

Are You Ready

...for the Tribulation?

Matthew 24:3 - 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 25:1-13 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.² Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. ³ Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶ "And at midnight a cry was *heard*: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' ⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. ¹¹ "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' ¹² But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'¹³ "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (NIV) - Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

3 Tribulation Facts:

1. **Sudden Destruction** (vs. 2 – "day of the Lord...")

- What kind of a day is that? What does the bible mean when it uses the terminology day of the Lord? It is not talking about a 24-hour period. The word day is used in a broader sense. **It means a specified period of time when God is going to judge this world = The Great Tribulation.** This is period of 7 years of the wrath of God.
- The bible describes the day of the Lord (The Tribulation Period) by many terms:
 - o **Joel 2:1-2** - Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land **tremble**; For the day of the Lord is coming, for it is at hand: **² a day of darkness and gloominess**, a day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning *clouds* spread over the mountains. A people *come*, great and strong, the like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any *such* after them, even for many successive generations.
 - o **Jeremiah 30:7** - Alas! For that *day is great, so that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.*
 - o **Daniel 12:1** - At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people;

And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time...

- **Matthew 24:21** - 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.
- **Revelation 6:15-17** - And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,¹⁶ 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!¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and **who is able to stand?**”

2. **Surprising Day** (vs. 2 “...like a thief...”)

- The “day” is coming like a thief, not the Lord...
- Vs. 3 “While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly...”
 - The inhabitants of the world will be in total shock
- The speaks to the rise of the anti-Christ who will seemingly bring peace to the disturbances of the planet.
 - Right after the rapture there will be chaos and confusion on the planet
 - 2 billion people gone in a moment...
 - The world will be looking for someone to solve the problem
 - The anti-Christ will use the fact that these fundamentalist, God-loving, evangelical, right-wing conspirators have been removed. Now we can finally have unity...
- THINGS THE ANTI-CHRIST WILL DO WHEN HE COMES TO POWER:
 - **One-world** government - One world currency - One world religion
 - **Peace Treaty** - He will sign a 7 year - He will break that treaty
 - **Witchcraft** will prosper
 - **Mark of the Beast**
 - **Destroy** many
 - The **Battle** of Armageddon
- **Daniel 8:23-25** - “And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes.²⁴ His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and *also* the holy people.²⁵ “Through his cunning He shall cause **deceit to prosper** under his rule; And he shall exalt *himself* in his heart. **He shall destroy many** in *their* prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without *human* means.

3. **Surrounding Darkness** (vs. 4-7)

- No Christian should live in headline hysteria!
- You can take the bible, the word of God and today's newspapers and put them side by side and you can say I know what's going on. The Christian is the only one who can make sense out of the situation that we're in. We are the only one who has a context for the chaos.
- 75% of all of the scientist who have ever lived are living right now. Science and technology have given us so many gadgets, so many miracles, so many wonders, but for the now mankind is afraid of what we know. We have brought ourselves right to the brink of destruction by our so-called vaunted knowledge as we worship at the slide of our computers.
 - We're about to produce a race of monsters by genetic engineering in combination with artificial intelligence.
 - **Science has made the world a neighborhood but not a brotherhood**

- We're living under the shadow of that mushroom cloud and we're afraid of what we're doing to the atmosphere and the air and the land.
- The military is not the answer. **We're great at winning the war, then losing the peace.**
- Sociology is not the answer. The sociologists think if you can just spray enough money over a program it will go away. Sociologists are dumbfounded
- **If we are aware we ought to be awake and awaiting** (vs. 5-6)