

- I) V9-13 INTRO: But *watch out for yourselves* for they will deliver you up to councils
 - a) Jesus has outlined for the disciples the events preceding what He calls *Tribulation* (V24)
 - 1) These events generally characterize a period of time called *the Church Age*
 - 2) Spiritual deception, wars, earthquakes, famines, and plagues will be on the increase
- II) AS WE RESUME OUR STUDY: Jesus continues answering the question He had just been asked
 - a) Matthew and Luke give us further insight into the question
 - 1) Lu 21: 7 They asked Him, "Teacher, but when will these things be? And *what sign* will there be when these things are *about to take place*?"
 - 2) Mt 24:3 The disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, *when* will these things be? And what *will be the sign* of Your coming, and of the *end of the age*?"
- III) JESUS SAID: Wars, earthquakes, famines, and plagues are only *the beginning of sorrows*
 - a) IN OTHER WORDS: These are simply indicators that there is much more to come
 - 1) These things have continued and progressively worsened over the centuries
- IV) KEY: This gives us insight into the fact that the period of time He was addressing is *prolonged*
 - a) WHY: From the time birth pangs are first experienced to the birth can take several hours
 - 1) THE FACT IS: Birth pangs are indications that a birth will *eventually* occur
 - 2) As I mentioned, we are presently seeing much of what He had prophesied come to pass
- V) IN THESE VERSES: Jesus gives *general conditions* of the period called *the Tribulation*
 - a) The Tribulation is the final judgment of God on a *Christ rejecting world*
 - 1) Is the time that God pours out His wrath on Christ rejecters *worldwide*
- VI) IMPORTANT: The church is not condemned along with the world, because we do not reject Jesus
 - a) KEY: God does not judge believers along with unbelievers
 - 1) Gen 18:25 Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous *should be as* the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right
 - 2) Ro 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!
- VII) THE TRIBULATION: Occurs between *the Rapture* and the *Second Coming* of Jesus
 - a) KEY: Because God did not appoint us to wrath He *removes* the church prior to the Tribulation
 - 1) 1 Th 5:9 God did not appoint us to wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ
- VIII) BELIEVERS: Will be suddenly removed from the earth in what is called the rapture
 - a) RAPTURE: Harpazo: Caught up; to seize; to claim for one's self eagerly
 - 1) 1 Th 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be *caught up* together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
- IX) AFTER THE RAPTURE: There will be a time characterized by unrestrained human wickedness (V12-13)
 - a) SADLY: Evil will be so common that it will become accepted, and cause moral callousness
 - 1) Mt 24:12 Because *iniquity will abound* the love of many will wax cold
 - 2) WICKEDNESS: Will be so common that there is no longer *any shame* in openly sinning
- I) FACT: In my youth, there were laws against public profanity: lyrics of music did not contain cussing

- a) People did not live together; unwed mother's went into isolation and had babies privately
 - b) Courtesy was extended to others, you could leave your car keys in the ignition, toys in the front yard, and restaurants and movie theaters were quiet
 - c) You stood up when a lady entered the room, gave your seat to the elderly, called older people Mr. or Mrs., said yes sir or no ma'am, stood up for the national anthem, and no sports events were on a Sunday.
 - d) Divorce was rare, premarital sex was frowned upon, and abortions were even more rare.
 - 1) Times changed in my lifetime
- II) IN1966: John Lennon said We are more popular than Jesus, and people burned Beatle's albums
- a) The Doors lead singer Jim Morrison was arrested for lewd behavior and obscenity in 1970, and overnight people would not book them for concerts. A Rally For Decency was held, 30,000 attended
- III) OBVIOUSLY: Television changed in its approach to programming
- a) Married couples did not sleep in the same bed, toilets were never seen, no homosexual themes
- IV) INGRID BERGMAN: Swedish star and Oscar winner was rejected by America
- a) Though Ingrid Bergman was married to Dr. Peter Lindstrom and had a child by him she had an affair with Italian film director Roberto Rossellini, had a baby by him, and became a pariah in America virtually overnight. She was even denounced on the floor of the U.S. Senate, where she was called "Hollywood's apostle of degradation". The public flames of indignation and outrage over her infidelity were fanned by the fact that her image had been particularly pure and wholesome. After all, she had played a nun in The Bells of St. Mary's and a saint in Joan of Arc. It didn't matter that she quickly divorced Lindstrom and married Rossellini. The damage was done. Not only Ingrid Bergman was persona non grata in America, but also her films
 - 1) Like the Jewish prophet Zimmerman said: The times they are a-changin'
 - 2) Jesus said iniquity will abound and the love of many will wax cold!
- V) THE TRIBULATION: Is a time of Israel's greatest suffering, eclipsing even the holocaust in devastation
- a) Mal 4:1 Behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," says the LORD of hosts", that will leave them neither root nor branch.
 - b) Zeph 1:14-15 The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness
 - c) Mt 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be
- VI) FACT: It lasts seven years, from the signing of a covenant between Israel and the antichrist (V20)
- a) Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm *the covenant* with many for one week (seven years) But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering (Dan 9:27; Rev 11:2-3, 12:14, 13:5)
- VII) CONCERNING THE ANTICHRIST: He will be a political leader with ambition to rule the world
- a) For his first 3 1/2 years of the tribulation, he will keep a low profile, gathering his strength
 - 1) AT FIRST: He will appear to be an ally of Israel, but will ultimately betray their confidence
 - 2) TO GAIN THEIR TRUST: He will grant permission to rebuild the Temple
 - 3) V14 necessitates the Temple being rebuilt

- I) THE TEMPLE WILL BE USED: For the first 3 1/2 years of the tribulation
 - a) Rev 11:1-2 I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. But *exclude the outer court*; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.

- II) AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE COVENANT: The period called the Tribulation begins
 - a) IMPORTANT: This period of time is to be distinguished from *normal Christian pressures*
 - 1) Jn 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have *tribulation*; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world

- III) V9-13 BUT: *Watch out for yourselves* for they will deliver you up to councils and you will be beaten
 - a) Here we have an *overview* of the Tribulation: General conditions are described

- IV) V9 CONDITIONS CAN BE SUMMED UP WITH ONE THOUGHT: Persecution *will increase*
 - a) WHY IS THIS SO: Because the gospel identifies and exposes evil, and people react to it
 - 1) Eph 5:11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, *but rather expose them*.

- V) V9-13 NOTICE: Jesus refers to four sources of persecution
 - a) V9 *FIRST*: They will deliver you to councils and you will be beaten in the synagogues
 - 1) *Religious persecution* because Christianity goes against common religious sentiment

- VI) PERSECUTION: Actually began fairly early in the history of the church (Fox's Book of Martyrs)
 - a) Ac 7 records Stephen's martyrdom, which occurred before AD 36
 - 1) After this occurred, Ac 8:1 informs us that a great persecution arose
 - 2) Jn 16:2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yes, the time comes, that whoever kills you will think that he does God service.
 - 3) Paul originally persecuted believers, and through the book of Acts we see persecution

- VII) V9b *SECOND*: You will be brought before rulers and kings *for My sake*
 - a) NOTICE: Governments will initiate persecution
 - 1) 10 Roman persecutions were enacted by 10 Roman Emperors: Nero: 54 AD, Domitian, 81, Trajan 98, Antoninus 117, Severus 193, Maximim 235, Decius 249, Valerian 254, Aurelian 270, and Diocletian 284-312 AD
 - 2) Some estimate that, from AD 64 to 312, 6,000,000 Christians were persecuted to the death
 - 3) Since AD 33, an estimated 40+ million Christians have been martyred

- VIII) June 22, 2010: Four Christians who were handing out tracts at a Muslim festival in Dearborn, Michigan were arrested as they were handing out copies of the Gospel of John. At least two people in the crowd shouted out Allahu akbar while the Christians were led away in handcuffs
 - a) Wright State University rescinded recognition of the Campus Bible Fellowship because voting members were required to be those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior: this is because they, as Christians, were not including "non discrimination language" in their constitution: the decision was reversed
 - 1) Christian Arabs living in Muslim territories are not considered equals and are subject to legal, political, cultural, and religious restrictions. There have been examples of beatings, land theft, firebombing of churches, denial of employment, economic boycotts, torture, kidnapping, forced marriage, and harassment.
 - 2) KEY: You will be hated for the sake of Jesus: Not simply for your own sake!

- I) V10 BEFORE JESUS RETURNS: The gospel must first be preached *to all nations*
 - a) In spite of all the persecution, the gospel continues to go out even during the tribulation
 - 1) Persecution will not cause the message to cease being presented
 - 2) Mt. 16:18 I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.
 - 3) Rev. 14:6-7 I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth --to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

- II) V11 BUT: When they arrest you and deliver you up do not worry beforehand or premeditate
 - a) Instead of panic, we are to trust the Lord, and seek peace: God will give us wisdom
 - 1) Lu 12:11-12 Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say
 - 2) Lu 21:14-15 Settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you words and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist

- III) V12 NOW: Brother will betray brother to death and a father his child
 - a) THE *THIRD* SOURCE OF PERSECUTION: Your own family (Jew, Muslim?)
 - 1) Ps 41:9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.
 - 2) Ps 27:10 When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

- IV) *FOURTH*: You will be hated by *all* men on My account (Believers will be hated, in general)
 - a) Society itself will hate Christians
 - 1) When you speak the truth, boldly, you will be persecuted: Verbally, physically
 - 2) Jn 15:18 If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

- V) V13b JESUS' PROMISE: He who endures to the end will be saved
 - a) Endurance does not produce or protect salvation: It is the evidence of its reality
 - 1) 2 Pe 1:10 Be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble