

BibleTalk Radio



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Christ for the Philippines Mission

End Times Bible Study Part 7 Message by Tony Tirse, Missionary March 14, 2017

We're going to go back into the book of Matthew, Chapter 24, which is where we left off last week, and we got to a point in Matthew 24 where we had to leave the book and go to a different book, the book of Daniel. So I want to pick up again where we left off last week, and if you would, follow me please to the book of Matthew 24, starting in verse 15. The Bible says, and these are the words of Jesus Himself, 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:)* ¹⁶ *Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.* Then it has some other instructions.

We need to find out, and we started on this last week, what all this means, because one of the key things that we need to understand when studying these passages, a lot of false doctrine has been started even in Christian churches that mainly comes out of this particular chapter in the Bible. We need to understand who Jesus is speaking to and what time in history He is speaking about. Obviously, here, He is speaking about the end times. But we haven't even begun to scratch the surface on something called the rapture, which we're going to be talking about. There's a lot of false teaching on the thing that's called the rapture, and there are many people who deny the rapture or deny the timing of the rapture, but we're going to learn what the Bible says. And yes, yes, before

you text me, I know already, the word "rapture" does not appear in the Bible. Just like the word "bible" does not appear in the Bible, but there's a Bible. Just like the word "trinity" does not appear in the Bible, but there's a Trinity. The word "rapture" does not appear in the Bible, but the teaching of the rapture clearly appears in the Bible. So we're going to get off that. We're going to stop beating that horse because you're not going to convince me that there's no such thing as the rapture.

Now, the other question is the timing of the rapture. When is it going to happen? So we will be getting into that, but right now, dear listener, Matthew 24:15 talks about something called the abomination of desolation, when you therefore shall see it. What is this? It doesn't mean anything to you probably. I asked last week, dear listener, what does the abomination of desolation mean to you, and for most people here it means nothing because they don't even know what that means. But it does mean something to somebody or else Jesus would not have said it. So where do we find that abomination of desolation? Well, Jesus said it's spoken of by Daniel the prophet. So we need to go find Daniel the prophet.

In your Old Testament, dear listener, about two-thirds of the way through the Old Testament, there is a small book called Daniel. Please join me in the book of Daniel and we're



going to go to Chapter 9. Daniel Chapter 9 is actually giving us quite a bit of information starting from verse 1. We're not going to start from verse 1 because I don't want to extend this study for an extra five weeks. I took a look at the last verse, verse 27, because it relates directly to Matthew 24:15. So let's take a look at Daniel 9:27.

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate... So there's your abomination of desolation, and he continues... even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

There's a bunch of words here that don't mean anything to us right now, but I wanted to call your attention to where Jesus got that phrase, "abomination of desolation," where He got that from, and He also told us it was from the prophet Daniel. We're going to come back to this particular chapter at another time. While I don't want to take the time right now to do an exposition on it, we will, dear listener. Just stay tuned over the next few weeks, because it relates to the rapture, and we need to find out exactly what it's talking about.

I will tell you this. I'm watching the news very closely. I'm seeing what's going on with England, the United Kingdom. They voted to exit the European Union, and now Scotland wants to exit from the United Kingdom, and Turkey is now fighting with the Dutch, and the Dutch are fighting with Turkey, and America is making trouble with Russia, and Russia is making trouble with America, and there's talk about going to war with Iran, and there's all kinds of... oh, it's very exciting... and there's the

fighting over a little tiny, tiny, tiny, tiny, tiny country in the middle of the Middle East called Israel, particularly a city called Jerusalem. All that is like a pile of gunpowder. It's a powder keg. It's like a big bowl of gunpowder and all these people are waving matches back and forth at each other, and they're getting closer and closer to getting close to that bowl of gunpowder. Sooner or later, that is going to ignite. But we're not going to get into that right now, because that does relate to the thing we call the rapture which I do want to talk about at another time, so stay tuned. I promise you we'll get there in the next few weeks.

So let's return back to Matthew Chapter 24 and we just read verse 15. Now I want to continue with the instructions that Jesus is giving here because he's talking to a certain group of people. Do you remember what group of people that was, Ms. Ypille, that we talked about last week?

[Ms. Ypille:] The Jewish people, the Hebrews.

Yes, the Jews. The Jews are the ones this particular passage is being spoken to. How do we know that? Because in verse 15, Jesus says, "When ye." The word "ye" means you all. It's old English for you all. But you all who? You all the whole world? We talked about that last week, *When [you all] therefore shall see the abomination of desolation...* If He was talking to the whole world, or let's say He was talking to the Filipino, it wouldn't make any sense to the Filipino, because they don't know what the abomination of desolation means. The Americans don't really know what the abomination of desolation means. Nobody knows except for one group of people in the whole world, the Jews. He makes it more



specific because He says this is *spoken of by Daniel the prophet*. Well, Daniel the prophet happens to be one of the most revered prophets in Judaism, the Jew. He says, *Stand in the holy place*. What is the holy place? If I ask our listeners to text me for ten pesos what is the holy place, I would probably get all kinds of answers... the church, the room where the pastor sits, the chair that's on top or the pulpit, the bedroom. We'd get all kinds of answers, but there is a people on the Earth who understand the phrase, "the holy place." There's one group of people in the entire planet that understands what that phrase means. Who's that?

[Ms. Ypille:] The Jewish people.

The Jews, okay. So He's talking about those things. He's giving us, therefore, who He is speaking to, which is key to understanding the rest of this chapter. Because before verse 15, it could apply to everybody because we saw wars, rumors of wars, nation against nation, famines, pestilences, earthquakes in diverse places. But now He's giving us the key to understanding the rest of the chapter who He's speaking to, but yet, it is written to everybody. He puts in parentheses at the very end of verse 15, *Whoso readeth, let him understand*. Well, who's reading it right now? We are. All of us together on this show. So He wants us to understand.

And He says, *¹⁶Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains*. It doesn't get any more clear than that. It says "you all." It qualifies who "you all" is by talking about Daniel and the holy place who's only special to a certain people in the world, and then He says, *Let them which be in Judaea...* or the Jew. The Jew is named after Judea. It gives us exactly who He is talking about.

So the instructions that continue here, He says, verse 16, *Let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains*. So He's talking to the people of Judea. Judea, of course, is Israel. That's another name for Israel. So He said let them flee into the mountains. Why would they flee? Why would they run? Why would they escape into the mountains? Because Jesus just told them something terrible is going to happen in your holy place, the abomination of desolation.

We'll get more into what that is, by the way, at a later time. We're going to go back to the book of Daniel and we're going to find out what exactly that abomination of desolation is. But it's something so terrible and so horrible. The key, by the way, is in Daniel 9:27. But it's going to be something so terrible that the Jews will recognize how terrible and how horrible this is and then they're going to say, "What are we going to do? What are we going to do?" Jesus is giving them the answer. First of all, flee to the mountains. What mountains? Well, that's a whole study. There's a place called Petra that we're going to talk about it, a place where God is going to protect His people.

But verse 17 gets more interesting. *Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house*. That's kind of strange. Why would He say anything about somebody being on the housetop? Who would be on the housetop? That's another clue. In one of the things about Jerusalem and Israel is their home design. A lot of their homes there, the traditional homes, have a flat roof. Not only do they have a flat roof, the flat roof because of the weather, they have a different weather than we do here in the Philippines. You can actually sit in the sun there and you won't get horrifically burned, third-degree



burns like you do here in the Philippines. The rooftop was a place to hang out and that's what it was designed for, the traditional houses. So that's why He says that. Again, He's talking to a particular group of people.

¹⁸*Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.* So He says, "Whatever you're doing, the moment you hear this news, come out of Jerusalem. Get out." People during a tragedy even during house fires, sometimes they try to run back into their house to grab something while the place is burning down.

[Ms. Ypille:] Even in the typhoon, I remember, people died because they went back for jewelries or a puppy or something.

So imagine when something this terrible regarding the end times is going to come. So He says, "Don't go back to get anything or for your clothes."

¹⁹*And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!* So woe to them that are pregnant and brand new mothers and the baby is still sucking, because it's already hard. You know, today, earlier, I was at the LTO office and we had chairs to sit and wait between the different processes, and in the front row, there was a row of chairs with a pink cloth, like a shirt, put over the chair that says "priority seating for senior citizens, BWD, and pregnant women." Why do pregnant women need special seating? Because it's difficult for them especially late in their pregnancy to even move around, and then, of course, the women that have a child, a baby that is so young that it's still sucking. It's constant care and it's hard to do things.

So Jesus is saying, "Woe! It's going to be a bad time. Woe unto them." "Woe" means a terrible, terrible thing, terrible pronouncement upon. It's going to be a really bad time.

²⁰*But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter...* Why? Because it snows there. It's very difficult. You're not talking about people who are probably going to be able to access vehicles very easily. Imagine trying to run with whatever you can carry, especially if you're pregnant or with a child and running through one or two or three feet of snow, especially if you're trying to run over rough terrain like mountains. He says, *But pray that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day.* Why not on the sabbath day? It's not talking just about Saturday.

The Jews have many sabbath days. For example, there are seven feast days that are very important to them. Each one of those is referred to as a sabbath. The new moon is referred to as a sabbath in certain places and some different holidays are referred to as sabbaths. Why not during a sabbath day? Because during the sabbath day the Jews are not allowed to do a lot of things, like work. Everything closes down. So imagine emergency services, emergency rations, emergency things and transport and infrastructure. It's simply shut down because it's the sabbath while you're trying to flee. It would be like a war zone.

Now you see we're going a little faster, dear listener, because we're making a progression here. Verse 21: *For then...* See? This is key. Religions get this wrong because they don't understand the Scripture. *For then...* What? After you see the abomination of desolation in verse 15, because He says, *For then*, verse 21, *For...* because of this... *then shall be great tribulation...* This is key to understanding,



especially to those who deny the timing of the rapture. I'm not even talking about the rapture yet, but here's a hint of when.

See, Jesus does not mention the rapture in this chapter. He's talking, first of all, to the Jews. Now, He is by extension speaking to us because he says, "Whoso readeth let him understand," so that's why we're trying to understand right now. But He is keying us in, in verse 21, to the timing of what we call the rapture, the great catching away. Remember, dear listener, in part one, I didn't start in Matthew 24. I started in I Thessalonians 4:13, which says, *But I would not have you to be ignorant*. God says, "I don't want you to be unknowing of these things." Jesus says here in Matthew 24:4, "Don't be deceived, because there's a lot of false teaching out there."

So He's talking to everybody as far as whosoever is reading this. We need to understand it. That's why we're studying it. But the people He's giving the specific instructions to are the Jews. He's saying, "When you see the abomination of desolation," He says, *For then shall be great tribulation*.

There's a seven-year tribulation. You've probably heard about this and we are going to talk about it again. There is a seven-year tribulation coming after the rapture, but the seven-year tribulation itself is divided into two parts, the tribulation and the second half of it called the great tribulation. That's His very words right here in verse 21, *For then shall be great tribulation*. For then, when? When you see the abomination of desolation. When is the abomination of desolation going to happen? Back in Daniel 9:27 where we were a few moments ago, that's what we're going to cover

later on in this study, but Daniel says he's going to confirm a covenant for one week.

Last week we talked about the Hebrew word that has been translated "week," which a week, of course, is seven days, but in the Hebrew language, they have certain phrases that mean something completely different than what they literally translate into. In that particular word "week," the Hebrew word means a seven, but not a seven of days; a seven of years. Daniel 9:27 says in the middle of that week, in other words, in the middle of seven years is three and a half years. The one who confirms or signs that covenant is going to break that covenant. That is the abomination of desolation and that will begin the great tribulation that we're reading about here in verse 21.

Most people don't realize this. The first half of the seven-year tribulation, the first three and a half years, is actually a time of relative peace. That's what the covenant was about, a peace treaty. And it's still called the tribulation because it's part of the last seven years that God is dealing with Israel, but the horrific things are going to happen in the second half of that tribulation, the last three and a half years of the age. He describes it for us here. *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be*.

I don't know exactly what's going to happen. We're given some descriptions in the book of Revelation, but whatever it is is going to be so horrible and nothing like that has ever happened in the history of the planet. I will tell you this. When we get to the book of Revelation, and we're going to read a few things about that, the book of Revelation fully describes the annihilation of exactly half of the



world's population. There are over seven billion people in the world today. If the book of Revelation comes true after this point, that means there will be the death and destruction of over three and a half billion people on this planet. There are some pretty horrible things.

Now, we're not here to scare you, dear listener. This isn't a show to get anybody scared. We're just telling you the truth of what the Bible says about the end times. But this is why it's so important for you to be ready. How can you be ready? Not stocking food, not stocking money, not getting weapons. How you are ready for what's coming is being born again. Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal and only Saviour? You must trust in Jesus Christ today. The Bible says, *For the wages of sin is death.* That's Hell. That's the lake of fire. *But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ.* Jesus Himself said in John 14:6, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.* Jesus Christ alone. Place your trust on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved, and you will be ready for what's coming.

[Ms. Ypille:] Pastor, before I got saved, the concept of the rapture or the tribulation, even though I was a reader, even though I read at 14 years old the whole book of Revelation but it was an NIV Bible. But when I read it, there were the bad things there, for example, the mark of the beast and meteors and the heavenly bodies falling, earthquakes. What do you say to someone, because there are only a few people who really read the Bible, true Christians that are Biblicists, that will go to the Bible for their final authority, not a lot in the world. There will be some people who claim to be Christians, but because they

were not taught something called the millennial age or something called a tribulation for sure. What's that about? I mean, it's going to happen; sure, and especially the rapture, the catching away, the teaching of being caught up. What will you say to somebody who either has only heard this now or somebody that will say, "I really can't find myself to believe it because my church doesn't teach that."

The only thing that I can say, well, I'll start by asking you this question, Ms. Ypille. How long did it take you to learn these things even after you became a Christian?

[Ms. Ypille:] Oh, very short, not too long because I read the Bible.

But how long, more or less, before you fully understood these things?

[Ms. Ypille:] Oh, my word, I think I'd say by the third month.

Really, that soon?

[Ms. Ypille:] By researching it, because this is the prime mover for me. I think this is how the Holy Spirit touched me, to search for what it is on what is the afterlife, what's going to happen to me.

Okay, I'll accept that. Three months, that was pretty fast but then again, you are an exceptionally smart woman, but the average Christian, maybe six months to a year of understanding this.

But the reason I asked you that question is because the only way to answer that question is you simply cannot understand that in one



day or one week. That's why we're doing a long study on this.

[Ms. Ypille:] Maybe what you're asking is to fully understand the entire prophecy.

No, no, I mean to learn what it means to you and how it applies to you generally takes quite a while for the average Christian, even if they studied intently. First of all, they have to even have an interest in it because, even as you said, most Christians don't even have that much of an interest in it. They avoid this because they don't like to think about this. Most Christians even want to live their own life and they have future plans and they're looking forward to all kinds of things without consulting whether that's the will of God or not.

Most Christians don't want to hear that the rapture could happen at any moment, because they already have an investment in something else. They have a vacation coming next year. They have a child that they want to watch grow up. All those things. They want to retire and have a few years of a nice life. So they don't want to hear about this, but the average person who really is interested, it still takes a while. Certainly, it took me a couple of years to understand the gravity of all this and how it all fits together. I'm still learning and I've been studying the Bible for fifteen years now at least.

[Ms. Ypille:] I suppose learning about the rapture, being in Thessalonians, and then being right there in Chapter 4 of Revelation, and there is an accepting that there is the teaching of the rapture in the Bible. Yes, once I read it and once I researched it.

Sure, but understanding exactly what it is, like the rapture. It's understanding what it is takes

time, because when you're a new Christian or newly studying this and you hear about the rapture and you say, "Well, what's the rapture?" The rapture is when Jesus Christ comes back and takes all the saved people off the face of the Earth in one second. In the blink of an eye we shall all be changed, I Corinthians 15, and so forth. I believe that there's a time coming when Jesus is going to come and get me. But I don't understand why.

[Ms. Ypille:] You know what helped me, I think? It was an entire course.

Chuck Missler.

[Ms. Ypille:] No, at that time it was *Living in the Light of Christ's Return* by David something.

I remember. That was years and years ago.

[Ms. Ypille:] Yes, every time I'd drive to work, I would listen to it.

That was very similar, because he had a course of like twelve tapes or something like that and you would listen to it every day. Well, that's a good example. That's what it takes. I remember that. We still have that somewhere. We ordered that course from a radio broadcast actually.

[Ms. Ypille:] It was very comprehensive.

At that time, he was offering tapes and you had those tapes and I listened to some of it, but you listened to those tapes almost every day driving to and from work for, like, I think it was twelve tapes or sixteen tapes.

[Ms. Ypille:] Yes, I believe so, a lot, yes.



Well, there's my point. This BibleTalk Radio Show, I guess in a way, is doing what he did. We've been doing this, and this is part seven this week, and I'm anticipating going another seven weeks and maybe more than that.

[Ms. Ypille:] Oh, please take the time.

Yes, you understood it because that man took the time to explain and go through the Scripture. That's exactly what I'm doing all these years later. I'm taking the time to do it. So, to the listener, I would say please keep listening. Please open your Bible when you hear me give the Bible verses. And even write down the Bible verses and some of what you hear. You don't have to take extensive notes like you're in a master's degree or bachelor's degree college. But maybe you should write something down when it clicks, when you go, "Oh, yeah, I never understood that before." And write that down and write the verses down so that you could learn this, because it's very important for the Christian.

Now, for the person who's not a Christian, I don't even know if I would say it's important. What does it matter to you if you're not a Christian? The only thing I can say to a person who's not a Christian, who is not sure if they're going to Heaven when they die is this should scare you.

[Ms. Ypille:] And it does. It did me.

It should scare you. If you're a Christian, it shouldn't scare you. It won't scare you if you're truly a Christian and you have a good relationship with Jesus Christ. It's not going to scare you. In fact, it will turn to joy, to an anticipation, to a hope. In fact, the Bible calls it the blessed hope in Titus 2:13. But if you're not a Christian, if you're not sure, let me tell you

right now, this should scare you. But we're not broadcasting this and I'm not teaching this so that it can scare you. I'm teaching this out of obedience to the Lord and helping in what He has commanded us to do.

In Matthew 28:19-20, it says, *¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Now, I'm following the Great Commission. Part of the Great Commission is to tell people about Jesus and how they can have eternal life through Christ alone, which is included in all this, but He also said, *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.* He said to teach all nations.

I'm from the US, and now I'm here teaching this in the Philippines. And this is part of all the things that He taught us. And here even in verse 15 as we said earlier, *Whoso readeth let him understand.* And the Bible in many places, in Romans Chapter 10 it says, *How will they hear without a preacher?*

In Acts Chapter 8, the Ethiopian eunuch was reading the book of Isaiah and a preacher named Phillip asked him if he understood what he read, and he said, "How can I unless some man guide me." So that's my job as a preacher of righteousness. It's not only to tell the people about Jesus Christ, but I have to tell them everything that Jesus and the Bible says. Some of it is good. Jesus loves you. You can have a home in Heaven. God will never abandon you. He'll never forsake you or leave you if you're His child. But included in that is the bad. If you



don't get saved, if you don't trust in Jesus Christ, if you're trusting in your religion, in your works, or anything else, you will go to Hell. I'm not saying you're going to Hell. I don't want you to go to Hell. That's why I'm here teaching this stuff, but the Bible says there are only two places, Heaven or Hell. So I've got to teach the good with the bad.

If you have an illness and you go to the doctor, do you want the doctor to say, "There's good news. You can take this treatment and we can help you and you can take this medicine, and if you continue on this medicine and you take this treatment, you'll get better and you'll be okay." But you want the doctor to tell you the truth, too. "If you don't take this medicine and you don't take the treatment, you'll be dead in less than a year." We want both sides. And so the Bible gives us both sides, and we're responsible.

Part of the failure of preachers over the last years is that they want to preach about the love and the goodness and the prosperity that God gives, but they are these days afraid to teach the truth about Hell, about the end of the world, about sin. And so we have to do that. We as preachers of righteousness are responsible for giving them both.

Now, there are also those that all they ever talk about is Hell and sin and the consequence and God's angry with you and you're going to pay. Well, they're off balance, too, because all they're doing is teaching the bad stuff and preaching the bad stuff and they're not telling us about the love of God, the grace of God, the mercy of God. But, of course, the truth is that the mercy and the grace and the love of God is manifested only through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Outside of Jesus Christ, there is

no salvation. Notice I didn't say outside of the Baptist Church. I didn't say outside of our organization. Outside of Jesus Christ there is no salvation. And so you can take that however you want to. We're not preaching religion here. We're preaching the person and exalting the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Outside of Christ there is no salvation. That's what the Bible teaches. That's not what a religion teaches. And if there is a religion that teaches that, good for them, but it's what the Bible teaches anyway, regardless. So that's what we're trying to establish here.

So that's a very good question. But my answer to that is you have to listen not only to what we're saying on the radio but what the Bible says, what the Holy Spirit is trying to guide you into. And keep listening. That's how we learned. When we were brand-new Christians, part of how we learned was not only in our church but also in godly Christian radio that we learned a lot from and by the grace of God, and then that helped us learn even more, helped us how to do our self-studies, and by the grace of God, here we are today.

So, dear listener, we are at the end of our show and we would like to thank you so much for listening to us.