

## The Tribulation – Part 5

As we continue our study on the subject of the tribulation, let me remind you that some feel that they are in tribulation today. Now, of course, there is tribulation in a person's life that comes along, tribulation such as finances. Maybe a person's having trouble with a financial situation. Maybe it has to do with a house. It even goes to the point of maybe even the death of a loved one or something along those lines. But that type of tribulation is nothing compared to what is going to take place on this Earth.

Now, I don't mean to trivialize a person's problems that they're going through today. The fact is, that is nothing compared to what's going to take place in the future, and I believe it's the near future, as well.

Well, we've discussed several things in our study of the tribulation, and one of the things and I believe the last thing that we discussed was how will the tribulation begin. The prince of Daniel 9:26 will make a peace treaty or a covenant with Israel. That's according to Daniel 9:26, and Daniel 9:27 says, *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week...* And that week is a representation of seven years.

As we keep reading and studying, we find that this covenant will be accepted by Israel. Why will Israel sign a covenant or a peace treaty with the Antichrist? I believe the covenant will come after the first battle of Gog and Magog, Gog and Magog I.

I've spoken of this before. There are two battles of Gog and Magog, and this Gog and Magog I, I believe, will take place just before the tribulation starts, and I believe, just as there were two World Wars I and II, this first

battle of Gog and Magog should be considered as number one. The second battle of Gog and Magog will be at the end of the millennium, Revelation Chapter 20.

I believe that the battle of Gog and Magog I, once again, happens just before the tribulation starts, and the Antichrist will possibly take credit for defeating those who come against Israel in the battle of Gog and Magog I. Now, we know that it is the Lord who defeats Israel's enemies during that battle as they come to destroy Israel.

As we keep looking at this, the fact of the matter is that the door would be open at this point for the Antichrist to make the peace covenant with Israel after claiming victory for Gog and Magog. He just comes on the scene and now he's in a position of some type of leadership and then he is going to take the credit for the victory of Gog and Magog I.

It will take seven years after this battle to clean up after the first war of Gog and Magog. You say how do you see that? Well, Ezekiel 39:9 says that, *And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire...* For how long?... *seven years:*

Well, cleanup takes seven years. Now, remember, Ezekiel 39:9 is used in the illustrations here of bows and arrows and bucklers. These are things of war, and it's not necessarily true that these same things will be used during the battle of Gog and Magog I. I believe it's going to be more modern, but during this writing of the Scriptures, this is

how the writer could best describe the articles or weapons of war.

The cleanup is going to take seven years according to Ezekiel 39:9. Is this a coincidence? How long is the tribulation? Well, the tribulation will last seven years, and we've talked about that. There are no accidents with God, so it takes seven years to clean up all this mess that has taken place there. At this time we see no mention of the Antichrist either before or in connection with this battle, and evidently, he does not really make himself known until after the battle.

This covenant will be made and then we see that the covenant will be broken. The Antichrist breaks the covenant with Israel, according to Revelation 6:4. The ending of this peace treaty will take place in the middle of the seven-year tribulation. You can read that in Revelation 13:5-7.

But notice Revelation 6:4: *And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.* In other words, he was ready for battle. He had the means of carrying out and performing death.

Revelation 13:5-7, I'm going to go ahead and read those verses: *<sup>5</sup>And there was given unto him... This is the Antichrist, the beast... a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.* This is the second half of the tribulation. These forty and two months would be considered the great tribulation.

Verse 6 goes on and says, *<sup>6</sup>And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blasphemize his name, and his tabernacle, and*

*them that dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup>And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

Notice in those verses that authority is given to the Antichrist to act for forty-two months to make war with the saints. Now, verse 7 of Revelation 13 says that the Antichrist has been given power to overcome the saints, but notice, it does not say that he overcomes them all. He only has the power to overcome them. The power is there, but it does not say that he overcomes every one of them.

Revelation 11 is the first explicit reference in Revelation to the beast. John, no doubt, recognized him as the fourth beast of Daniel's prophecy, Daniel 7:7. He will already have become sufficiently powerful as a world leader and he would have done away with the other beasts mentioned in the book of Daniel.

Why the tribulation? Why will this take place? The gospel of the kingdom will once again be preached. Now, the gospel of the kingdom is not the same as the gospel of Christ. We're going to look at that. The gospel of the kingdom is not the gospel of Christ as we read in the book of Matthew. It says in Matthew 4:23: *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.*

Verse 14 of Matthew 24 says this: *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.* It's going to be preached during the tribulation period; we know that. Well, the end of the world is the end of the age or the world as it is known at that time.

In Revelation 14:6, how is the gospel of the kingdom going to be preached throughout all the world? Revelation 14:6 says, *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel...* We'll speak of that in just a moment, everlasting gospel... *to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.*

Now, the gospel of the kingdom is the gospel or the good news of or about the Messiah, the King of the Jews. In Mark 1:14-15, <sup>14</sup>*Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,* <sup>15</sup>*And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*** What gospel? The gospel of the kingdom.

There are several scriptures that point to this but I would like for us to realize that the gospel of the kingdom is not the same as the gospel of Jesus Christ, and we're going to see that in just a moment.

Matthew 2:2 says, *Saying, Where is he that is born... Who?... King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.* These, of course, would be the wise men who came to worship Jesus, King of the Jews.

Matthew 27:11: *And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, **Thou sayest.***

And then in verse 29 of Matthew 27: *And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!* They didn't even realize what they were saying and what they were doing here, but they were actually saying that He was the

King of the Jews, and He is and was the King of the Jews.

In Matthew 27:37, it says, *And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.* Well, He's King of the Jews. The gospel or the good news of Christ presents Christ as, notice this, Messiah, Savior, and King.

First Corinthians 9:12 says, *If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the... What?... gospel of Christ.*

First Corinthians 9:17: *For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.* The gospel of what? The gospel of Jesus Christ.

And in I Corinthians 9:23: *And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.*

Well, there are many scriptures that speak of this. In I Peter 1:25 it says, *But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.* What gospel? The gospel that Jesus saves.

Second Corinthians 4:4: *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

Second Timothy 1:8: *Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.*

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, Paul says in Romans 1:16, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

Next time we're going to look at the gospel of Christ, Christ the Messiah, Christ the Savior, and Christ the King, and you, prayerfully, will see that this gospel of the kingdom will be preached once again during the tribulation.

Do you know Him today as your Savior? Receive Him today. Ask Him to come into your heart. "Lord, come into my heart. I receive You as my Savior. I want to serve You and go to Heaven one day."

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