

The Great Tribulation

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This is the fourth lesson in a series of seven lessons entitled “Rightly Dividing the Word of Bible Prophecy.” A complete set of these teachings is available in both audio and video, with the lesson outlines, from “Rightly Dividing the Word Ministries.” The lesson outlines are not necessary with the video sessions, as they will appear on the screen as each lesson is being taught.

Many people today read the scriptures in Matthew 24 about a great tribulation, and they teach this as signs that are to take place before a tribulation period for the near future. Dispensationalist and futurist have given Christianity this interpretation of Matthew 24, whereas most commentaries such as **Clarks Commentary**, **Barnes Notes**, and most all the older commentaries all interpret this event as something that took place in the generation it was written in, and completed with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. I’m going to prove in this lesson, by the scriptures, that **Matthew 24 is completely fulfilled**. Man is the one that put Matthew 24 and Revelation way off into the future, and the reason many think that it’s future is because of the preconceived ideas planted in their minds by Dispensationalist, and because of the apocalyptic language used. We’re going to look at some of the apocalyptic language used in the Old Testament and we will compare that with Matthew 24 and the Book of Revelation. We must glean truth from **Matthew chapters 23 & 24**; and the parallel accounts of these verses found in **Luke chapters 17 & 21**; and **Mark chapter 13** to ensure the proper interpretation. Matthew, Mark and Luke prove that every bit of it has to be history.

(Matt 24:21) For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

He said there is going to be a great tribulation such as was “not since the beginning of the world, **NOR EVER SHALL BE.**” There will **NEVER** be another tribulation like this one ever again! Jesus went on to clearly state “This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.” We will prove—by the scriptures—he was referring to the generation he was speaking to at that time, and not to a future generation in our time. To teach this as a future event and use its scriptures to try to talk about signs that are for our time, would be like taking the flood of Noah described in the book of Genesis, applying it to our day, and saying, “man there is coming a flood and its going to wash everything away, when in fact, God put a bow in the sky and said, “the flood will never happen again.” He also said there would never be another tribulation like that one described in Matthew 24, which he said would come to pass before that generation passed away. One cannot apply the great tribulation of Matthew 24 to our time, anymore than you can apply the flood of Noah’s generation to our time. Both would be a gross misrepresentation of the scriptures. To get a proper setting for the scriptures found in Matthew 24, one must begin reading in Matthew 23 where Jesus is speaking to those in his generation.

(Matt 23:29) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

(Matt 23:30) And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

(Matt 23:31) Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

(Matt 23:32) Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

“Fill ye up the measure of your fathers” speaks of the same event as Daniel’s “Finish the transgression,” which was one of the six points listed in Daniel 9:24 that had to be fulfilled within the 70 week time frame given to Daniel. I covered this thoroughly in the previous lesson on Daniel’s 70th week, so I won’t spend a lot of time on it here. He was saying to the Jews of his generation, that they were going to be the ones to “finish the

transgression.” They **filled the cup (finished the transgression), by killing the Messiah and his messengers**, and that’s what brought the destruction of Jerusalem. That one week—Daniel’s 70th Week—in that generation, which began with the anointing of Jesus at his baptism—to begin his ministry—is the most important week in the Bible, and the entire history of the human race. Within this week was the beginning of a New Covenant, and both sides of the Bible balances on that week. Before that week there was Law, and after that week there was Grace. And that is why the 70th week was set aside in Daniel’s prophecy.

(Matt 23:33) Ye serpents, **ye generation of vipers**, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Notice how he calls that particular generation, a generation of vipers.

(Matt 23:34) Therefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye [you] shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye [you] scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

This is talking about the Apostles and the early church that he would send to them, which they would reject and kill. Just read the book of Acts and you can see much of this being fulfilled right there in your Bible. The rest you can get by studying history records of that time.

(Matt 23:35) **That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth**, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.
(Matt 23:36) Verily I say unto you, **All these things shall come upon this generation**.

He’s not talking about a **future** generation 2000 years down the road. **He is talking about the very generation that he’s speaking to at that time**; The ones that are going to kill the Messiah, the Apostles, and the Prophets, which he is going to send to them with the message of salvation according to the New Covenant. Remember that man divided the Bible into chapters and verses, so we must keep reading on into the next chapter—Matthew 24—which is a continuation of Matthew 23.

(Matt 23:34) Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

Notice that Jesus said, “**upon you** is going to come **all the righteous blood shed upon the earth**.” When speaking of Babylon the Great in **Revelation 18:24**, it says, “And in her was found **the blood** of prophets and of saints, and **of all that were slain upon the earth**.”

Who is the Great City that killed the Apostles? He tells you right here, in the 37th verse of Matthew 23.

(Matt 23:37) **O Jerusalem, Jerusalem**, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee,

BABYLON THE GREAT IS NOT ROME, IT IS JERUSALEM!

Revelation 11:8 says of the two witnesses:

(Rev 11:8) And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of **the great city**, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, **where also our Lord was crucified**.

Where was Jesus crucified; Rome or Jerusalem?

HE WAS CRUCIFIED IN JERUSALEM, THE GREAT CITY!

I will deal with the identity of Jerusalem as Babylon the Great in detail in my next lesson on “The Real Babylon the Great,” so I am only touching on it briefly in this lesson. This can be proven from many prophecies in the Old Testament. This is also the interpretation of most of the commentaries that were written before the

invention of this new modern day futuristic view of prophecy, which began to be taught a little over one hundred and fifty years ago. All of them agree that it's talking about JERUSALEM. Revelation 17 pictures Rome as the "governmental system," which the harlot city Jerusalem sat upon. They used Rome—the 7-headed, 10-horned beast—to kill the Apostles and Jesus Christ. Jerusalem rode Rome's "political system" until one day Rome threw her off it's back and turned and devoured her in 70A.D., just like the scripture said she would.

(Rev 17:16) And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and **shall make her desolate** and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and **burn her with fire**.

Let's continue now with our reading in Matthew 23.

(Matt 23:37) how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

He always wanted to gather (natural Jerusalem), but they would not let him. So now he's going to turn and gather (spiritual Jerusalem) together.

(Matt 23:38) Behold, **your house** is left unto you **desolate**.

What? **DESOLATE?** Remember the words, **JERUSALEM, GENERATION, and DESOLATE!** You're going to see it all through Bible prophecy.

(Matt 23:39) For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Look at the words of Jesus as he spoke about his coming. He and the Apostles constantly wrote and spoke of his coming as something that would occur in that generation before all of them had tasted of death. Most people do not realize that **he was speaking of his coming in judgment against Jerusalem**, and not the resurrection at the last day spoken of in John 6. Let's look at some of the statements Jesus makes which proves this to be true.

(Matt 16:27) For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then **he shall reward every man according to his works**.

(Matt 16:28) Verily I say unto you, There be **some standing here**, which **shall not taste of death, till they see** the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

So there is "a coming" (Greek noun) "parousia" which means "arrival," or "presence" of the son of man that some of them "standing there" are going to see. What people have not understood is that there actually are **several comings** of the Lord. SEE (Deut. 33:2; Isaiah 31:4; 64:3; 66:15; Psalm 18: 9; 47:5; 50:3; 96:13; 97:5; 144:5 Hosea 8:1 Micah 1:3-4 etc)... SEE (page 175) of *Matthew 24 fulfilled* by John Bray) Every **time the Lord came in "JUDGMENT" it was "A COMING" (Parousia)** - but it's not the last day resurrection. What has happened here is that people have confused the two. They have made it all one coming. He plainly said, "There be some **standing here** which shall not taste of death till they **SEE** the son of man coming in his kingdom." We will now go into the latter part of this chapter where they see the son of man coming, so that you'll get a better understanding of that verse.

(Matt 24:30) And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see** the Son of man **coming** in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Compare this with what Jesus said to the High Priest in Matthew 26:64.

(Matt 26:64) Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter **shall ye [you] see** the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Jesus was saying, there is going to be some standing here who are going to see my coming in the clouds, when I come in my kingdom to judge Jerusalem. (Matt. 16:27-28; 26:64) This coming judgment against Jerusalem is recorded in Matthew 24. **He is talking about a coming to pour out his wrath upon Jerusalem and to establish his kingdom in the earth!** He is talking about his coming on the **CLOUDS OF JUDGMENT** as we will prove later in this lesson. He said, "All the tribes of the earth are going to mourn." We will make these comparisons a little later also.

Let's look now at some of the parallel scriptures to Matthew 24 found in Luke 21 for the purpose of showing that it too states these things would be fulfilled during the generation in which Jesus and his Apostles lived, and not some future generation.

(Luke 21:20) And when ye [you] shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

(Luke 21:21) Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

(Luke 21:22) For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

(Luke 21:23) But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and **wrath upon this people.**

This is the **wrath** of God being poured out on his people (natural Jerusalem) because they have refused the New Covenant. I have a message called "**Two cups, but one choice.**" Where there is the cup of the wine of the New Testament (**his blood**), and those that don't drink of that cup are going to drink of the wine of the cup of the **wrath of God** (judgment according to law). You are going to drink of one or the other. You are either going to get saved (born again of water and spirit) or your going to be lost (judged by law without grace).

In Luke, He said this is going to be the "**Days of Vengeance**" when all things that are written must be fulfilled. Let's stop a minute and think:

"THESE BE THE DAYS OF VENGEANCE, WHEN ALL THINGS THAT ARE WRITTEN MUST BE FULFILLED"

Jesus made a powerful statement here. The very least that he could have been saying was that all things written (at least pertaining to the subjects he was speaking of) would be fulfilled by the time Jerusalem was destroyed. Some even believe he was saying the entire Bible would be fulfilled by the time Jerusalem was destroyed. I have often said if I had to describe the entire Bible in one phrase, it would be "**the transition from Law to Grace.**" Most of the Bible is either pointing forward to Calvary or it is pointing back to that time, and dealing with what happened as a result of Jesus death and the outpouring of the Spirit to begin his New Covenant Kingdom in the earth. If I had to try to describe the entire Bible in one word, it would be "**Jesus.**" The entire Old Testament points forward to Christ in types and shadows, or it speaks of his coming and establishing a New Covenant by the mouth of the prophets. The New Testament deals with his establishment of this New Covenant Kingdom in the earth as the method of salvation for all mankind (Jew and Gentile).

(Luke 21:24) And **they shall fall by the edge of the sword**, and shall be **led away captive into all nations**; and **Jerusalem** (not Rome) shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Remember that this is the parallel scripture with Matthew 24, and I proved in my book on *The Coming of the Lord...* that this could not be referring to a future time, because the futurist interpretation says Jesus will return to save Jerusalem from destruction at the end of this supposed future tribulation period and usher in a 1000 year millennial reign on the earth. There is no time for Israel to be taken captive into all nations under this scenario, but in 70 A.D. history says over 1 million Jews were killed and thousands were taken captive into

all nations. This is just another positive proof this was referring to the generation that Jesus was speaking to at that time and not to a generation in our future.

(Luke 21:25) And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

(Luke 21:26) Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for **looking after those things which are coming on the earth**: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken

(Luke 21:27) And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

And remember He said, "**There are some of you standing here that will not taste death until you see that happen**". He's not talking about the coming of the Lord at the end of the world "**kosmos**," the physical world, nor "**oikoumene**," which means: "inhabited earth," but rather, "**aion**" which means age. **He's talking about the END OF THE JEWISH AGE, the coming of the Lord in judgment on Jerusalem.** I explained all these things in much detail in my first lesson in this series on the coming of the Lord, but we will deal with the clouds, sun, moon, and stars again briefly later in this lesson. You may think the sun is going to quit shining someday, and that there is going to be a nuclear holocaust with the heavens departing as a scroll, but I will prove to you exactly what that means. **You can interpret the entire book of Revelation from the Old Testament and the New Testament. We need to let Bible interpret the Bible.** When you put your interpretation into it you may miss it. Especially when you have Clarence Larkin charts strung out from one side of the wall to the other. You'll learn about Clarence Larkin in the second part of our next lesson on "The real Babylon the Great," as we begin to expose the Dispensationalist plot to make the Church and the world believe that the Natural Jew without Christ is God's chosen people rather than the Church (Jew and Gentile in one body of Christ). The unbelieving Jew wants us to believe this so that every body will be looking back to (natural) Jerusalem instead of a (spiritual) Jerusalem. And they want us to believe that there is salvation in red heifers instead of the blood of Jesus. **I DON'T BELIEVE THERE IS SALVATION IN RED HEIFERS ANYMORE. I BELIEVE THERE IS ONLY SALVATION IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.**

Let's continue looking now at the time text given for the fulfillment of these things Jesus is saying in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. Notice what he said here in verse 32.

(Luke 21:32) Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

In verse 24, was Jerusalem trodden down in **that generation**? Yes! The coming in the clouds and power had to be in **that generation** because he said, "there is some standing here that won't taste death till you see it." He said, "**This generation shall not pass till all be fulfilled.**" Not **PART** of it! **ALL** of it! Everything that I said up to this point, **ALL** of it is going to happen and be fulfilled in **THAT generation** that they lived in! Notice the confirmation of this in the book of Revelation.

(Rev 1:7) Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and **they also which pierced him**: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

There's that wailing just like in Matthew 24. Notice: **THEY THAT PIERCED HIM** are going to **SEE** him. How are they going to see him if they're dead and its 2000 years down the road? Some of them are going to see him because **they will still be alive when it happens!**

IT HAPPENED IN 70 A.D.!

We have compared a few scriptures in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 with other scriptures that said his coming would be in that generation while some of them were still alive to see it. Let's now begin to go through Matthew 24. Remember he had just finished talking about the desolations of Jerusalem in that generation in chapter 23. Keep this in mind as we journey through into Chapter 24.

(Matt 24:1) And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

He walked outside the temple and his disciples came to show him the buildings of the temple. They were not very far from it because they could still see the whole temple, and it was a “monstrosity” in size. History says, some of the stones in the foundation were as big as 60 ft long, and up higher were around 67 ft. long, 7 ½ ft. high, and 9 ft. wide. This temple was beautiful. There wasn’t anything like it. All who looked upon it admired its beauty.

(Matt 24:2) And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

When did that happen? The DESOLATION OF JERUSALEM HAPPENED IN THAT GENERATION!

Now the temple was destroyed in 70 AD, but that western wall is still standing over in Jerusalem. That’s because the Romans left it, so they would have a little shade for their garrison with it while they were still there. In the book of Revelation there is hardly anything that’s literal. Revelation is written out of prophetic symbolism, and everything in Revelation represents something symbolic. It has a literal/spiritual meaning, but it’s represented by a symbol. Jesus is not a literal four-footed Lamb, but he’s typed as a lamb. Right? The devil is not a literal dragon, but that’s what he’s typed as. There are 2 women in Revelation, the Bride, and the Whore. And most people have them backwards.

(Matt 24:3) And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, **Tell us**, when shall **these things** be? and what shall be the **sign** of thy coming, and of **the end** of the world?

3 QUESTIONS ASKED HERE...

#1 WHEN SHALL THESE THINGS BE?

#2 WHAT SHALL BE THE SIGN OF THY COMING?

#3 AND OF THE END OF THE WORLD?

The disciples were not interested in what is going to happen 2000 years down the road. They wanted to know what was going to happen **in THEIR lifetime**. They wanted to know the things that would be of interest to them. They wanted to know when the temple was going to be destroyed. They said, “**when shall THESE THINGS be**,” what shall be **the SIGN of thy coming**” and **THE END of the world- [age]**.” This absolutely dealt with **THEIR time** and was all fulfilled in **THEIR generation**. This is not talking about the coming of the Lord at the end of the world, “Kosmos”- which means the earth and its inhabitants. It is talking about “aion”- [age]

Are you worried about what’s going to happen 2000 years down the road, or do you want to know what is coming in your day?

Most of the Christian world have based their futurist beliefs on scripture, which is already history. They’re looking for something that is never going to happen. And **IF** they ever offer a red heifer, it is **NOT** going to save them! They can offer ten thousand red heifers and it won’t save anybody. And they can build a million temples and God isn’t worried about any of them because **he has his “temple,” it’s the Church!** This has been his purpose from Genesis to Revelation. The rest of it is just a type and a shadow until he could get what he really wanted; the church of the living God! **Ye are the temple of God!**

“When shall these things be”? He had just finished talking about the destruction of Jerusalem’s temple. So it is evident the first question deals with this and does not need much more comment.

“What shall be the sign of thy coming”? They aren’t speaking of his final coming, which is the final resurrection at the last day, but were asking about His coming in the clouds sitting on the right hand of power that Jesus said they would see before some of them had tasted death. You have to remember they were not deaf when he was saying these things. They were hearing him say some of you are going to see my coming. They wanted to know when He is going to “come” and “destroy” this city. They were told that some of them are going to be alive to see it. They are not asking about something 2000 years down the road. **This is speaking of the coming judgment on Jerusalem.** Remember all these things happened in **THAT GENERATION** according to Matthew and Luke.

“The end of the world.” To understand this we must go to the Greek meaning of the word “world” and see which one is used here. There are 3 different Greek words.

World -“kosmos”- 2889. means: **the world** (in a wide or narrow sense, include. **Its inhab.**, lit. or fig. [mor.]):-adorning, world. **This means the earth and its inhabitants.**

EXAMPLE:

(Matt 4:8) Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the **kingdoms of the world**, and the glory of them;

That’s the kingdom of the world “kosmos” which is the “earth and its inhabitants.”

World - “oikoumene” 3625. Means: land, (terrene, part of the) globe, **Roman empire:-- earth, world.**

It says specifically the Roman Empire. Some scholars say it means **their known inhabited earth.**

EXAMPLE:

(Matt 24:14) 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.**

Most of the time the word “world” is referred to as Israel and the nations right around them, and that particular “known world”, specifically the “Roman Empire.” I’m not just asking you to accept what I say. I will show you in scripture. The Bible cannot contradict itself. We need history to understand some of the things that have happened. I use a lot of true history like Josephus, Maccabees and things like that to fill in Daniel and what happened in 70 A.D. It all agrees with what Jesus said would happen to the letter. True history and the Bible will always agree together.

This gospel of the kingdom (Acts 2:38) is going to be preached to the end of the world. It would be preached to all the world “around there” and then the end would come. He was going to give them time to go out and preach the gospel to that “known area”, and the people that would die in Jerusalem would be people that would absolutely reject that gospel. Remember that the church escaped according to the words that Jesus gave right here about the abomination of desolation. “When you see it get out of the city” when Cestius the Roman general backed up, the church knowing the commands of Jesus in Matt. 24, fled the city, and were spared. They fled into the wilderness in Rev.12 for 3 ½ years and were spared by God while he destroyed Jerusalem. They fled to Pella. That is history. That’s enough explanation on that one let’s move on.

World – “aion” 165. Prop. **An age**; by extens. Perpetuity (also past); by impl. The world; spec. **(Jewish) a Messianic period (present or future)**:-- age, course, eternal, (for) ever (-more) [n-]ever, (beginning of the, while the) world (began, without end). Comp. G5550.

The other word we are going to be dealing with is, “world” (aion), and it means: an age. It specifically talks about a Jewish messianic period, present or future age, course, eternal, or a forever more. This is the word used in verse 3 about the end of the age. Basically it is a word that means “age” and not the end of the

“Kosmos” as most people try to interpret it. People look at it and say, “that’s the end of OUR world, so we’re still looking for the fulfillment of this.” We see that as the end of the “Kosmos.” That’s not what he was talking about. **He was talking about the end of the Jewish age that they were living in right then.** The Jews only believed in two ages. This is also in the Talmud and it will also tell you this.

The Jews saw only two ages: (1) the current age they were in and (2) the age of Messiah. They were asking about the end of the Jewish age when Jesus would come in judgment against Jerusalem and destroy the old worship system, and prove that he was ruling in the heavens in his kingdom. That’s what they were actually asking right there, “When are you going to come and end this Jewish age?” The Jews today still believe in two ages. They don’t believe the messianic age has come. How many know that the Jews are still looking for the Messiah? How many of you know they have missed him? They’re about 2000 years late. And for them to build a temple and offer a red heifer won’t bring Him back either.

The scriptures prove that the N.T. writers saw it this way and considered the time in which they were living as the last days of the Jewish age.

(Heb 1:2) Hath in these **last days** spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

The writer of Hebrews said “God hath in these **last days** spoken unto us by his Son.” What days? Those were the days they were living in. He wrote this about 50 or 60 A.D. somewhere in that area. These were the days that he was talking about and he called it the LAST DAYS that Jesus spoke to them.

(Heb 9:26) For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: **but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared** to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

This says, “Jesus died at the end of the ‘world.’” We have a problem if the writer of Hebrews is talking about the end of the “kosmos,” because that would mean that Jesus is not dead yet. That is the Greek word “age”, and is referring to the end of the age. Jesus’ death is what ended the age, and when he destroyed Jerusalem it **CONFIRMED** that was the end of the age. That’s exactly what he did; he confirmed that he’s ruling in the heavens when he destroyed Jerusalem.

(1 Pet 1:20) Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these **last times** for you,

He called the time of Christ the “**LAST TIMES.**”

(1 Cor 10:11) Now **all these things** happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, (talking about the early church) **upon whom the ends of the world are come.**

Paul said they were the ones upon whom the end of the age had come. Why? That was the end of the Jewish age they were living in. These last days and the end were associated in Old Testament Prophecy with the end of the Jewish age and the destruction of Jerusalem. He said **ALL THESE THINGS** would be fulfilled in 3 ½ years according to the prophecies of Daniel and Jesus. Look...

(Dan 12:6) And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, **How long** shall it be **to the end of these wonders?**

(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.**

That's why Revelation 18 at the pouring out of the 7th vial said, "**it is done.**" What's done? **Babylon the Great is fallen, is fallen, is fallen!** Makes sense doesn't it? Revelation 4 – 19 is dealing with the fall of Jerusalem according to law. It's dealing with the cursing and the blessings of Deuteronomy 28. God's church received the blessing and did not receive the curse. But since the Jews didn't except the blessing of grace, they received the curse of the law.

(Isa 6:10) Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Remember this was quoted in the N.T. in the Book of John. And another writer in the N.T. quoted this as the fulfillment of the Jews blindness of accepting Jesus and the N.T. in the days of Jesus Christ. This all fits right in order.

(Isa 6:11) Then said I, Lord, **how long?** And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

Every time the question was asked in the Bible, "**how long until THE END?**" the answer was **UNTIL JERUSALEM IS DESTROYED.** That was **THE END of the Jewish age.** It took 3 ½ years, and I also believe that it is somewhat of a symbolism figure. But actually it was 43 months in the total destruction including the taking away of the sacrifice according to Daniel. And according to history it was actually 1-½ months later that the city actually fell completely into the hands of the Romans.

Peter quoted Joel's prophecy on the Day of Pentecost and said it was being fulfilled in the "**LAST DAYS.**" **Joel had prophesied the outpouring of the Holy Ghost and the destruction of Jerusalem in the same prophecy,** as we will prove later in Matthew 24 where he talks about the falling of the sun and the moon, which is, the destruction of Jerusalem. Peter said, "**in the last days** saith God (quoting from Joel), I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; he said, "your sons and your daughters are going to prophecy." Do you know what Joel was prophesying? Peter said, "this is in OUR day, this is that spoken to US right here, being poured out. He prophesied Pentecost and Holocaust with the same breath. When he got to the sun being turned into darkness and the moon into blood, the same thing was written in Matthew 24. That is speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem. Let's look at the parallel of Matthew 24:3 in Mark 13:4.

(Mark 13:4) Tell us, **when shall these things be?** and what shall be **the sign** when **all these things** shall be fulfilled.

Notice how Mark said it; "What shall be **the sign** when **all these things** shall **be fulfilled?**" That's a little different than the way Matthew worded it, isn't it? Mark said they were asking for the **one sign** when **all these things would be fulfilled.** What sign? When you see the armies surround Jerusalem then get out of the city, because all these things will be fulfilled when he comes in judgment against Jerusalem.

(Matt 24:4) And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

(Matt 24:5) For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

This is dealing with things that would take place before the fall of Jerusalem in their generation and not something for our future. History records that there were many false Christ's from the time of the death of Jesus until the fall of Jerusalem, and hardly any before or after that. Why? Because they knew about the prophecy of Daniel's 70th week, and that it was about time for Messiah to come. And I'm going to read from the book "Matthew 24 Fulfilled" by John Bray to show what history says. We have this book available through Rightly Dividing the Word Ministries and I consider it the best book that has ever been written on this subject. Over fifty years of ministry and research has gone into the writing of this book. I recommend this as one of the first books a person should read as they begin to look at the Preterist view of Bible Prophecy. I will be reading from this book some of the things that Bray looked up in history, and you'll find the Bible itself talks about some of these false characters. And when you get in the book of Acts and different places you'll

find the names of these false Christ's. One was Simon Magus, who was talked about through many historical writers. Let me just read one of them:

(Acts 8:9) But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city **used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria**, giving out that **himself was some great one**:

(Acts 8:10) To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, **saying, This man is the great power of God**.

Bray quoting Henry Hammond (1681) on page 25 of his book *Matthew 24 Fulfilled* says:

“**Simon Magus** set himself to contend against the Apostles, that he might also appear glorious. He was for his Magic honored with a statue by Claudius Caesar. He was glorified by many as a God, and taught that himself was he that appeared as the son among the Jews, that in Samaria he descended as the father, and in other nations came as the Holy Ghost. He taught that he was the most sublime virtue, that is, which was the father over all, he also was content to be called by the highest titles that any man did call him” (Henry Hammond, p.272).

Several N.T. historians wrote about this character—Eusebius, Justin Martyr, Tertullian—all these historians talked about this crude character that went about claiming to be the Messiah. This is not talking about in our day. This is talking about things that were going to happen in **THEIR** day before the fall of Jerusalem.

Bray went on to say on page 26 of *Matthew 24 Fulfilled*: “Then there was a man named **Dositheus** the Samaritan, who claimed to be the Messiah predicted by Moses. Nero finally killed him a few years later. They said that there were so many coming at that time that they were killed everyday.”

Another false Christ that the Bible talks about is **Theudas**. Remember that Gamaliel talked about him in Acts 5:36, how he led away many?

(Acts 5:36) For before these days rose up **Theudas**, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought.

Eusebius said: “Even while Jerusalem was under siege some of these characters said that how they were going to lead the Jews out and how God was going to deliver them. **Theudas** taught that there was deliverance at the River Jordan; he claimed he was a prophet and promised to divide the river. He led them down to the river, and the river never opened, so they killed him. That’s why Jesus said don’t believe it if someone says that the Messiah was over here in the desert. All these characters were popping up everywhere.” (Eusebius, pp.84-85)

Gamaliel mentioned another that is named **Judus**:

(Acts 5:37) After this man rose up **Judas** of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.

Eusebius told about **the Egyptian** that’s mentioned in Acts 21:38 and all these here are mentioned in history.

(Acts 21:38) Art not thou that **Egyptian**, which before these days madest an uproar, and leddest out into the wilderness four thousand men that were murderers?

They said that there were many false Messiahs coming from the time of the death of Herod until the time of the fall of Jerusalem, but after that and before that there wasn’t any. This happened because they knew it was about time for Daniel’s prophecy of the 70 weeks to be fulfilled, which included the coming of the Messiah.

Do you remember reading about the **Herodians**? Do you know why that they thought that Herod was the Messiah? Because they knew something about Daniel's 70th week, and the Jews knew there wasn't a gap there. Do you remember chronology got messed up for about 50 years there? There are some true chronologies out there, but most of them are off. You'll have Jesus dying around 50 A.D. if you follow most of them. Of course we know that's incorrect. But the one that falls with his death at 30 A.D. I believe is correct. We know that there were 483 years from the time that Cyrus gave the command to build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince was anointed. Jesus had it down exactly. When he was anointed at his baptism it was 483 years after the command was given to build the temple. That's why they were called the Herodians because they thought Herod was the Messiah, because he was building the temple. Here is a point of information that I might tell you, and that is, that there were actually 3 temples, or perhaps some would prefer to refer to it as 2 temples and 3 restorations. This is one misunderstanding people have.

The first temple was Solomon's temple and the Babylonians destroyed it. Cyrus gave the command to go back and rebuild it in Ezra's time. They rebuilt it, which would be the second temple, and then Antiochus Epiphanies who is the one who placed the abomination that maketh desolate in Daniel 11 and Daniel 8. Antiochus Epiphanies is a totally separate abomination of desolation from chapter 9 and 12. You don't want to get them mixed up even though the events are very similar, because Antiochus Epiphanies offered a swine on the altar, ransacked Jerusalem, and stopped the daily sacrifice. Chapter eight is where you can tell the big difference, because it mentions a time period of 2,300 days rather than the 1,290 days mentioned for the last abomination of desolation at the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Herod was rebuilding the final temple and that was the temple that was there in the days of Jesus. So they thought He was the Messiah because he was building the temple. Do you see how they had Daniels 70th week confused and didn't recognize Jesus? There were so many false Christ's popping up in that day because of the prophecy of Daniels 70th week. Does that make sense to anybody? It should make perfect sense. It makes all kind of logical sense, as well as scriptural sense, as well as historical sense. Look at what John wrote about this time period.

(1 John 2:18) Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

"It is the **last time** because antichrists would come" and John also said, "there are **many antichrists** already out there." Remember the word "antichrist" is not in the Book of Revelation; it's in the Book of John! He said, "that they're already there in HIS day." Of course I believe that there have been many antichrists in our day. Any man that rises himself up and opposes Christ is anti-Christ. It doesn't matter what generation or age he is in. That's why I warn about these teachings about the building of temples, and the offering of red heifers being acceptable to God and God's plan. Be careful and don't ever teach that, because that is almost an anti-Christ doctrine. I'm not saying that people that have been deceived into that teaching are anti-Christ. Don't miss understand what I'm saying! I used to teach that myself, and I wasn't anti-Christ. This doctrine proceeded from an anti-Christ spirit, because it teaches a restoration of the things that Christ destroyed. Let me drop this for now and move on.

(Matt 24:6) And ye shall hear **of wars and rumours of wars**: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but **the end is not yet**.

(Matt 24:7) For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

History again proves all these happened in their day. He is saying, there is going to be wars and rumors of wars, but those wars that start at that time would not be the real war that will end it all. Can you see what he is saying? There's going to be wars but that's not "the war." Of course we know that this "final war" is going to be the destruction of Jerusalem. The main point I want to make here is that **this is not referring to signs that will happen 2,000 years in the future, but signs that will take place in their time before the fall of Jerusalem.**

Matthew 24 fulfilled (p.28) lists some of these wars as follows: "In A.D. 40 there was a disturbance at Mesopotamia which (Josephus says) caused the deaths of more than 50,000 people. In A.D. 49 a tumult at Jerusalem at the time of the Passover resulted in 10,000 to 20,000 deaths. At Caesarea contentions between Jewish people and other inhabitants resulted in over 20,000 Jews being killed. As Jews moved elsewhere, over 20,000 were destroyed by Syrians. At Scythopolis, over 13,000 Jews were killed. Thousands were killed in other places, and at Alexandria 50,000 were killed. At Damascus, 10,000 were killed in an hour's time."

All over was war! War! War! Jews were being murdered everywhere!

Jesus was saying, "these wars are not the main war that will bring the end, these are just the **beginning of sorrows**." Many of the other signs mentioned such as famines, pestilence, and earth quakes in divers places, can be found as happening in their day by looking at history records and at the book of Acts.

(Acts 11:28) And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be **great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.**

The Bible records the famine in the time of Claudius Caesar? Josephus and Eusebius also mentioned it. In 40 A.D. pestilence broke out in Babylon, in which Jews suffered. In 68 A.D. there was much death at Rome through pestilence. Earthquakes happened at Crete, Smyrna, Miletas, at Chios, at Asmas, at Rome, at Apamea (same region), at Laodecia (in the reign of Nero) "which city was overthrown, as were likewise Hierapolis and Colosse".

Jesus said, "I'm letting you know that THESE THINGS are going to happen in YOUR (speaking of the disciples) GENERATION." These things are going to come before I destroy Jerusalem. These are not things that are going to happen in OUR day. He let them know that those were NOT the signs that they should go by because these are only the BEGINNING of sorrows. What does He mean by "the beginning?" That **these signs would only be the birth pains**, but **NOT THE END!**

(Matt 24:9) Then shall they deliver **you** [*the disciples*] up to be afflicted, and shall kill **you**: and **ye** shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

To see the fulfillment of this, all you have to do is read the book of Acts. And read the history about the persecution by Nero for 3 ½ years before the fall of Jerusalem. All through the book of Acts you see where the Jews chased the Apostles from city to city and persecuted them.

(Acts 8:1) And Saul was consenting unto his death. And **at that time** there was a **great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem**; and they were **all scattered abroad throughout the regions** of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Now don't get the great tribulation and the persecution against the church mixed up. The persecution of the church is not the great tribulation of Matthew 24, which is referring to the 3 ½ year war against Jerusalem that ended in its destruction. Neither is the great tribulation of Matthew 24 referring to the 3 ½ years of tribulation (persecution) by Nero against the church that is described in the book of Revelation chapter 13. Most of the Apostles were killed during that persecution except John who wrote the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation was not written in 96 A.D. It was written in the early 60's A.D. before the fall of Jerusalem; the internal evidence proves that. I have a book called, "Before Jerusalem Fell," which is available through our ministry here at Rightly Dividing the Word. This author did an entire documentary on when the book of Revelation was written. He did all the historical and Biblical references on it. I have studied everything that I could get my hands on and here is what I've concluded; history is "inconclusive." One man that mentioned the 96 A.D. date is the same one that everybody quotes from (Polly parrots) when referring to this date. This same man also preached that Jesus Christ preached in his 40's or 50's. I don't believe Jesus was preaching when he was 40 to 50 years old. I believe he died in his early 30's. So if that man is wrong about that, he could be wrong about the rest of it.

He also talked about how John the Revelator got on a horse and over took a man that was running from him on a horse. I don't know how old John was by the time 96 A.D. came, but I guarantee you if he jumped on a horse and caught somebody then, he was a healthy old man! I covered this already in my book on *The Coming of the Lord...* so I will not spend a lot of time on this issue in this lesson; however John was in tribulation at the time of his writing the book of Revelation.

(Rev 1:9) I John, who also am your brother, and companion **in tribulation**, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

I believe that Nero took him away to the isle of Patmos in the early 60's BEFORE Jerusalem fell.

There are many proofs concerning the internal evidence the book of Revelation was written before the fall of Jerusalem, but three of the most powerful proofs are as follows:

1. Why would John write to a church in Rev. 11:2 about the holy city being trodden under foot by the gentiles for forty- two months as a future event if it had already been fulfilled? Jesus predicted this in Luke 21:21 and said all these things would be fulfilled before that generation had passed away. John is saying it "shall be trodden down" which is a definite indication it has not happened at the time of his writing.
2. History indicates that Laodicea was destroyed by an earthquake in 66 AD (New Unger's Bible Dictionary) and was not rebuilt till the reign of Marcus Aurelius who reigned as a Roman Emperor from 161-180 AD. Why would John be writing to a church in a city that had been destroyed 30 years prior to his writing? This city was still standing in the early 60's AD when John actually penned the book.
3. Revelation reveals Jerusalem to be the Great Whore that sat on a political beast (Rome) using its influence on this governmental power to persecute and kill Jesus, his apostles, prophets, and saints. The beast would then turn on the whore, make her desolate, and burn her with fire. The perfect fulfillment of this took place during the 3½-year siege of Jerusalem ending in September 70 AD. According to the futurist interpretation, Jesus will return and save Jerusalem from destruction. This proves this has to be dealing with the 3 ½-year siege of Jerusalem ending in 70 AD, and not a future destruction of Jerusalem in our day.

When you go to the internal evidence of the book of Revelation, it becomes evident that the book of Revelation was written BEFORE the fall of Jerusalem. The book of Revelation was the prediction of the fall of Jerusalem. The whole book of Revelation was about the fall of Babylon the Great until you get to the last 3 chapters.

The first 3 chapters are dealing with John and those churches in tribulation. John wrote, "Your brother, and companion in tribulation." He was writing this at a time when the church was already in tribulation. Who's got them there? Nero did.

(Matt 24:10) And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

What this scripture means is that some Christians are going to yield to authorities because of persecution and reveal information about one another and betray each other.

(Matt 24:11) And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

(Matt 24:12) And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

(Matt 24:13) But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

He was speaking here more of a physical deliverance at the destruction of Jerusalem, than he was a spiritual salvation; but he accomplished both. If you were not a follower of Jesus and did not believe what he had said,

then you did not know to get out of the city. That is what Daniel was talking about in chapter 12, “the wise will understand, but the wicked won’t understand at the time of the end” (3 ½ year destruction of Jerusalem). The wise fled the city, but the wicked stayed there because they trusted in law and did not know to get out because they were not a follower of Jesus. Isaiah prophesied of this time.

(Isa 28:18) And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.

Revelation 6:8 said that death and hell would follow them. Isaiah said they will trust in death because they will reject the stammering lips and the chief cornerstone. They were not part of the followers of Jesus Christ that had been warned to get out of the city when they saw Jerusalem surrounded by armies.

(Matt 24:14) 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**.

Remember that the word “world” used in this scripture is the Greek word “**oikoumene**” which refers to “their known world of that day.” The gospel would be preached to “**THEIR**” known world by the Apostles and the early church and **THEN THE END, which is the destruction of Jerusalem** would come. That’s why the next verse deals with the abomination of desolation, which Luke reveals as the Roman army surrounding Jerusalem. See he said “the end is not yet,” because all these other signs must happen first. Let’s look at some scriptures that prove **the gospel was preached to the whole known world in THEIR day**.

(Rom 1:8) First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that **your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world**.

(Rom 10:18) But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

He is saying that this has already happened. They had already preached the gospel to the whole world in their day so that the end could come.

(Col 1:5) For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof **ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel**;

(Col 1:6) Which is come unto you, **as it is in all the world**; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

(Col 1:23) If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from **the hope of the gospel**, which **ye have heard**, and which **was preached to every creature which is under heaven**; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

He is saying here that we have already preached the gospel to every creature. So guess what? The end can come now.

(Rom 16:25) Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my **gospel**, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

(Rom 16:26) **But now is made manifest**, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, **made known to all nations** for the obedience of faith:

Keep in mind that this is speaking of all the inhabited world **they knew** in their day. It wasn’t talking about all the “Kosmos” (the whole earth). It was talking about their known world “Oikoumene” of that day. A good example of this is found in Luke 2:1.

(Luke 2:1) And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that **all the world** should be taxed.

That wasn't "all the world" it was just the Roman Empire and the people that were subject to them. When you start using these statements, you have to put the language back into the way it is used in the Bible. You can't use it like we do in our modern English today. And that is much of the problem with Bible prophecy today. People read the Bible and see "the end of the world", and they say that it hasn't happened yet. That is not what he is referring to. You have to put it back in its Bible context and see which Greek word is being used in each scripture, how they interpreted it in the Bible, and how they considered the word in the Bible. We need to let the Bible interpret the Bible. Another example of this is found in the book of Acts.

(Acts 11:28) And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth **throughout all the world**: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

When you study history you will find that the famine didn't go to all the world. **It went to their known world of that day**. On the day of Pentecost there were Jews out of every nation under heaven, but there wasn't but 17 different groups represented there. That wasn't all world and wasn't all nations, but it was all the Jewish nations. You have got to be careful of this language and that you consider the Greek meaning of each word.

Jesus then gave **the key sign** that would let them know it was the "time of the end," which was the 3 ½ year destruction of Jerusalem prophesied in the book of Daniel. Now is the time for all the Christians to flee the city and the surrounding countryside, which they did, and were spared the judgments of God on Jerusalem.

(Matt 24:15) **When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

The "holy place" is speaking of the holy land. The proof is in the next scripture. Even in Maccabees it talks about the holy land as the holy place. You can prove that from several different angles.

(Matt 24:16) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Why would that prove anything? Because Judaea is in the country side and if you try to say this is talking about an antichrist stopping animal sacrifices in a temple, then how are people in Judaea going to see inside the temple and know to flee? But if it was the Roman army entering the land as Luke said it was, then all could see it and flee. Look at the words of Jesus in the next verse.

(Matt 24:17) Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

Because this is the main war! This is the sign of the time of the end. Remember Luke said, "when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies," then flee. Get out of there! You can stay in this city until this sign, but when this happens, the end is near! This is the final sign. RUN! FLEE as soon as possible.

(Matt 24:18) Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

(Matt 24:19) And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

This indicates difficulty with travel. If you are pregnant, or have a baby you cannot run as fast. This has nothing to do with the rapture! This is "get out of town" the Romans are coming! The word rapture is not in the Bible, but resurrection is. If the Lord decides to resurrect a people, who is going to want to go back from a "rapture" and get their clothes?

(Matt 24:20) But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

Why? Once again it would be difficult to travel. They were under law and were limited in their travel on the Sabbath day. If it were winter, the snow would hold up travel. So he's not talking about a rapture. How many of you know that being pregnant is not going to keep you from going in a rapture? He's talking about getting out of Jerusalem in their day. Some use this to teach that Jerusalem is going to go back under law because they are trying to push this forward into our time, but I don't believe that because this is dealing with the destruction of Jerusalem in that generation.

(Matt 24:21) For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be,

Jesus let those to whom He spoke know that they were the ones that would see the heathen army surround Jerusalem. When they saw this they were to escape that city because Jesus said there was a great tribulation coming such as had never been seen before, and never would be seen again. For a person to teach that this tribulation is for a future time, he would need to ignore these scriptures' time references, and the obvious context in which Jesus spoke them.

Josephus confirmed Jesus' words in his Volume One of the Works of Josephus, which says, "Whereas **the war which the Jews made with the Romans hath been the greatest of all those**, not only **that have been in our times**, but, in a manner, of those **that ever were heard of**; both of those wherein cities have fought against cities, or nations against nations."

(Matt 24:22) And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Thank God! If that war hadn't have been stopped, there wouldn't have been anyone left alive in Jerusalem. Because the historians say that you couldn't walk the streets without the blood being there. Luke made the same statements as Matthew except he revealed what the abomination was. Jesus said, in Matthew 24, "**when you see the abomination of desolation spoken by Daniel.**" The parallel scripture of this in Luke reveals exactly what the abomination of desolation was.

(Luke 21:20) And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

Here, the **abomination** according to Luke is the **Roman army**. When they came in with their incense, and they began to set up those pagan symbols all over Jerusalem and compass the city. This was his warning, "**when you see it compassed with armies then you know the desolation is nigh.**" It was the desolation in Matthew that was prophesied by Daniel, and remember Daniel said there was going to be a war, and it is not going to stop until there is the destruction of the city and the temple. What Jesus is saying is, THIS IS THE REAL WAR! GET OUT! RUN! FLEE! THIS IS NOT THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS, **THIS IS THE SORROWS!!!** This is the war! This is the sign! GET OUT OF THERE!!!

The margin notes in the old original King James Bible in the book of Daniel says "the abominable armies," which let's us know the translators of the KJV of the Bible believed this to be speaking of the Roman Army which destroyed Jerusalem in 67-70 A.D.

This is the signal to leave because it is the final war at the end of the age.

(Luke 21:21) Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

(Luke 21:22) For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

Probably 95% of all Bible prophecy was fulfilled in that 43½ year period. From the time Jesus was anointed at his baptism, preached 3½ years and was cut off, and the 40 years that followed to the destruction of

Jerusalem. Most of Bible prophecy was fulfilled right there, and certainly all the prophecies that pertained to that event were fulfilled.

(Luke 21:23) But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great **distress in the land**, and **wrath upon this people**.

Wrath upon whom? THE JEWS THAT KILLED THE LORD!

(Luke 21:24) And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: "and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

I have already mentioned how that those being taken captive into all nations would be impossible to fulfill under the futurist interpretation of prophecy. They teach Jesus will come and save Jerusalem and the Jews and then we will supposedly enter into a 1000 year time of peace. This leaves no time for them to be took away captive into all nations. On the other hand, this had a perfect fulfillment in the 70 A.D. destruction of Jerusalem, when over 1 million died in Jerusalem, and thousands were led away captive into all nations.

If you'll read **Deuteronomy 28** about the 40th verse until the end of the chapter, it will tell about the destruction of Jerusalem in detail. It tells how they will have to eat their own flesh, which is referring to their own babies. History records this did take place during the siege of Jerusalem. Deuteronomy 28 also tells that they will be sold back into Egypt and there will not be enough slave masters to buy them. All of this had a perfect historical fulfillment in 70 A.D.

Most preachers teach that "**until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled**" is the end of the church age, and God's going to rapture his church, and then he's going back to red heifers and temples, but I don't think we found another scripture anywhere to agree with that. Everything that we've found so far said that can NEVER HAPPEN. I believe this is referring to the time that was allotted to the Gentiles in prophecy for the destruction of Jerusalem, which is 42 months. Daniel said it was a time, times and a half time and Revelation said 42 months.

(Rev 11:1) And there was given me a **reed like unto a rod**: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and **measure the temple of God**, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

The **golden rod** that **measures the temple** in Zechariah, Revelation, Ezekiel and everywhere it's measured is the 6-cubit rod who is **JESUS CHRIST**. He is the "**perfect Divine measure of man**" that came and was perfect. What Jesus was in the flesh is exactly what he is going to measure his church by. I showed you in an earlier lesson that **the New Jerusalem is the symbol of the church**. It is a picture of the Bride of Christ, the kingdom of God coming to earth. It has the **Tree of Life** in it, which is **Jesus Christ**, and the **River of Life**, which is the **Holy Ghost**. It is on 12 foundations, which is the 12 Apostles. "**We are built on the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the Chief cornerstone.**" (Eph. 2:20)

He said, measure that temple. Everything about it was either 12, or in multiples of 12, which is a number of perfection when dealing with the church. How high is it? It is 12,000, and "thousand" is a number of perfection also. This is referring to perfection times multiples of perfection. Anytime Jesus Christ measures something it has to be perfect. Christ was the perfect measure according to Ephesians and we are all supposed to be striving to come to the measure of the fullness of Christ Jesus. We're supposed to be coming to full growth, striving for perfection until we come to his image and in his likeness. I believe that's the plan of God for us rather than red heifers!

(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**.

What is that outer court? He tells you, it is natural or physical Jerusalem. The inner court in this symbolism is speaking of the temple and the altar. He said, "measure my true worshipers." Who are the true worshipers now? The Church! He said to leave out the outer court because the Gentiles are going to tread it under foot forty and two months. If the temple in Jerusalem was not standing when this was written that would not make any sense, but the temple was still standing when this was written. Why was this treading under foot going to happen? Jesus said ye are the salt of the earth. Who did he tell that to? The church! The church is now the salt of the earth. What system was the salt of the earth before? Jerusalem and the old law and the old temple worship system, but he said, if the salt has lost its savor, or the ability to save, then its good for nothing but to what? To be TRODDEN UNDER FOOT! And Jerusalem, the outer court, will be trodden under foot because she is not Jesus' salt anymore and her light (sun, moon, and stars) is going to go out in Matthew 24 because she's not the light of the world anymore. The Church is now the light of the world. He is going to turn the sun, moon, and stars out on natural Jerusalem, and they are not going to be God's light to the world anymore. That's why it says of the New Jerusalem [*The Church*], "And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it." (Rev. 21:24) Let's continue our study now of the scriptures in Matthew 24.

(Matt 24:23) Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

(Matt 24:24) For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

As we have shown earlier, there was so much deception with false messiahs saying, follow me. He was warning his church not to follow that. History and Bible both talk of these, as to things that would happen and did happen in that generation.

(1 John 4:1) Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because **many false prophets are gone out into the world.**

He wrote this before the fall of Jerusalem, which means it was happening in their generation.

(1 John 4:2) Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

(1 John 4:3) And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is **that spirit of antichrist**, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even **now already is it in the world.**

(1 John 2:18) Little children, **it is the last time**: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, **even now are there many antichrists**; whereby we know that **it is the last time.**

That couldn't be anymore perfectly said. That proves that the scriptures in Matthew 24 had a historical fulfillment.

That scripture is not talking about OUR DAY; it is talking about THEIR DAY!

(Matt 24:25) Behold, I have told you before.

(Matt 24:26) Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

There was actually people here saying come with me to the desert and into the temple, but Jesus said, don't fall for any of that. Many teach that He is coming in a secret rapture, but Jesus said it wasn't going to be secret when He came. He said...

(Matt 24:27) For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

He said that his coming would not be secret, but a very climatic thing. This secret rapture everybody's got and the scripture they use for it is a non-biblical event. I do believe in a resurrection. The word rapture is not in the bible. Call it what you want. We are going to be resurrected or caught up. We have all these things in our minds that may not transpire just the way we think it is. **There will definitely be a resurrection at the last day.** Ever how it happens I want to be in it. I don't want to be depending on a Jewish priest to offer me a red heifer. I want to be dependent on the blood of the Lamb when it does. This particular coming He is referring to here is speaking of His coming in judgment on Jerusalem, which definitely took place in that generation.

(Rev 1:7) Behold, he cometh with clouds; and **every eye shall see him,** and **they also which pierced him:** and all kindreds [*tribes*] of the earth [*land*] shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

How is this going to be a secret rapture if **EVERY EYE** shall **SEE** him and them which **PIERCED HIM?**

This is the same as the tribes mourning (wailing) in Matthew 24:30. If I had time I would take you to Zechariah and show you about the mourning and what they called Armageddon where Jerusalem would be destroyed. That there would be mourning in the Valley of Megiddo. I hate to disappoint anyone but the battle of Armageddon is about 2000 years old. The verse about the blood being to a horses bridle is symbolic language. You can take every horse in the world and the mules and the donkeys, shed everyone of their blood, pour it in the Valley of Megiddo, and you won't be able to fill it up to a horses bridle. That is not literal. It is symbolic of the terrible destruction of Jerusalem. They said that the blood was so terrible that you couldn't walk without stepping in the blood of the Jews. Many of them were killed by these false prophets that set themselves up in the temple.

(Matt 24:28) For wheresoever the **carcase** is, there will the **eagles** be gathered together.

I have proven in earlier lessons that the word eagles here is actually referring to the vultures, and is translated so in most versions other than the KJV. Vines Dictionary of New Testament Words and most commentaries also say this is referring to vultures instead of eagles. **This is the vultures feast of Luke 17:37, Revelation 19:17-18, and Ezekiel 39:17-23.**

I have a transparency of the book of Revelation and Ezekiel lying side-by-side proving that these are basically the same books. Let's look at the entire chart briefly, but **THE SCAVENGERS' FEAST** is what we are dealing with at the present time.

- The Throne-vision (Rev 4/Eze 1)
- The Book (Rev 5/Eze 2-3)
- The Four Plagues (Rev 6:1-8/Eze 5)
- The Slain under the Altar (Rev 6:9-11/Eze 6)
- The Wrath of God (Rev 6:12-17/Eze 7)
- The Seal on the Saint's Foreheads (Rev 7/Eze 9)
- The Coals from the Altar (Rev 8/Eze 10)
- No More Delay (Rev 10:1-7/Eze 12)
- The Eating of the Book (Rev 10:8-11/Eze 2)
- The Measuring of the Temple (Rev 11:1-2/Eze 40-43)
- Jerusalem and Sodom (Rev 11:8/Eze 16)
- The Cup of Wrath (Rev 14/Eze 23)

- The Vine of the Land (Rev 14:18-20/Eze 15)
- The Great Harlot (Rev 17-18/Eze 16, 23)
- The Lament Over the City (Rev 18/Eze 27)
- The Scavengers' Feast (Rev 19/Eze 38)
- The First Resurrection (Rev 20:4-6/Eze 37)
- The Battle with Gog and Magog (Rev 20:7-9/Eze 38-39)
- The New Jerusalem (Rev 21/Eze 40-48)
- The River of Life (Rev 22/Eze 47)

The same temple in Ezekiel is the same temple in Revelation, which is the church. That is why when the Bible talks about measuring the water; it was ankle deep, and then it was knee deep, loin deep, and then waters to swim in, and that is nothing but a picture of the Holy Ghost going out to the lands for the healing of the nations everywhere it went. And do you know where it came out of? The door of the temple! What is that temple? The church! I said all that to show you that Revelation and Ezekiel were basically the same book and that **the scavengers feast in Ezekiel is the same scavengers feast in Revelation.** The exact same four beasts in Revelation 4 and 5 are the exact same beasts in Ezekiel 1. I will prove in the last lesson on *The Four Beasts and the Two Witnesses* that these are a symbolic picture of the Apostolic ministry.

Let's look now at the book of Luke to further prove that this is dealing with the scavenger's feast which took place at the destruction of Jerusalem. Notice as we deal with these scriptures that it is the wicked that are taken and the righteous that are left, which agrees with the parable of the wheat and the tares. The tares (wicked) are removed first and the righteous are left to shine forth as the sun.

(Luke 17:24) For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.

(Luke 17:25) But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of **this generation.**

Jesus suffered many things and was rejected of **THAT GENERATION.** Notice as we read these scriptures, who it is that is being taken, and who it is that is left. You will notice that it is the wicked which are taken and the righteous which are left, and this is the opposite of what most men teach.

(Luke 17:26) And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

(Luke 17:27) They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and **the flood came, and destroyed them all.**

This is for the wicked.

(Luke 17:28) Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

(Luke 17:29) But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and **destroyed them all.**

(Luke 17:30) Even thus shall it be in the day when the **Son of man is revealed.**

(Luke 17:31) In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.

This is the same language as Matthew 24 and Luke 21 at the destruction of Jerusalem. Don't go back into the house! Many teach that when the scriptures speak of two being in the field, one being taken and the other left; that it is referring to the rapture. That has nothing at all to do with the rapture of the church. All we have to do

in order to understand the true meaning to these verses is to keep reading and it becomes evident what this is referring to

(Luke 17:32) Remember Lot's wife.

What did she do? She looked back. She got destroyed in the wrath of God!

(Luke 17:34) I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

(Luke 17:35) Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

(Luke 17:36) Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

We have always been taught that these verses represent the secret rapture of the church, but actually it was the destruction of the wicked Jews at Jerusalem as proven by the next verse. Jesus even said it would not be secret, so don't look for him in the secret chambers. It would be like lightning.

(Luke 17:37) And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

Where Lord? Where are you taking all these people? He was basically saying I am going to feed them to the vultures. It's going to be in the days of the coming of the son of man as it was in the days of Noe when the flood took them all away. Who was taken away? The wicked! In the days of Lot, who was taken away? The wicked! He took away the wicked and his righteous church was left. That was referring to 70 AD, and not his final resurrection. Look at this same verse in some other translations.

New International Version

(Luke 17:37) And they asked **where, Lord?** They asked. He replied, where there is **a dead body** there **the vultures** will gather.

Living Bible

(Luke 17:37) "**Lord, where will they be taken?**" the disciples asked. Jesus replied, "Where the **body is, the vultures** gather!"

Contemporary English Bible

(Luke 17:37) Then Jesus' disciples spoke up, "But where will this happen, Lord?" Jesus said, "**Where there is a corpse, there will always be buzzards.**"

New American Bible

(Luke 17:37) They said to him in reply, "**Where, Lord?**" He said to them, "**Where the body is, there also the vultures will gather.**"

New Revised Standard

(Luke 17:37) Then they asked him, "**Where, Lord?**" He said to them, "**Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.**"

See it is really talking about vultures not eagles. Matthew 24 in the KJV says, "**Where the carcass is there will the eagles be gathered**" but an eagle is not known as a scavenger of dead things. They prefer a "live kill." I have previously stated that most other translations and the *Vines Dictionary* say "eagles" should have been translated "vultures" in Matthew 24 and Luke 17.

What he is saying is, where there is a dead bunch of bodies, that is where the buzzards/vultures gather. That was fulfilled in 70 AD. Now we can see that this was not talking about a rapture. There is a resurrection however for all who die in the Lord. If you live for Jesus and die in the Lord you'll live with him forever, and

that is the hope of the Christian. I'm not here to take the true hope away, but I am here to destroy all these false hopes and deceptions men are putting out there in this last hour. Let's compare these verses with the ones in the book of Revelation, and this will also help us see these verses are dealing with the destruction of Babylon the Great, which is Jerusalem. We will also read these verses in Ezekiel.

(Rev 19:17) And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and **gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;**

(Rev 19:18) That ye may **eat the flesh of kings,** and **the flesh of captains,** and **the flesh of mighty men,** and **the flesh of horses,** and of them that sit on them, and **the flesh of all men,** both free and bond, both small and great.

(Eze 39:17) And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto **every feathered fowl,** and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; **gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice** that I do sacrifice for you, even **a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood.**

Where? On the mountains of Israel! That ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. This is backwards from what Dispensationalism teaches. That resurrected body (bones) that happened before this was the church, which is Israel restored to God under the New Covenant. How do we know this? Ezekiel said, there is a sign that you are going to see when these bones are resurrected. That sign is "I will open your graves and cause you to come out of your graves." (Ezekiel 37:12) What happened when Jesus came out of the grave according to the N.T.? Dead saints were seen walking the streets of Jerusalem. That's in fulfillment of Ezekiel when he raises up that body.

(Eze 39:18) Ye shall **eat the flesh of the mighty,** and **drink the blood of the princes** of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan.

(Eze 39:19) And **ye shall eat fat till ye be full,** and **drink blood till ye be drunken,** of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.

(Eze 39:20) Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD.

(Eze 39:21) And I will set **my glory among the heathen,** and **all the heathen shall see my JUDGMENT** that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them.

(Eze 39:22) So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.

That is dealing with the "**sign**" of the Son of Man in heaven right there. The destruction of Jerusalem was to be the ultimate proof that the Lord Jesus Christ is the God of Israel, and He is now ruling in Heaven and in earth.

(Eze 39:23) And the heathen shall know that **the house of Israel** went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: **so fell they all by the sword.**

(Jer 7:33) And the **carcasses of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven,** and for the beasts of the earth; and none shall fray them away.

(Jer 7:34) Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from **the streets of Jerusalem,** the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, **the voice of the bridegroom,** and **the voice of the bride:** for **the land shall be desolate.**

For 3½ years there was no witness in Jerusalem. It silenced the voice of the bride and the bridegroom. I personally feel there is a connection between this prophecy and the two witnesses laying dead in the streets of Jerusalem for 3½ years in the book of Revelation.

(Matt 24:29) Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

He used here symbolic language that was already used in the O.T. to signify the changing of government and rulers in the earth, which **in this case is dealing with a change of covenants from Law to Grace**. He was saying here that he is going to **turn the lights out on old Jerusalem** because **his church is now the light of the world**. God said in Genesis 1 that the sun, moon, and stars were for a sign and to rule.

(Gen 1:16) And God made two great lights; the greater light **to rule** the day, and the lesser light **to rule** the night: he made the stars also.

Joseph had a dream that the sun, moon and stars bowed to him. How could a literal sun, moon, and stars bow to him? This is not a literal bowing of the sun, moon, and stars, but his father, and brothers did bow to him and his authority in Egypt. Earthly ruler ship bowed to Joseph. The sun, moon, and stars are typed in prophecy as earthly ruler ship and human government. When God prophesied about “turning their lights out,” he’s talking about stopping their government. Let’s examine some Old Testament examples of this.

Here is **prophecy of the destruction of Babylon in the O.T.** about the Medes and the Persians that I showed you in the lesson on *Daniel’s 70th week*. When they came against Babylon at the end of the 70-year captivity, it was time for Israel to go back and rebuild the temple. Look at the prophecy that Isaiah gave and **look at the symbolic language used** to describe the overthrow of Babylon by the Medes and Persians.

PROPHECY OF THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON

(Isa 13:9) Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

(Isa 13:10) For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

(Isa 13:11) And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

He said I am going to destroy Babylon and I will do it by turning her moon, sun and stars out. The same prophecy he has given to Jerusalem he has given to Babylon. And now guess what Jerusalem is? She is SPIRITUAL BABYLON, And God turned her lights out in Matthew 24.

PROPHECY OF THE DEFEAT OF EGYPT

(Eze 32:7) And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and **make the stars thereof dark**; I will **cover the sun with a cloud**, and the **moon shall not give her light**.

(Eze 32:8) All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord GOD.

That is prophecy of the destruction of Egypt that is already history. God usually used another nation’s army to literally carry out the defeat of these nations, which is the same thing he did to fulfill the same prophetic language in Matthew 24. So if you are waiting for the sun, moon, and stars to literally fall out of the sky, it’s not going to happen. This type of prophecy has already been fulfilled many times in the Old Testament, yet the literal sun, moon, and stars are still shining.

PROPHECY AGAINST IDUMEA AND BOZRAH

(Isa 34:4) And all the **host of heaven shall be dissolved**, and the **heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll**, and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

This is not referring to a nuclear war here in the O.T. because they had not been invented yet. This was fulfilled by using another nation's army to defeat those nations. This is the same language found in Revelation 6 as God outpours his wrath on Jerusalem using the heathen Roman Army.

(Rev 6:13) And **the stars of heaven fell unto the earth**, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

(Rev 6:14) And **the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together**; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

This is not a nuclear war; it's the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman Army.

(Rev 6:15) And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

This is the wrath of the Lamb.

(Rev 6:16) And **said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us**, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and **from the wrath of the Lamb**:

Who is sitting on the throne? Jesus Christ. Who was the Lamb? Jesus Christ. This is the fulfillment of Luke 23:28-30. Look at what Jesus told the Jews when he was still there with them.

(Luke 23:28) But Jesus turning unto them said, **Daughters of Jerusalem**, weep not for me, but **weep for yourselves, and for your children**.

(Luke 23:29) For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck.

(Luke 23:30) Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us.

When was this going to happen? It happened from 67 AD to 70 AD at the destruction of Jerusalem and the wrath of God. Jerusalem's' daughters cried out that they regretted the day that they ever had children. It was so devastating they literally had to eat their own babies to stay alive. They cut them in half and boiled them and ate their own children just as the Bible had prophesied in Deut. 28:53 and Leviticus 26:29; both of which describe the judgments of God on the breakers of his covenant [*Law*]. **They are being judged by the Law because they refused Jesus Christ and the New Covenant of Grace to deliver them from the curse of the Law.** [Isaiah 28 & 29] I explain all of this in detail on pages 20-31 of my book on *The Coming of the Lord...* Time will not permit a detailed explanation in this lesson, however I will touch it briefly, and show two of the scriptures mentioned about the eating of their own flesh.

(Deut 28:53) And **thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters**, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee:

How will God accomplish this is explained in the preceding verses.

(Deut 28:49) **The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far**, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

(Deut 28:50) A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favor to the young:

This is dealing with the Roman Army.

(Lev 26:29) And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat.

In Leviticus 26, God mentions four seven fold judgments He was going to pour out against the breakers of His covenant. And that is exactly what you have in Revelation; four seven-fold judgments being poured out on the breakers of a covenant. They refused the new covenant, so he cursed them with the old one. The law says an eye for eye and tooth for tooth. And they killed the Apostles and Jesus, so he killed them! If they would have accepted grace they could have been forgiven. Revelation is biblical imagery of these four seven-fold judgments.

The following chart compares Revelation with Leviticus 26:

1. **7 Seals**—A one-quarter judgment—if they don't repent, God will send 7 stronger judgments—**Revelation 5 & 6, Leviticus 26:18**
2. **7 Trumpets**—A one-third judgment—if they don't repent, God will send 7 stronger judgments—**Revelation 8 & 9, Leviticus 26:21**
3. **7 Thunders**—Not revealed (possibly a one-half judgment)—if they don't repent, God will totally destroy them—**Revelation 10, Leviticus 26:24**
4. **7 Vials**—The final judgment—the total destruction of Jerusalem—Babylon is fallen—**Revelation 16, Leviticus 26:28**

Read these verses in Revelation and you will notice that the seventh occurrence of each of these judgments in the book of Revelation uses approximately the same language: **Voices, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. Moses experienced similar occurrences on Mount Sinai when he received the Law from God. Here God is showing how He would use the Law to judge those who refused His grace.** Remember Jesus told them that they must either fall on the stone (*Jesus*) and be broken (*repent*), or the stone would fall on them and grind them to powder (*destruction of Jerusalem*). (See Matthew 21:44)

Daniel 2:34-35 prophesied that the stone would smite a ten-toed image on its feet. This ten-toed image is a reference to the ten kings associated with the Roman Empire which are the same ten kings of Revelation 17:16 who "hates the whore, makes her desolate, and burns her with fire."

Daniel went on to show that this stone (Jesus) would become a great mountain (Church Kingdom) and fill the whole earth. The futurist interpretation of this requires an instant happening at the end of the church age, but the stone becoming a mountain and filling the whole earth indicates progression of growth rather than an instant event. Now compare that with what Daniel 2:44 said would take place during this time. "And **in the days of these kings** shall the God of heaven set up a **kingdom**, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, **but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms**, and it shall stand for ever." Here Daniel is showing that during the time of these ten kings, God would set up His Kingdom and His Kingdom would break in pieces and consume all the other kingdoms of the earth. God's Kingdom breaking in pieces and consuming all the other kingdoms is exactly what Jesus said the stone would do to those kingdoms that would not fall on Him in repentance. He is revealing here that earthly kingdoms will rise and fall, but his spiritual kingdom will never be totally destroyed. Even in our day millions are in His Kingdom throughout our known world. The reason men fail to see the true fulfillment of this prophecy is they, like the Jews, try to see Jesus' Kingdom as an "earthly" Kingdom instead of a "spiritual" Kingdom in the earth.

Remember that we are still dealing with the heavenly shaking described in Mat. 24:29, and how it would literally be fulfilled by God in the earth. This is dealing with the change of covenants from Law to Grace, and the destruction of the old worship system at Jerusalem along with those who rejected the New Covenant and persecuted those who did accept it.

This was **prophesied in Haggai 2:6-9** and **explained in Hebrews 12:18-29, as being the transition from law to grace**, and the only thing left standing after this shaking would be his kingdom [*The Church*] that would not be moved. The prophecy in Hebrews 12 was dealing with the prophecy from Haggai which went on to say, "And the glory of the latter house is going to be greater the glory of the former" What's that? The New Testament covenant is greater than the Old Covenant. He then said in Hebrews 12, "We are not come to a mountain which cannot be touched [*Law*], we are come to mount Zion" [*Grace*]. We are come to the New Jerusalem—the Heavenly Jerusalem from above—the church of the first-born, that has spirits of just men made perfect. He said, there has got to be a voice heard and I'm going to shake everything that can be shaken and when I'm finished **the only thing left will be his kingdom**, which cannot be moved. Hebrews chapter four reveals that voice to be the preaching of the gospel to the Jews whom the majority of would harden their heart and refuse to enter into his rest [*The spiritual Sabbath of the Holy Ghost in the hearts of His new chosen people—The Church—Jew and Gentile in one body of Christ*].

Dispensationalists teach that these scriptures are referring to a future end time. It is referring to an end time, but it was the end or last days of the Jewish age of Law, and the establishing of the age of Grace in the earth. He said, when I get through shaking everything, the only thing that will be left is those in my kingdom. And the church was left alive, because they fled to Pella (Petra), which means, "rock". They fled to the "rock" of their salvation spiritually and physically!

(Matt 24:30) And then shall appear the **SIGN** of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

It doesn't say there shall appear the sign in heaven of the son of man; it says the sign of the son of man in heaven. Jerusalem being destroyed—as prophesied by Jesus in Mathew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 17 & 21—would be the sign that the son of man is ruling in the heavens. They have rejected and killed him, but he was caught up and is now sitting on the right hand of God, ruling and reigning in his Kingdom, the Church. He's coming now in power and glory to prove he's on the right hand of God and that he is ruling in the heavens. This is the sign of the end of the Jewish age of Law, and the sign that the son of man is ruling in the heavens, which was prophesied by Daniel and quoted by Jesus. This is what the Rabbis and all those people got upset about when Jesus told them they would see him coming in the clouds of heaven as an answer to the question of whether or not he was the Messiah. They knew He was referring back to this next verse in the book of Daniel.

(Dan 7:13) I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

(Dan 7:14) And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

God said I've given this church dominion that will never be destroyed. I'm not teaching dominion theology the way some men teach it. I do not teach that the church will eventually conquer the entire earth in the physical, but we do have dominion over the devil. Jesus was given dominion. He said, "all power is given to me in heaven and in earth". Doesn't the Bible say that we are "joint heirs with Christ"? So whatever He's got, we've got! So if he has all power and all authority and has been given power over the devil, then He'll let us have it if you get the faith to operate in it. We do have it; we just need to realize it. Everybody is waiting for the devil to be bound, but Jesus defeated the devil at Calvary. The Bible says in 1 John 3:8, "For this purpose was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."* I believe in a defeated devil. Some say, if the devil is bound then who is this that has been chasing me around? Why do you let him? You may have to fast and have a prayer meeting or two, but you can whip him. You just need to charge your battery.

We have the same picture of these events given in Biblical imagery in the fourth and fifth chapters of the Book of Revelation. He took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat on the throne and started opening the seals. That is where he comes in the clouds and when he opens those judgments on Jerusalem. Remember

that he said previously, that some of them would still be alive to see these events at his coming. Keep in mind that one of the main reasons for the misunderstandings of Bible Prophecy is the failure to recognize that Jesus and his Apostles spoke of his coming in Judgment against Jerusalem as a “coming of the Lord.” Many confuse this with his final coming at the final resurrection at the last day.

(Matt 16:28) Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Remember the words Jesus spoke to the high priest.

(Matt 26:63) But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

(Matt 26:64) Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

The high priest knew what he was saying and that is what angered him so much. He knew he was referring back to prophecy in Daniel 7:13-14 about receiving an everlasting kingdom from the Ancient of Days. He knew he was saying that he was the Christ—the Son of man—prophesied in that verse, which would come in the clouds.

(Matt 26:65) Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

Let’s kill him! He’s a blasphemer. He claims to be the Messiah! Remember what he said in Revelation 1:7.

(Rev 1:7) Behold, **he cometh with clouds**; and **every eye shall see him**, and **they also which pierced him**: and all kindreds of the earth [*land*] shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

The destruction of Jerusalem was the sign that the son of man is ruling in the heavens and he has ended the Jewish age and law keeping forever.

(Matt 24:31) And he shall send his **angels** with a great **sound of a trumpet**, and they shall **gather together his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

This is not the rapture, but the sending forth of his messengers to gather his elect by the preaching of the gospel, from one end of earth to the other. Let’s look now at some scriptures to confirm that this is the true Biblical interpretation of this scripture. We will prove this by **COMPARING AND INTERPRETING SCRIPTURE WITH SCRIPTURE**.

You can understand the **gathering of the elect** (Matthew 24) by comparing the **destruction of Babylon the Great** (Jerusalem), followed by an **invitation to the marriage supper** (Revelation 19), with the **parable of the wedding feast** (Matthew 22).

(Matt 22:1) And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by **parables**, and said,

(Matt 22:2) The **kingdom of heaven** is like unto a **certain king**, [God] which made a **marriage for his son**, [Jesus]

(Matt 22:3) And sent forth his servants [Apostles] to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

This is the Apostles inviting the Jews to be saved.

(Matt 22:4) Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and **all things are ready: come unto the marriage**.

The marriage supper was already prepared before the destruction of Jerusalem, so the invitation to the marriage feast was literally nothing more than the preaching of the gospel to the lost, which brings a person into a marriage relationship with Jesus Christ under the New Covenant. This relationship will result in spending eternity with Jesus for those who are obedient to the New Covenant message.

(Matt 22:5) But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:
(Matt 22:6) And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

This was referring to the apostles preaching to the unbelieving Jews, and just as Jesus said, they rejected the apostles' message, and attacked them by physically abusing them, and by murdering them.

(Matt 22:7) But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth HIS ARMIES, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up THEIR CITY.

This is talking about Jerusalem. God is showing that He will burn their city because they refused the invitation He sent, via the apostles, to partake in His wedding.

(Matt 22:8) Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

(Matt 22:9) Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

(Matt 22:10) So those servants went out into the highways, and GATHERED TOGETHER all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

Remember they "**gathered together**" those who would come. This is the "**gathering together of the elect.**"

In Revelation, the marriage supper took place after Jerusalem was destroyed.

(Rev 19:2) For true and righteous are his judgments: for **he hath judged the great whore** [Jerusalem], which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and **hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.**

(Rev 19:7) Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: **for the marriage of the Lamb is come**, and his wife hath made herself ready.

This compares with the marriage invitation found in Matthew 22. It took place after the city was destroyed. This also matches the sending out of His angels (messengers/preachers) to **gather the elect** from the four corners of the earth immediately after the tribulation of those days.

(Matt 24:31) And he shall **send his angels** [messengers] with a great sound of a trumpet [preaching of the Word], and they shall **GATHER TOGETHER his elect from the four winds**, from one end of heaven to the other.

We are still gathering souls to Jesus today! This also matches Jesus' parable of the wheat and the tares. In that parable Jesus said **the tares are gathered first so that the righteous could shine forth as the sun (Son of Righteousness).**

Matthew 24:31 is a direct fulfillment of Isaiah 11:12. Many try to say the scriptures of Isaiah chapter 11 are referring to a future 1000 year reign of Christ, but a careful examination of these scriptures, along with chapter 12 of Isaiah, proves that this is nothing more than prophetic biblical imagery used to describe the inner peace that comes through the New Covenant message and having the Prince of Peace living within you.

Read both of these chapters in Isaiah for yourself. Remember as you do, that men divided them into chapters and verses, but they were not originally written that way. As you read them in their original context, it will

become evident that chapter 12 is still speaking of the events of chapter 11. This is easy to see since chapter 12 begins by saying “and in that day” and goes on to describe things that apply to the New Covenant message. Let’s examine a few of these scriptures.

(Isa 11:10) And in that day there shall be a **root of Jesse** [Jesus], which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the **Gentiles seek**; and **his rest shall be glorious**.

This scripture is quoted by Paul in Romans 15:12 as being fulfilled by Jesus Christ, and by the Church offering salvation to the Jews and Gentiles of Paul’s day.

(Isa 11:11) And it shall come to pass **in that day**, that the Lord shall set his hand again **the second time to recover the remnant of his people**, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

This proves that Israel was restored by Jesus Christ and His New Covenant message, and that this is not a future physical restoration.

(Isa 11:12) And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and **gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth**.

When you compare this statement with the statement in Matthew 24:31 above it becomes clear that this “gathering” is dealing with the preaching of the New Covenant message, and not with a rapture of the Church, or the restoration of natural Israel into a physical land.

When you compare this with other Old Testament scriptures on the restoration of Israel, it becomes evident that this is referring to their restoration to God by Jesus Christ and the New Covenant message. The beginning of Isaiah 11 and all of Isaiah 12 proves this has to be referring to the events fulfilled by Jesus Christ and the New Covenant.

(Matt 24:34) Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

CONCLUSION:

That means everything from verse 1 through verse 34 has got to be fulfilled in that generation. Of course some of the things only started then, but will continue on until his final return, such as the gathering of the elect, which is the preaching of the gospel. We are still gathering the elect from the four corners of the earth today. It is easy to see from what we have studied, that Matthew 24 was fulfilled in the generation that ended with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., and the 3 ½ year siege of Jerusalem was the great tribulation that Jesus was referring to in that chapter. When Jerusalem fell the persecution eased up to a great extent. Rome kept on persecuting the church, but there was a door opened and Jesus proved to the Jews that He was the God of heaven, which was now ruling in the heavens, and that He had established His kingdom in the earth. That’s the end of the Jewish age. He destroyed the old worship system, because His Church is now the light of the world. Let’s take this light to the entire world and preach the gospel to every creature, thereby fulfilling the command of Jesus.