

## **“The Day of the Lord: Phase 1 - The Time of Jacob’s Trouble - Part 2”**

### **Introduction:**

**Our gathering today is in the name of our Lord Jesus and his completed work of the cross and glorious resurrection. Amen. As we open his word this morning may we never forget that. I pray that we may not miss the forest for the trees have overwhelmed us. Details are important when we approach the word of the living God, but the grand and scarlet thread that weaves its way through the Bible is wonderful indeed and must never be forgotten.**

**We are nearing the end of our studies in this perhaps greatest Biblical theme, namely, the Long War Against God and the eventual and final victory of our Lord Jesus Christ against spiritual forces in the heavenlies arrayed always against our Lord Jesus, the promised Seed of the Woman.**

**Recently we have returned from church truth proper to what is written to and for God’s people the Jews. Today we continue that thread of Prophecy. If you have been with us all along you know well at this point the many distinctions between / Israel and the church which is His Body. Our hopes and expectations differ accordingly as a result with our hope focused squarely on the Blessed Hope, even our catching up to be with him in the air and our then fulfilled heavenly hope. The Jews, on the other hand, have a different expectation — if they are aware of his word of truth regarding their own future as revealed in Prophecy. Their expectation is for the completion of God’s plan for them as God fulfills his promises for an earthly, yet spiritual, Kingdom on earth and the trials and tribulation that will led inexorably to that end. First the sufferings and then the glory is how scripture reveals it.**

**We continue with that theme today:**

### **Review:**

- **The Time of Jacob’s Trouble - Its Purpose Foretold & Realized**
  - **Several things were noted in our last fellowship as we proceed here in these great prophecies:**
    - **Israel and not the church is in view here in these many prophecies relating to the end times and Israel’s central part in that great work of the Lord. When the Gentiles are mentioned, it is always in line with Israel’s covenants and promises. Because Israel is the focus, the covenants and promises are in effect so Prophecy and not the Mystery define God’s working.**

- ***We have already seen how Prophecy is all about God's people the Jews. It is all about a people and ultimately a nation that is believing and obedient to the Lord God and blessed, as the covenants so clearly revealed. Those not believing, of course, will be cursed, also according to the covenants revealed through Moses and others.***

***Deut. 4:29-30***

***29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find [him], if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.***

***30 When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, [even] in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice.... [Implies a time of great tribulation yet ahead]***

***[READ ] Is. 66:8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? [or] shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.***

- ***This image of Israel as a woman in birth pangs, as it were, is very powerful and so relevant to the prophet's statement here. The woman in Prophecy usually signifies Israel except in some places, for example in the book of Revelation, where it signifies Satan's counterfeit "woman", called there "Mystery Babylon" or "Babylon the Great" six times.***
- ***It is therefore through great trials and much suffering that Israel will some day find that God's promises for them shall be fulfilled in his perfect timing:***

***Jer. 30:4-7***

***4 And these [are] the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah.***

***5 For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.***

***6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?***

***7 Alas! for that day [is] great, so that none [is] like it: it [is] even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.***

- ***So the "time of Jacob's Trouble", the first phase of the Day of the Lord, will see great trials and many burdens for the Lord's people, the Jews. And, as our Lord revealed during his earthly ministry, these trials would be greater than anything that had gone before (really). And the Tribulation period is designed to bring the Jews to***

**salvation, praise God, and it will be through great trials indeed but with the glorious result that at its completion the Jews will be saved, even nationally, as Paul wrote in Romans 11. But it will be according to that principle we spoke of last time at length: “first the suffering and then the glory”!**

- **The principle of the divine working is seen to be “first the suffering and then the glory.” Our Lord made that very clear in reference to himself most importantly in Luke 24. And so we should not be surprised that in effect the Lord names this period in Israel’s history “the time of Jacob’s trouble”.**
- **But, as difficult it is for us to read these scriptures foretelling Israel’s and the Jews history in such graphic forms, be encouraged, brethren of the Lord, saints indeed. He is faithful. Take God at his word and be eternally blessed. This has great implications for us as well, beloved. For if God will accomplish his purpose for his people the Jews, shall he not also finish well his purposes for us who are indeed, his heavenly complement.**

**Amen.**

### **Our Outline:**

- **The Tribulation Period, The Time of Jacob’s Trouble: Its Prophetic Outline**
- **The Tribulation Period, The Time of Jacob’s Trouble: Its Prophetic Themes**
- **The Tribulation Period, The Time of Jacob’s Trouble: Its Prophetic Objectives**

#### **I. The Tribulation Period, The Time of Jacob’s Trouble: Its Prophetic Outline:**

- **Its Calendar Outline: Seven years in duration [to Daniel it was given to specify exactly the divine calendar for the fulfillment of Israel’s promises. But we can do no more here today than to read these momentous scriptures and to rejoice that God knows the end from the beginning. Praise be to his name. And if you have not read these verses recently, they may be a true balm to your souls as you hear the word of the Lord as written here:**

**[READ ] Dan. 9:24-27**

**24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, to anoint the most Holy.**

**25 Know therefore and understand, [that] from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah**

the Prince [shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof [shall be] with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make [it] desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

- *So, as it is clearly revealed here, if we take this quite literally (and the word in the Hebrew means “sevens”), there are seventy “weeks” or seventy sevens (of years), 490 years total, appointed to finish the redemptive plan for the nation of Israel. So “seven”, the number of completion, is appropriately the key word here.*

*Here we have the statement regarding the Tribulation period yet future for Israel when during that one week (of years) or seven year period Satan will through his servants the false prophet and the Beast attempt to bring to pass his “final attempt”, as it were, to destroy the Jews. This has been and will continue to be his strategic goal, but, as we shall see, he again, we are told here so powerfully, will not succeed in his grand design. But the grand design, rather, of our lord God and His Christ SHALL BE VICTORIOUS.*

- *Its Calendar in Detail: Two 3 1/2 year components with the focus on the middle and at the end:*
  - *There are many references to these time periods, especially in Daniel and Revelation [please bear with me as we review these today] from Rev. 11, 12 & 13 and in Dan. 12 (key terms: time, times and a half, or 3 1/2 years):*

*Dan. 12:7* And I heard the man clothed in linen, which [was] upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that [it shall be] for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these [things] shall be finished. *[or, 3 1/2 years]*

*Rev. 11:2* But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty [and] two months. *[again, 3 1/2 years]*

**Rev. 12:14** And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where **she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time**, from the face of the serpent. **[and the same]**

**Rev. 13:4-5**

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who [is] like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue **forty [and] two months. [and the same again]**

- ***Its Calendar: Its Central Focus & Why? The central point here is that Satan through his servants, the Beast and False Prophet, will require at the mid-point of the Tribulation period his “mark” or sign of allegiance and submission, called “the Mark of the Beast” seven times in Revelation. It is at this “critical” point that the heritage of the saved and the lost are hanging in the balance, as it were, since the this Mark will be required of all earth dwellers.***

## **II. The Tribulation Period, The Time of Jacob’s Trouble: Its Prophetic Themes:**

- ***The Long War Against God and Satan’s Last Rebellion(s)***
  - ***We could simply give an overview since we already did a detailed study of these a year ago, but instead we will read these scriptures now since it is THE WORD and not my word or that of a commentator that is of most value and therefore power:***

**[READ ] Rev. 12:1-6 [The Long War: Its Summary - read it all]**

**1** And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

**2** And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

**3** And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

**4** And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

**5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and [to] his throne.**

**6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days.**

***[READ ] Rev. 12:7-9 [The Long War: Its Essence - at the highest and most consequential level spiritual warfare will be fought]***

**7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,  
8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.**

**9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

***[READ ] Rev. 12:12, 17 [The Long War: Its Tribulation Details]***

**12 Therefore rejoice, [ye] heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.**

**...**

**17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

***[READ ] Rev. 13:11-18 [The Long War: Satan's and the Lord's Ultimate Test]***

**11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.**

**12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.**

**13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,**

**14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by [the means of] those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.**

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number [is] Six hundred threescore [and] six. *[but this is the great test: for the elect will not receive this mark]*

- *We see here the real crux of the Long War Against God and how Satan and his seed shall in the Tribulation period wage war against Christ, the long promised Seed of the Woman, and his seed living on this earth at that time, the Jewish elect Remnant.*
- *The great test for mankind is also presented here so clearly: It will be the supreme mark of idolatry at that time to worship the image of the beast and to accept an identifying mark that signifies total submission ultimately to the power behind that image, namely Satan or the Dragon himself.*
- *Finally, as chapter 13 and verse 8 specifies, this test will identify once and for all what side of the eternal boundary between God and Satan one stands:*

***Rev. 13:1, 7-8 [The Long War: Satan's Grand Tribulation Plan]***

1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

...

7 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.

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

***Rev. 14:8-10***

8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

**III. The Tribulation Period, The Time of Jacob's Trouble: Its Prophetic Objectives:**

- *To save Israel nationally by saving a faithful remnant to inherit “the promised land” thereby fulfilling many of the terms of Prophecy regarding the Seed of the Woman [but not all of course . . .]*

**Ezek. 20:33-36, 40-42**

**33 [As] I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:**

**34 And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.**

**35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.**

**36 Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.**

...

**40 For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.**

**41 I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen.**

**42 And ye shall know that I [am] the LORD, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country [for] the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers.**

- *To bring about a national cleansing from sin for God's people, Israel*

**Joel 2:31-32**

**31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.**

**32 And it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call. [See also, "All Israel" - Rom. 11:25-26; Dan. 12:1, and for the Gentiles as well - Is. 60:3, 5 and also Matt. 13 & 24-25]**

***Zech. 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for [his] only [son], and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for [his] firstborn.***

**[READ ] Zech. 13:1, 6**

**1 In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.**

**. . .**

**6 And [one] shall say unto him, What [are] these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, [Those] with which I was wounded [in] the house of my friends.**

- ***So national deliverance, national (and individual) salvation of God's people is on the sacred calendar and IT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED! AMEN.***
- **Conclusions / Summary**
  - ***The Sacred calendar of Prophecy and its significance***
  - ***The central events and themes of that sacred calendar***
    - ***The resurrection and return of saints from all over the earth (including even Gentiles - details on how this happens is not made very clear (and we do not need to know)***
    - ***The regathering of the Jews into the land of Israel***
    - ***The ultimate purpose of God in saving, spiritually as well as physically, his people the Jews.***
  - ***The final preparations for the return of the Lord to this earth to establish his Kingdom. Then, when all preparations have been accomplished, the return of the Lord will occur - Rev. 19:11-20:6 / Zech. 12-13***

***Next Time: Our Lord's return***

- ***So what does it all mean to us today?***

**1 Cor. 10:1-7**

1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

**6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.**

**7 Neither be ye idolaters, as [were] some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.**