

# Survey of the Great Tribulation

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By [Nathan Jones](#)

*Vic:* Well our topic for today will be that of the Great Tribulation. Matthew 24:29 speaks about the Tribulation period. And it's great to be here with everyone. We would like to encourage you to keep us in prayer. Vic Batista and Nathan Jones, as we talk about the topic of the Tribulation. But before we continue I want to thank my good friend Nathan Jones for being part of the program. Nathan, thank you for joining us once again.

*Nathan:* Oh, thank you Pastor Vic, for having on. It's always such a blessing to study God's prophetic word with you.

*Vic:* I know. We've been having a great time making our way through these incredible subjects such as the Rapture, the Millennium, the Tribulation vs the Great Tribulation and you know Nathan, we we're having such a great time last week that we ran out of time.

*Nathan:* Well, you were wanting to tackle some pretty big subjects and a half hour just won't cover it.

*Vic:* It won't cut it. And you know I'm so glad because you said Vic we need to get a little deeper into the subject, the Great Tribulation because there is so much there. And Nathan, you did such a great job last week in clarifying for us we we're talking about the Tribulation vs the Great Tribulation and you made a great point. You said, "You know what Vic, everything is part of the Great Tribulation, when you really start to think about all the events that are going to unfold." So Nathan, just to go over a few things, maybe there's a listener out there who's maybe not familiar with the Tribulation and the Great Tribulation. We know that the Bible speaks about the Rapture, that's going to happen first, then is going to come the Antichrist and start a peace treaty for seven years and then we get into the Tribulation. But can you enlighten us once again, the Rapture happens, then how do things unfold?

*Nathan:* Certainly. Well we know that 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15 tell us that Jesus Christ will come and take up everyone who is saved, who has given they're life to Jesus Christ, up with Him into the clouds up to Heaven. And so every believer in Christ will not be here on this Earth at the advent of what is called the Tribulation. The prophet Daniel back in the book of Daniel gives us seven years that will befall the planet, will be the worst time in all of human history. Jeremiah 30 verse 7 says it's a time of Jacob's trouble, in other words a time for Israel where Israel will be put in a crucible and the whole world will be against Israel and that's God's way of bringing a remnant of the Jewish people to salvation, to finally except Jesus as the Messiah. So we know that the seven year Tribulation is coming upon the planet. Now the seven years is actually divided into two parts, so we've got the Tribulation which is all seven years, but

then you've got what's called the Great Tribulation which is the second half for 3 ½ years and that's when as bad as the first half is the second half is far, far worse.

*Vic:* Yes and you know Nathan. That is exactly why we realize that last week we were touching on our previous programs just regarding the Tribulation period, but then the last 3 ½ years is when things really intensify and we notice Revelation chapter 6 of course is still part of the Tribulation and then we see the different judgments that begin to unfold in the last 3 ½ years and Matthew chapter 24:29 and I don't know Nathan if maybe you happen to have your Bible handy and you could touch on that verse for us and then begin to expand for us on the Great Tribulation?

*Nathan:* Sure. Well Matthew 24 in the NKJ reads, "Immediately after the Tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from Heaven and the powers of the Heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in Heaven, then all the tribes of the Earth will mourn and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory." So this is actually the end of the Tribulation. This is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, at the very end of the Tribulation is what Jesus is talking about there in Matthew 24.

*Vic:* That is amazing. And that is exactly how we notice that it's divided into different parts here, the Second Coming, but prior to that we know that all these events are going to begin to unfold and it's just going to be chaos around the world. So Nathan, can you talk to us a little bit more about the Great Tribulation? We know that a temple is going to be erected, right, Nathan, in Israel there?

*Nathan:* Yeah, actually today the Temple Institute which exists in Israel, they have a nice museum you can go to. They have put everything together necessary to build the Third Temple. Now you know the temple was destroyed way back in 70 AD by Titus and the Roman armies and Daniel prophesied that out of the Roman people, a one world leader would come one day, who the Bible calls the man of lawlessness or the Antichrist and he would setup his kingdom and he would unite the world under his kingdom. Now we see today a huge push to have a one world ruler, UN is always talking about a New World Order and the globe seems leaderless right now and is looking for a strong leader. So the world is being setup for the idea that we need one strong leader to govern the world and stop all the wars and disasters. I also believe that because of the rapture of the church the world will be in chaos that millions of people disappearing and will also seek a one world leader to bring order back from the chaos.

*Vic:* That's right. You know Nathan, that's a great point and it seems as of today the world is just waiting because there's so much chaos with the economy and wars and rumors of wars and I've read that the Pope is planning on visiting us here next year and we see how people flock to these leaders. So you're absolutely right.

*Nathan:* Well it's just we're in a time period now where it doesn't seem like we have strong viable leaders anymore and the world is calling out for strong viable leadership. And we read in the very beginning of the Tribulation as a matter a fact, there's 21 judgments of the Tribulation and the first one is that the Antichrist is unleashed upon the world. And he goes out with a bow and no arrows, signifying diplomacy and he's like the greatest. He's like a Nelson Mandela, he

comes out and he gets peace and people look to him for leadership and guidance and they welcome with open arms, "They're like finally a leader." But we find out that this peaceful exterior is just a façade, in reality he's a huge war monger and the second Tribulation judgment he brings war upon the Earth and a quarter of the world population dies. World War III basically is what the Bible's talking about.

*Vic:* And we notice those things unfolding, right, Nathan? In Revelation chapter 6 there.

*Nathan:* Yeah. Revelation chapter 6 is where we get the, the 21 judgments are divided into seven's, you got the Seven Seal Judgments, Seven Trumpet Judgments and Seven Bowl Judgments. Now the Tribulation starts with the Seven Seal Judgments that goes through six of the Seven Trumpet Judgments so when we talk about the Great Tribulation, we're actually talking about the Seven Trumpet Judgment and then the Seven Bowl Judgments that lead right up to what you read or we both read in Matthew 24 about Jesus coming back. A special day, a day that the sun won't shine, the moon won't give its light, it looks like the stars are falling from the sky and there's some sign of the Son of Man in Heaven, in other words people look up and they'll see the sign and they won't know what it is and I've looked up Bible commentators what do they think it is and it's only speculation. Nobody knows, maybe it's shekinah glory, the Holy Spirit you know maybe He puts a celestial sign up there, maybe it's an alignment of planets, but something that says, "This is the day Jesus is coming back," for an entire day, people know, wait a minute something's about to happen, Jesus Christ is about to come back and those who are Raptured up to Heaven, you and me, Vic, we will return with Jesus Christ to see Him setup His kingdom on this Earth for a thousand years.

*Vic:* Amen.

*Nathan:* But, before that the Earth goes through a terrible seven year time period.

*Vic:* You know Nathan, in everything we seem to enjoy today will pretty much be gone. I mean I'm here in Florida, here in Miami, its beautiful sunshine, beautiful beaches and the time has come when the skies will be darkened. That's a fearful sight, right?

*Nathan:* Well we got to remember that the Tribulation people try to say, "Well, we're in the Tribulation now." But they got to remember that we have not seen a quarter of the world's population destroyed. Vic, that is 1 ½ billion people in today's numbers. And then the third and fourth Seal Judgments say that famine and pestilence and sickness will come. You know when a war happens the entire infrastructure, the way we get food and go to the grocery stores and get medicine becomes scarce and people get sick, start dying, disease spreads. And it says another quarter of the world population dies. So Vic, that's just half the world population in the first year or so.

*Vic:* Wow, that's incredible!

*Nathan:* It is. And then when we say that the second half of the Tribulation is the Great Tribulation, it's even worse! You know we laugh, but we laugh uncomfortably because that is a terrible time on the world, but God has His purposes. One to punish the sin of the world. He can't let injustice continue forever. He will and He promises that He will deal with it during the Tribulation. Two, He wants believers, people to finally come to Jesus and become believers in

Him that's both Jew and Gentile. And third, for Jesus to come back and setup His kingdom of peace, righteousness and justice for a thousand years after that. So He has a time, but in the meantime Satan is let loose on the Earth, He possesses the Antichrist and for those seven year periods the Antichrist rules as a one world ruler over this Earth. It starts, as we read in Daniel 9, with a peace treaty with Israel, Israel will have endured 2 major wars before that. One is a Psalm 83 war, where they have to conquer they're surrounding neighbors and people are wondering "Hmmm all that fighting with Gaza right now and possibly Lebanon opening up as a second front and other nations, maybe this is going to be the Psalm 83 war." But Israel will win it we know according to Psalm 83, but then Russia, Iran, Turkey and a number of other Islamic nations they will come against Israel and you can read about that in Ezekiel 38 and 39 and that's called the Gog and Magog war and God steps in and He defends Israel and He destroys those nations and those armies. So picture even before the Tribulation begins, that Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya and Islam is no longer a player in the Tribulation. We're talking about an entire change of how the world functions geopolitically.

*Vic:* And you know Nathan, that's a great point and this is why we believe it's very important for anyone listening to this program to be a student of Eschatology and Bible Prophecy because when we laughed a little bit nervously earlier is because there's some that are teaching that no that this even is not really going to happen, this is the kingdom age, right, Nathan? And what a mistake that is.

*Nathan:* Yeah, the kingdom age is the idea that we're living in Jesus' millennial Kingdom where we are living in a time of peace, righteousness and justice. And I am like, say what? Have you turned on the news? You know that's crazy if you've read the Bible. Yeah, and you don't interpret the Bible literally, you spiritualize everything. You say, well it's a spiritual kingdom the Bible is talking about. Well, there is an aspect to the Church as a spiritual kingdom but the Bible is very explicit on the details of Bible prophecy and the end times. And you can read in Revelation and other places about these Tribulation judgments and know that we are not living in the Millennial Kingdom and we're not living in the Tribulation now, they haven't happened yet.

*Vic:* And that's an excellent point and that's why we want to encourage anyone that is tuned into this program, our lines will be open. We are talking about the Great Tribulation an incredible event yet to occur in the future, but we need to prepare ourselves for now. Nathan of course you are unfolding for us this whole event. We find Revelation 6 talks about some of these events here, the different horsemen of the Apocalypse, but then we get into Revelation 7, Nathan, and something amazing happens there because there is going to be also, God is going to be using the Jewish people once again to do a great evangelistic work, right?

*Nathan:* Yes, God has got the Gospel plan for the Tribulation. Again that is one of the purposes of the Tribulation is to bring people to their knees to finally accept Jesus. Man, there are some people who are so hard headed, maybe you and I were at one time, it took God to smack us over the head to finally say, "Oh, my goodness I really need Jesus. I need to get right with Him." And it takes the world plunging into basically World War III for the people to finally say, "I surrender Lord. I surrender." And we read about 144,000 Jews that will get saved at that time period and they'll be specially protected by God and they'll go out and share the Gospel across the planet. He also has and we can read in Revelation 11 two witnesses, they are two guys who

get saved and some believe maybe they are Moses and Elijah, or Elijah and Enoch, maybe they're resurrected, I'm not sure. There is some indication that they'll just be two regular people but there is some debate over that, but they are two witness who in Jerusalem are given power to give the Gospel out to the whole world but they also are defended by God, they can call down fire if they want, they are totally protected. Now, this is where we get to the Great Tribulation part, for 3 ½ years the two witnesses according to Revelation 11 they share the Gospel with the world. The Antichrist has finally defeated the world, the whole world is following him and he goes to Israel. Now he is 3 ½ years into that peace treaty with Israel, right, and he hates these two witnesses. And finally the supernatural protection around them is gone, God takes it away, and the Antichrist kills the two witnesses, they actually die, and it says for 3 ½ days their bodies lie in the streets of Jerusalem and the whole world celebrates. They hate these guys you know because they are bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they hate them. And it says the Antichrist will walk into the temple, the Jews will rebuild that Third Temple and he will desecrate it. He wants worship, Satan has always wanted to be worshipped in place of God and he will proclaim himself to be God in the temple. He'll desecrate it by setting up a statue of himself. And that's when we know the Jews will flee out of Jerusalem, there will be Jews staying there throughout the Tribulation but the majority of Jews will flee out of Israel into Southern Jordan where the Lord will supernaturally protect them. And that is the beginning of the Great Tribulation and that is where we get the term Great Tribulation because it is a great tribulation upon the Jewish people for the next 3 ½ years.

*Vic:* And that's a great point and Nathan we see the world being prepared today with the development of technology, and here we talk about these two witness that they are going to be killed and yet the Bible says the whole world will be able to see them. So, we also see these incredible prophetic things happening right before our time.

*Nathan:* Yeah, when have we lived in a time period when the whole world can not only know about the two witnesses but watch live them being killed, and then watch live 3 ½ days later God resurrects them and bring them up to Heaven. I mean the whole world sees that. And the fact that the whole world sees it means that they would have to have some way to do it. You couldn't do it 100 years ago.

*Vic:* Exactly.

*Nathan:* But today through satellite television, iPhones you name it we've got ability to watch something going on right away, anywhere. You know 1 second time delay as it bounces around from satellite to satellite. So that is a prophecy right there that shows that we are living in a time period where we have this technology for the whole world to witness these two witnesses being killed.

*Vic:* And of course Nathan this is technology that really wasn't even around until just not that long ago, right?

*Nathan:* No, I mean you could have like a cameraman over there and bounce up to a satellite maybe 20 years, but the fact that we have streaming video, that we have portable devices I really believe that the technology has honed itself to what we have today.

*Vic:* That's right and of course we look at these witnesses there they are evangelizing, winning hundreds of thousands to the Lord and also Nathan in the Tribulation period there are also some other methods that the Gospel is going to be spread, right?

*Nathan:* Yes, the Bible says that an angel, a Gospel Angel will go out and spread the Gospel to every single person. So, by the end of the Tribulation there won't be anybody who hasn't heard the Gospel and that will fulfill what Jesus said in Matthew 24 about the Gospel going out onto the whole world and the whole world will hear the Gospel. The Tribulation by the end of it people will know to choose Jesus or not. Now, if they don't choose Jesus they will take what is called the Mark of the Beast. The Antichrist has a PR man, a false prophet who gets people to worship him. And he forces everybody to get a mark, it says number or the name of the Antichrist on the hand or the forehead. Again this won't be instituted until the middle of the Tribulation so that doesn't affect anybody today. But during that time period if you don't take it, you are like, "I'm a Christian I'm not going to take it." Then he kills you. So very, very few Christians make it to the end of the Tribulation. But that's the beginning of the middle where the Antichrist institutes a mark system. So during the Great Tribulation that second 3 ½ years the people cannot buy or sell unless they are basically wearing the name or the number of his name which is 666 on their forehead. You walk in a grocery store and you're like I'm going to buy and they look at you and they say, "I don't see the Antichrist name, we can't sell to you." And more than likely they'll call and report you in and you'll get arrested and killed. So, people will know to accept Jesus or not during that time period it will be blatantly obvious.

*Vic:* And you know Nathan, that is why we encourage individuals that are maybe tuned into this program or maybe some who will be tuned into this program at a later point in time that it is so crucial for them while there is still time to turn to the Lord because there really is no guarantee we know that the Rapture can occur at any moment, right Nathan?

*Nathan:* Exactly, it is an imminent event it can happen at any time.

*Vic:* And this is why anyone tuned in we encourage you to turn to the Lord while there is still time. We know that those who have placed their trust in Jesus Christ will be taken out but we also know this terrible judgment that is coming we do not wish that upon anybody so this is why we encourage every one of you reach out to us. If we can pray for you, if you have any questions or comments please let us know. So, Nathan, of course we see this unfold, we see now Revelation chapter 8 we see these different judgments that are coming, the seal judgments. Can you talk to us a little bit more about those?

*Nathan:* The first part of the Tribulation has seven seal judgments that's of course the global war, terrible earthquake, it's where the fifth seal judgment is a terrible persecution of Christians, people who accept Jesus as Savior will likely be martyred for their faith during the Tribulation. We see then the trumpet judgments were various disasters happen on the earth. And it gets to the seventh trumpet which is the trumpet that is after the two witnesses that kicks off that Great Tribulation, that second half. And the seventh trumpet judgment which you can read in Revelation 11 says, "And the temple of God was opened in Heaven and the Ark of the Covenant was seen in its Temple. There was lightening, noises, thunder, and earthquakes and great hail." So, a series of natural disasters happen with the seventh trumpet judgment that starts what really is the bowl judgments, the final seven judgments are really man, are really

awful, it makes World War III actually not look so bad that they are so terrible. We can read about those in Revelation 16.

*Vic:* Amazing. And of course even with all the disaster here the Bible tells us on top of that there are going to be all these also natural, supernatural disasters coming upon the earth. And again we see small signs now, Nathan, right, just very minute signs in comparison.

*Nathan:* Well, Jesus said in Matthew 24 that the signs of the end times would be like birth pains, in other words they'd come more frequent and more intense. You know both of us have children and we've seen our wives go through birth pains, they start small and they are wide apart but the closer the baby comes the more intense they get, the more frequent they get until the baby comes. And we're seeing signs of the end times both in nature, in politics, war, and technology and all these different signs that say that Jesus is coming soon and they are getting more frequent and intense. But during the seven year Tribulation that's when they climax, that when they are the worst, and we get these 21 judgments that basically level the planet and kill most of the world population.

*Vic:* That's incredible, and you know, Nathan, that's why as we look at this Great Tribulation and the tribulation period it something that is just hard to comprehend but yet the Bible says these events will happen. Some people mock that these events will happen, some people have different views on the Tribulation. But we stick to what the Bible says and everything seems to line up in order in sequence how it's going to occur, right Nathan?

*Nathan:* Correct, a matter of fact the Bible says flat out that the end time scoffers will come scoffing at the Bible and about the Lord's return. So one of the signs of the end times is that people will be like, "This is ridiculous." "This is never going to happen." They also scoff at the idea of a Flood, in other words they are Evolutionist and Atheists, they say, "This is ridiculous we can't trust the Bible." But the Bible is 100% accurate. You know when Jesus came the first time He fulfilled 109 distinct prophecies. Now, that is amazing 109 distinct prophecies about the First Coming fulfilled in the life of one man is astronomical. Peter Stoner a mathematician calculated just eight out of the 109 is 1 in 10 to the 17th power!

*Vic:* Wow!

*Nathan:* In other words that is a number that couldn't be fulfilled and yet that is just 8 of the prophecies, we have 109. So we know that with 100% assuredly Bible prophecy said Jesus would come the first time, He will come the second time. There are 500 verse in the Old Testament and 1 in every 25 verses in the New Testament that say that Jesus will come back a second time. And if we could trust 100% that he fulfilled all the prophecies concerning the first time we can be sure that Jesus will fulfill all 500 about His Second Coming.

*Vic:* Whoa! Amen, wow, what a wonderful word. You know Nathan that is why this is so important and it such a timely message for anyone tuned into the program to know that time is running out. God's Word is faithful. God's Word can be trusted and it begins with a relationship with Jesus Christ and He is faithful to the end. And of course Nathan we find, I'm so glad we are spending a little more time here in the Great Tribulation but also as we get ready to wrap up we always like to leave our listeners with a word of encouragement, also maybe how to begin their

relationship with the Lord. How would you encourage, Nathan, that person listening, they know, they hear about these judgments, they can sense that something is happening but they haven't fully given their lives fully over to the Lord. What would you say to them?

*Nathan:* I'd say, what are you waiting for. I mean what are you looking for? Is whatever your sin is, is it that important to you that it is worth destroying your life. Sin is tempting and fun at first but it is like a snare it catches you and it enslaves you and you become a prisoner to it and you are miserable, and unhappy, and you know in your heart of hearts that you are destined for punishment forever which is Hell. Why hold onto that? It's like holding onto a penny when there is a billion dollars are sitting next to you, and that is what salvation is. Jesus died for you, He loves you that much. He wants you to accept Him as Savior to repent of your sins, to give your life to Him. And He in turn will forgive you, He'll save you, He'll rapture you, He'll protect you, you won't have to go through the Tribulation. You'll live with Him forever in heaven and you have a joyous abundant life ahead for you. That's what worth grabbing hold of and taking.

*Vic:* That is amazing. And you know Nathan that is what we want individuals to know. What a wonderful gift and it is all by God's grace that He gives it to those who open their hearts and trust in Him. And that's why the Bible says in John 3:16, "That God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." And we pray that you will reach out to us and give us an opportunity to pray for you.

Again you're tuned into the Truth Will Set You Free Bible Prophecy Edition, Vic Batista and Nathan Jones. And of course you can always reach out to us here at [TWave.org](http://TWave.org) or simply by calling 305-992-9537. May the Lord bless you!

**End of Program**