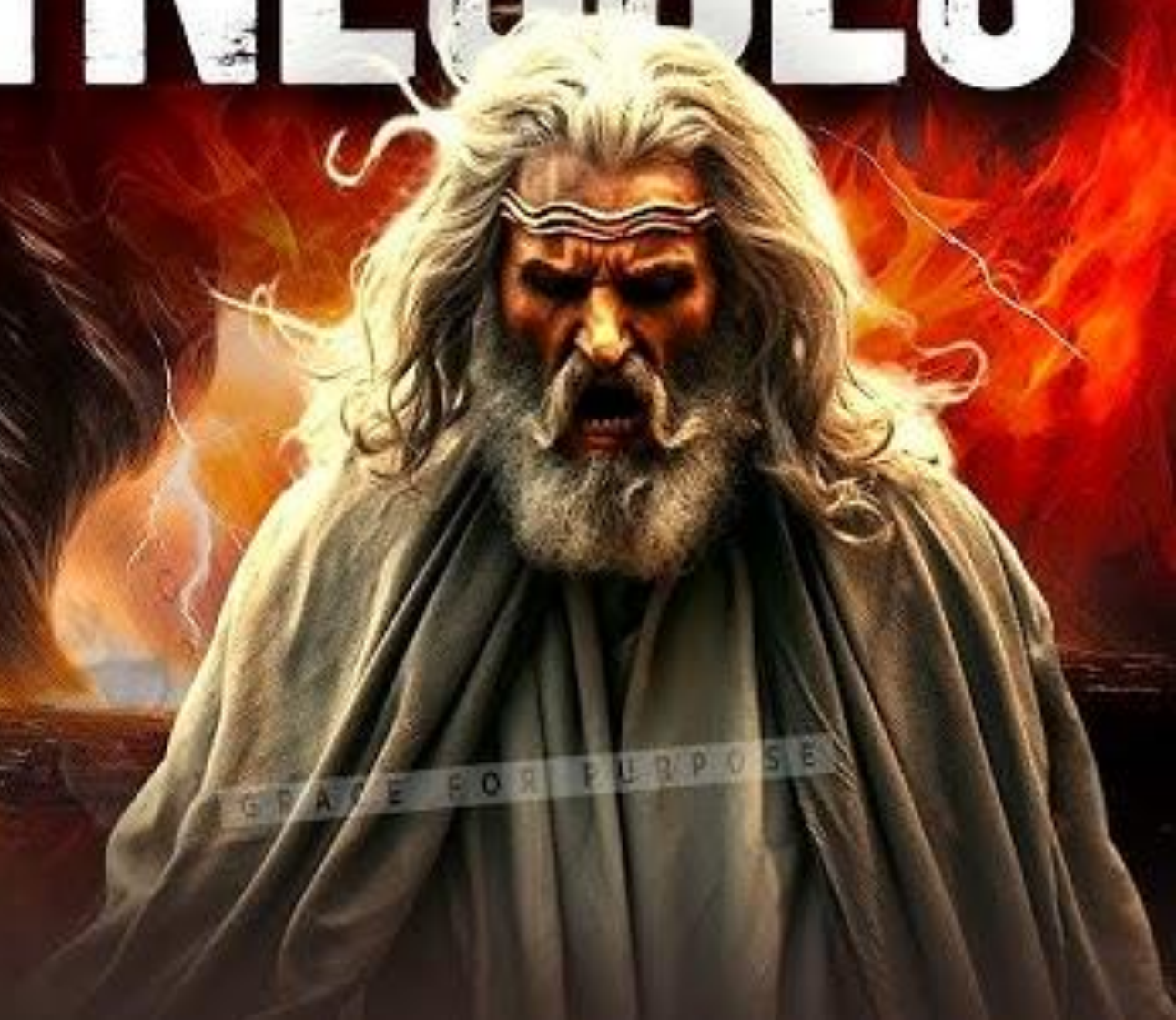


# **They still did not repent**

But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. ***Revelation 9:20-21***

***NKJV***

# TWO WITNESSES



GRACE FOR PURPOSE

# The 2 Witnesses

## Enoch and Elijah

And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”.....And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies..... These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.....**And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.** Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.... And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. ***Revelation 11:3-13 NKJV***

# Seventh Trumpet

## The Kingdom declared

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever...The nations were filled with wrath, but now the time of your wrath has come. It is time to judge the dead and reward your servants the prophets, as well as your holy people, and all who fear your name, from the least to the greatest. It is time to destroy all who have caused destruction on the earth. ***Revelation 11:15, 18 NLT***



# The 7 Bowls of Wrath

- **First Bowl: Horrible, malignant sores** broke out on everyone who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. **Rev 16:2**
- **Second Bowl: The Sea Turns to Blood**; the sea became blood as of a dead *man*; and every living creature in the sea died. **Rev 16:3**
- **Third Bowl: The Waters Turn to Blood**; the rivers and springs of water became blood. **Rev 16:4-7**
- **Fourth Bowl: Men Are Scorched**: Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and **they did not repent and give Him glory. Revelation 16:8-9 NKJV**

# **Fifth Bowl of Wrath**

**Darkness and Pain:** Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. **They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.** *Revelation 16:10-11 NKJV*

# **Sixth Bowl of Wrath**

Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.....For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, *which* go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.....And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, **Armageddon.** *Revelation 16:12-16 NKJV*

# **The battle of Armageddon**

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.

***Revelation 19:15 NKJV***

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ***II Thessalonians 2:8 NKJV***

And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths. ***Zechariah 14:12 NKJV***

# Seventh Bowl of Wrath

## The Earth Utterly Shaken

Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done! And there were noises and thundering's and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth..... Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, *each hailstone* about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great. ***Revelation 16:17-21 NKJV***

# **The End – We win**

Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. ***Revelation 19:20-21 NKJV***

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. ***Revelation 20:1-3 NKJV***

# God must judge sin

- God must judge sin, because He is holy, just and righteous.
- God is not being mean spirited here. He is simply judging sin.
- It is His nature. Yes, He is a God of love, but He is also a God of judgment, justice and righteousness.
- We have seen here in the book of Revelation how much God hates sin.
- We have seen how rebellious mankind is, and even when God's judgment falls upon them, many do not repent, they just get more-and-more, angry at God.
- Remember, we do not deserve pleasure. We only deserve suffering and pain. We deserve death and hell. But God's mercy holds back what we deserve, and His grace gives us what we do not deserve.

# **Do we even recognize our sin anymore?**

- I know we can look at the world and see their sins.
- Their blasphemies, their adulteries, homosexuality, greed, their hate.
- But what about taking a look into our hearts?
- Do we think we that just because we are saved, we are Christians, that we are always living good, clean and holy lives?
- Is there anymore pride in there? Is there any lust, is there any anger or unforgiveness? What about greed or the love of money.
- Can we see our own sins? Can we recognize them?
- Do we love what God loves and hate what God hates?
- This tribulation period is all about showing us how God really feels about sin. He hates sin, but He loves the sinner. Let's clean up our hearts.

# Next week

- Next week we will look at the final battle.
  - The end of Satan.
  - The judgment seat of Christ.
  - And what is eternity going to be like?
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- Then I will try to answer some of your questions. If we have a lot of questions, we can finish them the following week.