

BibleTalk Radio



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Christ for the Philippines Mission

End Times Bible Study Part 10

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We're going to be in our Bible study of the end times, Part 10. We're going to go back to our text of Matthew 24. Dear listener, if you've been listening for the last few weeks, you know we have been in Matthew 24. Why are we in Matthew 24? Because Jesus Christ gives a wonderful dissertation on the end times and we want to hear it from our Lord Himself. Paul talks about it. John talks about it. Very interesting stuff. And Peter talks about it. The New Testament writers talk about the end times. They're all making prophecies, but we wanted to start with Jesus because we're interested in what Jesus has to say.

We've been going through this chapter and we have covered a lot of information, but I want to begin where we left off last week in Matthew 24:29. We're going to review just very quickly regarding everything that has happened. I don't want to recap everything because it gets too long. If you've been listening for the last few weeks, praise the Lord. If not, dear listener, go to our Website, www.CFTPM.org, and go to the Radio Show page under the Media section and listen to the previous shows. They're all up there.

Beginning in verse 29, Jesus has already talked a lot about the tribulation and the things that are going to happen. He says, *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.

There's a lot of information there and that actually correlates to a lot of things that are described for us in the book of Revelation, which we haven't gotten to yet, but we will.

But He talks about His Second Coming here, verse 30. He says: *And then* [after the tribulation] *shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn...* We talked about the reason it says "tribes." It's not just talking about all the families on the Earth but "tribes" is specific to one nation and that's the nation of Israel... *and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

So the Second Coming of Christ happens after the tribulation. The tribulation happens sometime after the rapture. The rapture is the event where the church is taken out of the way, because in the seven-year tribulation God is not dealing with the church; God is dealing with Israel.

A lot of false religions and false doctrines have been invented because over the years false teachers have taught people that God is done with Israel, that, when Israel rejected Jesus back when they crucified Him, God was done with Israel and He replaced Israel with the church. That is not true. Israel is still God's



chosen people, chosen in that they were the ones that God wanted His message to come through. And God doesn't change. What God says in His Word is that, because Israel rejected God, God would open the Gospel Himself to the Gentiles. But God is certainly not done with Israel, and the proof of the matter is that this is a seven-year time period that comes from the Old Testament that is measured to the day where God will finish dealing with His chosen people, Israel. He does it as a witness unto the world. He does it as a witness unto Israel. He does it as a witness unto Satan and his followers, angels. And He certainly does it as a witness unto Himself. So God is not done with Israel.

Continuing in verse 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.* He is talking about the tribulation saints, those saved people who have survived the tribulation, because they're going to walk right into another period of time called the 1000-year or the millennial reign where Jesus removes the curse of sin from the Earth and Jesus Himself sits on the throne of David in Jerusalem and we will have Him reigning here Himself on the Earth.

It's very interesting. When Jesus was born, in Luke Chapter 2 we find the description. We're not going to go there now, but I'll just tell you very quickly. The angel Gabriel is giving a message to Mary regarding Jesus, what she's going to name her Son and who this Person is going to be. One of the things that's interesting about that is that the angel tells Mary that the One who is coming was going to sit on the throne of David forever. Well, the throne of David did not exist in the time of Mary. The

Roman Empire was ruling, and the Jews had had all of their political power stripped. They were not a kingdom. In fact, Judea was only a province of the Roman Empire. So what did this mean that the archangel Gabriel... I call him an archangel; the Bible never says he's an archangel, but we just assume he is... but what does it mean that the angel Gabriel is telling Mary that Jesus, her Son that's coming, that was going to be born in Bethlehem, was going to sit on the throne of David when the throne of David didn't exist? Well, it's a prophecy meaning that the throne of David was going to exist. And there is some other Scripture that tells us how Jesus will sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem.

Let's continue. *³³So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. ³⁴Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.* Meaning that the generation that is there for the rapture, they're not going to pass because it's only going to be a minimum of seven years between the rapture and the end of the tribulation, and who knows? It could be eight years. There could be a year between the rapture and the tribulation. We don't know. It could be only a day, but it certainly is not going to stretch out to an entire generation.

And then He says, one of my favorite verses, Matthew 24:34, in fact, on our church seal. Our church is located in Poblacion in Babatngon. It's Midway Baptist Church, and we have a church logo or a church seal and the seal contains within it an image of the Bible, open, and it says, Matthew 24:35, which is this verse right here: *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*



The Word of God shall not pass away. Everything that's written in there is going to happen. It doesn't matter what the governments say. It doesn't matter what the atheists say. It doesn't matter what the ungodly scientists try to say. Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but the Word of God shall not pass away.

Let's go to verse 36, and this is very interesting. We covered this a little bit last week. He says here: *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.* This is very interesting because a few verses before that, He says in verse 29 immediately after the tribulation of those days, and then He says in verse 30 then shall appear the sign of the Son of man. He talks about coming with power and great glory, but yet in verse 36 He says no one knows the day or the hour. So which is it? Well, He has referred to the event that takes place before that, which is the rapture. No one knows the date or the hour that the rapture will occur. In fact, even the rapture is not really a marker of the seven-year tribulation.

Remember, the marker that begins the seven-year tribulation is the covenant spoken of in Daniel 9:27 where Israel confirms or signs a covenant or a treaty with the Antichrist who will be the coming world leader and a coalition of nations that the Antichrist will be representing with that treaty. The Antichrist will broker that covenant. The moment that thing is signed, that begins the seven-year tribulation.

The rapture could have happened that day or the week before or the month before and perhaps even a year before that. We don't know. I'm sure it's not very long, but what I'm saying is, and we've discussed this before, the rapture is not a cute little event. It's not the

popping of a balloon for a birthday. The rapture is going to be, as far as this world is concerned, not for us. The Bible calls it for us in Titus 2:13 the blessed hope. That's the day I'm looking forward to. Whether I'm alive or in the grave, I'm looking for the rapture.

But for the people who are left behind, the rapture up until that time will be the single most cataclysmic event in the history of man. You say how can that be more than World War II? Well, World War II stretched over how many years? From the time America got involved alone it was four years from 1941 to 1945. It actually started in Europe before that in 1939. But this rapture will happen in one second. It will be millions and probably tens of millions and maybe even hundreds of millions of people that will disappear off the face of the Earth. Imagine that.

We're not just talking about any ordinary people. We're talking about Christians, truly saved people. Truly saved people typically are people who work, who have jobs even if it's not a good job, but they're Christians and Christians understand that, when they have a job, they're doing work as unto the Lord, so they're usually going to be good employees. They're going to be people who hold mortgages and loans and credit cards.

So imagine the financial collapse when millions of people who have mortgages on their homes, loans for homes, vehicles, credit cards. Imagine the cataclysmic economic effect, the ripples that will go around globally. They're talking about now, when America is doing bad, it hurts the whole world's economy and stuff like that. When the European Union is not doing well, it hurts half the world's economy.



What about when hundreds of millions of people disappear from every country on the face of the Earth? Pilots, engineers, doctors, street sweepers, janitors, nurses, people are going to be disappearing off the face of the Earth. That's going to be very cataclysmic. In the six years of World War II there were 50 to 60 million people killed worldwide. In all the world during World War II from 1939 to 1945 there were approximately, I don't remember the number exactly, but it was 50 to 60 million people, but in six years. Imagine 100 million people disappearing into thin air in one second. The rapture will most likely be, as we say in America, the straw that breaks the camel's back or the one cataclysmic event that is the match in the powder keg that's going to cause the whole world to go into chaos.

Israel with everything that she's going through right now with all of her surrounding enemies and the world turning against Israel, and, of course, the Muslim nations are against Israel. They all want to see Israel wiped off the face of the Earth. Nobody really dares mess with Israel in a big way because Israel is very powerful and it also happens to be a nuclear country. It has nuclear weapons. And so this Antichrist is going to rise up there in this chaos and he's going to lead the world and they're going to sign the treaty with Israel But that signing of that treaty is the beginning of the seven-year tribulation.

Now, from the time of that signing, the people who were there during that time on the Earth, they will be able to calculate when Jesus comes back. So when Jesus says in verse 36, *But of that day and hour knoweth no man*, He's talking about the rapture. See, the rapture is the last sign, if you will, there are things about to go down, to the people who are left behind,

because anybody that studies the Word of God after the rapture, they're going to realize what happened.

What's really interesting is for who knows how long after the rapture there will not be a single saved person on the face of the Earth. Can you imagine that? Not one. But there will be after a while and those people will begin to study the Scripture. With something so cataclysmic that happened, like people disappearing, people are going to be looking for answers and, of course, that'll be a big day. Everybody remembers September 11 because that was a great day of attack on New York. Sure, everybody remembers September 11, 2001. Imagine when the rapture happens. Everybody will know that date and those people, and when they begin to study the Bible, they will be able to understand that from the signing of that covenant will be seven years.

So let's just say that the rapture happened today on April 4, 2017. Let's say the rapture happens today and there's nobody saved on the Earth but everything's going crazy. Some people are looking for answers. As the next few months or a couple of years go by, let's say that three months from now, because of all the chaos, a world leader arises and all the Muslim nations are ready to attack Israel. Israel is threatening to nuke everybody in that region and that region is about to blow up.

So this one world leader rises up and says, "No, no, here are some terms. Let's do a treaty." Let's say that on June 1, which is only a couple of months away, Israel signs a covenant or a treaty with all the nations and finally everybody is saying, "Peace." And by the way, it's a seven-year treaty. Anybody who is saved after that signing, they'll be able to



look back on today, April 4, and they'll say that's the day that all those hundreds of millions of people disappeared.

Then let's say this is already in 2018, June 1, 2018. They'll say, "Oh, one year ago is when the world leader (whatever his name is) brokered a seven-year peace agreement with Israel. They'll begin to put the pieces together. They'll say that was one year ago. We have six years left in history.

[Ms. Ypille:] Tell us about the two witnesses, Pastor.

That's in the book of Revelation. Before the two witnesses actually, there's an angel that's coming and that angel will fly all over the world preaching the Gospel. Then the Bible talks about two witnesses. See, that's a complicated issue because who are these two witnesses. The Bible doesn't say specifically who they are, but we who study the Bible and see in the book of Revelation the miracles that these two witnesses perform leads us to believe or speculate that these two witnesses are Moses and Elijah most likely. There are several reasons for that. But after the two witnesses preach, they're going to be killed and they're going to be taken back up into Heaven.

Then it talks about 144,000 who will preach the Gospel all over the world. These are not 144,000 as the Jehovah's Witnesses teach that are going to be saved. You have to read it very, very clearly in the book of Revelation. They appear, I believe, in Chapter 7 and then Chapter 14. The 144,000 witnesses are 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. Twelve times twelve is 144, so twelve times 12,000 is 144,000. They are male; since they are from the tribes of Israel, they are Jewish; and they

have not been defiled with women, meaning they are virgins. Those are going to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ because they're going to realize who Jesus Christ was and is and they're going to preach all over the world.

And then, of course, from that, several million people are going to be saved but the majority of what's left in the world is not. But when these people start counting from the signing of the covenant, they'll know this. This is what they'll be looking for to confirm what they believe. They'll see according to the prophecies we studied, from the time of that June 1st signing of that contract, and I'm just using June 1st as an example, there's going to be something at the three and a half year mark. So 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, December 1, 2020, is the three and a half year mark from June 1, 2017. They'll be expecting the world leader to break the treaty that he brokered with Israel and the other nations.

Then they're going to say, "Oh, Lord," because that begins the horrific things that are spoken of in the book of Revelation.

Dear listener, we are at the end of our show, and I always hate to come to this point, but I'm so thankful for having had the time. So, we'll pick up again next week.