

# The School of Prophecy

July 19, 2015

## Lesson 4: The Tribulation Period

**Matthew 24:21-22 NKJV** - <sup>21</sup> *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.* <sup>22</sup> *And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.*

The word “tribulation” means great trouble or affliction. In the world, we all have trial or tribulation in our lives. But in this context that Jesus refers to, He is talking about a time period of horrendous evil that takes place at the end of the age.

### I. The Old Testament Prophecy

#### A. Daniel's Vision of the Great Tribulation

**Daniel 9:24-27 NIV** - <sup>24</sup> *“Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.* <sup>25</sup> *“Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.* <sup>26</sup> *After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.* <sup>27</sup> *He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”*

1. Daniel was told that seventy weeks or 490 years were decreed for his people (Israel).
2. 483 of the 490 years decreed for Daniel's people have already elapsed.
3. After the death of Christ and His resurrection, the Church Age, or the Age of the Spirit, began. We are in the interval of God's prophetic calendar in order that the gospel can be preached around the world.

**Matthew 24:14 NKJV** - *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.*

**Mark 16:15 NKJV** - *And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

4. The Tribulation is divided into two, 3 ½ year periods. The latter half is known as the Great Tribulation. It is referred to as 42 months or 1,260 days.

**Revelation 11:3 NKJV** - *And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.*

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

5. The calculation of this time period is based upon the Jewish usage of the lunar calendar of 360 days in their year.

## II. The First Half of the Tribulation

### A. Events that Commence the First Half

1. Israel will still be in a state of unbelief rejecting Christ as their Messiah. They will enter into a covenant with the Antichrist believing that he will protect them from their enemies.

**John 5:43 NKJV** - *I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.*

**Daniel 9:27 NKJV** - *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.*

2. There will be a Jewish temple built in Israel that will serve as an historical monument to the religious history of the Jews.
3. God redeems 144,000 Jews who become servants to carry out gospel ministry during the tribulation.

**Revelation 7:1-4 NKJV** - *After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. <sup>2</sup> Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, <sup>3</sup> saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." <sup>4</sup> 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:*

4. God will send two witnesses who will minister as prophets of God, proclaiming the gospel. These two men will stand in opposition to the Antichrist and his system.

**Revelation 11:3-6 NKJV** - <sup>3</sup> *And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.* <sup>4</sup> *These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.* <sup>5</sup> *And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.* <sup>6</sup> *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.*

5. There will arise a false religious system that will mesmerize people by its spell and it is called Mystery Babylon.

**Revelation 17:3-5 NKJV** - <sup>3</sup> *So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.* <sup>4</sup> *The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.* <sup>5</sup> *And on her forehead a name was written:*

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,  
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS  
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS  
OF THE EARTH.

### III. The Middle of the Tribulation

#### A. Two Main Events

1. The Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and will erect an image of himself to be worshipped.

**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 NKJV** - <sup>3</sup> *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,* <sup>4</sup> *who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

2. This is what Jesus referred to as the “Abomination of Desolation.” This is when the inhabitants of Israel flee to the wilderness to escape the wrath of the Antichrist.

**Matthew 24:15-16 NKJV** - <sup>15</sup> *“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),* <sup>16</sup> *“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

#### IV. The Second Half of the Tribulation

##### A. The Events of the Great Tribulation

1. The Antichrist will launch military campaigns as he begins to control the resources of the world.

**Daniel 11:41-44 NKJV** - <sup>41</sup> *He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. <sup>42</sup> He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. <sup>43</sup> He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels. <sup>44</sup> But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.*

2. Besides the Antichrist, the other key figure in the Tribulation Period is the false prophet. The false prophet is a religious leader who deceives the world into worshipping the Antichrist.

**Revelation 13:13-14 NKJV** - <sup>13</sup> *He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. <sup>14</sup> And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.*

3. It is the false prophet who initiates the mark of the Beast, enabling the Antichrist to literally control the whole world.

**Revelation 13:16-18 NKJV** - <sup>16</sup> *He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. <sup>18</sup> Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.*

4. There will be many people saved in the Tribulation who will refuse the mark of the Beast. They will be killed for their refusal, yet they will glorify God.

**Revelation 20:4 NKJV** - <sup>4</sup> *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

**Matthew 24:42 NKJV** - *Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.*