

## Facts of the Faith (10)

I John 2:18; Matthew 24:21;

--

**Intro**—Tribulation—Gr—pressure, affliction, anguish, burdened, persecution, trouble.

- A seven year period.

Revelation 6-19 describe this time period in detail.

Jesus speaks of this awful time period in Matthew 24

5 things:

### I. It will Begin with the Emergence of a Dominant World Leader.

He will make a 7 year agreement with Israel (Peace Treaty). The day that covenant begins the tribulation will begin.

**I John 2:18** “Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.”

- The prince that shall come—Daniel 9:26-27
- The son of perdition—II Thes. 2:3
- The man of sin (lawlessness)—II Thes. 2:3
- Lawless one—II Thess. 2:8-9
- Antichrist—I John 2:18, 22; 4:3; II John 7
- The Beast out of the Sea—Revelation 13:1-10

### Anti—Greek prefix:

- Against—opposes God
- Instead of—worshipped and obeyed instead of God.

A couple things:

### A) His Accomplishments.

- He will be a world dictator and will begin his campaign in peace.
- He will offer Israel protection and appear to have solved the mid-east Crisis.

He is going to make a 7 year agreement (a peace treaty) with the nation of Israel.

Daniel 9:27 “Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week.....”

To the Jew the word “week” in Hebrew means—“a week of years” or seven years.

- He will be like no other world dictator Gifted/Full of charisma—He will do what Hitler dreamed of!!!!
- He will seduce the world and Israel!

**II Thes. 2:9** “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders.”

### B) His Accomplish.

Daniel 9:27 “...But in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.”

Bible—evil associate.—“The beast out of the earth.”

- He is referred to in Revelation 13:11 as the “beast out of the earth.”
- He is known as the false prophet.
- He will cause the world to worship the antichrist.

Together they will perform miraculous signs and deceive the entire world and force everyone living on the earth to bear the mark of the antichrist.

**Revelation 13:16-18** “He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.”

**Illustration:** Tsavo Lions, For a time nothing will stop them!

**II Thes. 2:7** “For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.”

## **II. It will be a Time of Great Deception & Oppression**

**Matthew 24:24** “For false christs and false prophets will rise and sow great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”

### **Two things:**

#### **A) Religious Deception.**

Right now: 122 Western religions, 200 holy books other than the bible.

Christianity—broke—fixed, wrong—replaced.

Wiccan movement among teens/ girls: Nature worship and personal preference for individual religion. Modern name for what is traditionally known as Witchcraft. Glamorized by the media and television. Buffy, Sabrina the teenage witch, charmed. Medium, Ghost whisperer.

Homosexual church

#### **B) Righteous Persecution.**

**Matthew 24:9** “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.”

Fact: UK “Open Doors”—Estimated that 100,000 million Christians are being persecuted worldwide. Muslim world, North Korea, and in parts of India at the hands of Hindu extremists.

Illustration: Voice of the Martyrs.

## **III. It will be a Time of Terrible Suffering and Judgment.**

**Matthew 24:21-22** “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. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s (chosen ones) sake those days will be shortened.”

During the Tribulation: ½ of the World’s Pop. Will die. 6 1/2 / 3.75 billion

### **Two things:**

#### **A) It will be the result of God’s wrath.**

Fact: God will pour out His wrath on this fallen world, sinful man, and the Satanic rebellion.

Romans 12:19 “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.”

Hebrews 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Micah 5:15 “And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury on the nations that have not heard (obeyed).”

Nahum 1:2 “God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and is furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies.”

**B) It will involve three phases:**

**a. First Phase—First 3 ½ yrs.**

Seals Opened—Fourth seal: Rev. 6:7-8

Could be because: Biological & Chemical weapons/ volcanic eruptions, earth quakes.

Beasts—rats, 14<sup>th</sup> century Bubonic plague  
“Black Death” Europe. 1/4—1/3 died.

**b. Second Phase—Middle of the Tribulation**

Trumpets Blown—2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet: Rev. 8:8-9  
27,000 Ships/ 9,000: January 1, 1981 24,867—  
8,289

**c. Third Phase—Final 3 ½ yrs.**

Bowls Emptied—First Bowl: Rev. 16:1, Fourth Bowl: Rev. 16:8-9

Story: The heat of the sun!

**IV. It will be a Time where People will still be Saved.**

**Revelation 7:9** “Great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes. **14** These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

**A) How are they going to be saved?**

**Revelation 7:10** “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

**Revelation 7 & 14**—144,000 Jews who are going to be sealed!!!!

**Revelation 11**—Two witnesses that God will raise up—**3**—“I will give power to my two

witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days (3 ½ yrs), clothed in sackcloth.”

**Revelation 14**—Three angels—1<sup>st</sup> mentioned—**6** “Flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—**7**—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

**B) Why are they going to be saved?**

**I Timothy 2:4** “[God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

**Ezekiel 33:11** “As I live,” says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.’”