

DANIEL: Life in the Present; Hope for Our Future

Chapter 10 Are we Living in the End-Times?

(Matthew 24:1-42; Luke 21:7-10; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9; Revelation 11:1-10; 7:3; 14:3-5)

Daniel 10 – A vision of Daniel about an Angel who tells Daniel about wars, and the Anti-Christ in Ch. 11-12

Vs. 12: Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.”

-Today: The Age of Grace. We are in “The times of the Gentiles”

-Luke 21:24 “They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles **until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**”

-Romans 11:25 “I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part **until the full number of the Gentiles has come in**”

(Rapture: 2 Peter 2:9)

Next, the Rapture of the Church (the temporary removal of the Church for God’s wrath to be revealed on the earth) = The Dead in Christ are raised; We meet Christ in the air; Glorified bodies (1 Th. 4:15-18; 1 C. 15:51ff)

- **The Beginning of the 7 Year Tribulation** (The “Day of the Lord”): God’s Wrath = Rev. 4-18
- **The Second Coming of Christ (worldwide) to inaugurate the millennial reign, final Jug.**

****So, when will we know that we are close to End times, close to the Rapture, close to the 7 Year Tribulation?**

READ Matt. 24 Vs. 32: Parable of the Fig Tree ³² “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves [=Spring], you know that summer is near; ³³ so, you too, when you see all these things, (Vss. 1-31) recognize that He is near, *right* at the door.

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. ³⁷ For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not understand **until** the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. – Taken in Judgment

⁴² “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ **For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.**”

A. We are to be ready, alert, expectant, excited, & busy UNTIL Christ returns. (Not pre-occupied with End-times matters.) We are to be busy with **worship and work =ministry**

-What happens leading up to Tribulation? During the Church Age? READ Matthew 24: Vs. 1: Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. ² And He said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.” ³ As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives,

the disciples came to Him **privately**, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the ^{the}end of the age?” ⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ [Messiah],’ and will mislead many. [Apostasy=the falling away from Truth] ⁶ You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, **but that is not yet the end.** ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. ⁸ But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

READ Luke 21:7-10 “Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?” ⁸ He replied: “Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ **and, ‘The time is near.’** Do not follow them. ⁹ When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.”¹⁰ Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences [plagues] in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.” = **[Wars, famine, plagues (coronavirus), earthquakes, asteroids, eclipses, solar flares = all increase over time and in magnitude] = setting the stage; **God is getting our attention!!! This is all BEFORE the real Tribulation begins:**

What Happens when the Tribulation begins?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9:

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the ^{the}coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him [Rapture?], ² that you not be quickly shaken from your ^{the}composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a ^{the}message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has (already) come. ³ Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* [The Second Coming- Christ’s Visible return] unless the **1)** apostasy comes first, **2)** and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above ^{the}every so-called god or object of worship, **so that he takes his seat in the temple of God**, displaying himself as being God. ⁵ Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? ⁶ And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; **3)** only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way. ⁸ Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His ^{the}coming; ⁹ *that is*, the one whose ^{the}coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and ^{the}signs and false wonders,” = world-wide “signs, and false miracles” – deceiving the masses.

The Tribulation will begin officially when the Church is raptured, Anti-Christ is revealed, 7yr Peace Covenant w/Is.

1. World-wide Apostasy (rebellion)– world & “church” fall away from God & Biblical Truth (2 Peter 2; 1Tim. 4:1“*The Spirit expressly says that in the latter days, some will fall away from the faith*” 2 Tim 3) Mark 13:5-6 “Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you.⁶ Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many.”

As persecution against the Church is ramped up toward the end of Days, many will apostatize from the Church:

- A. They will reject Christianity because the cost is too high (rejection by society, friends, family, job, comfort, security)
- B. The deception will be too convincing (false Christs, false religion, lies, deception under the guise of righteousness)
- C. The Lure of sin and comfort will be too alluring, too attractive (easier to reject Christ & Church than to be faithful)

2. Anti-Christ is revealed (The son of destruction, the man of lawlessness is he who will bring order from global chaos, but who will set no law but himself): (Dan. 9:27) =3.5 years he will declare himself to be God.

Daniel 9:27 “He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’[week =7 years]. In the middle of the ‘seven’ years, he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

3. God unleashes Satan for 7 yrs. The **true** Church stands as a buffer to Evil and the evil working of satan. The Church (physically) and the Holy Spirit (Spiritually) restrain satan from working completely on the earth = TRUTH! The **final apostasy** is when the Anti-Christ claims to be God & demands worship -3.5yrs

Tribulation Begins: Mt.24:9 “Then they will deliver you [Jews] to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations [like the Holocaust], **because of My name.** ¹⁰ At that time many will ^(a)fall away and will ^(a)betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. ¹² Because lawlessness is increased, ^(a)most people’s love will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

¹⁴ This gospel [the good news] of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole ^(a)world as a testimony to all the nations, **and then the end will come (Second Coming)**. (this is during = **7 Year tribulation**); 2 Witnesses, 144,000 witnesses, Angels flying in mid-air – all sealed (protected), and all with the gospel message: God gives people a chance to repent until the very, very end!!

2 Witnesses = Revelation 11 “I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. ² 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. ³ And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” ⁴ They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.” ^(a) ⁵ If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. ⁶ They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

⁷ Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. ⁸ Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified. ⁹ For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. ¹⁰ The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.”

144,000 witnesses: (Male, Jewish Virgin, Evangelists = young men from all nations)

Rev. 7:3 “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” ⁴ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.”

Rev. 14:3-5 “And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴ These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb. ⁵ No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.”

Angels in Mid-heaven Rev. 14:6-7: “Then 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. ⁷ 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.”

Matthew 24:15 “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place [**in the Temple**] (*let the reader understand*) [3.5 year point], ¹⁶ then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ ^(a)Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. ¹⁸ ^(a)Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. ¹⁹ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. ²¹ **For then there will be a great tribulation (last 3.5 years)**, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²² Unless those days had been cut short, no ^(a)life would have been saved; but for the sake of the ^(a)elect those days will be cut short. ²³ Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the ^(a)Christ,’ or ‘^(a)There *He is,*’ do not believe *him*. ²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will ^(a)show great ^(a)signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the ^(a)elect. ²⁵ Behold, I have told you in advance. ²⁶ So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the

wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe *them*.²⁷ For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. [2 Coming of Christ is global]²⁸ Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. = the vultures fly high in the air (and people can see there is something dead even from far away or close up)

The Glorious Return - 2 Coming of Christ²⁹ "But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.³⁰ And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. [mourn= This point will be too late for anyone else to be saved!] ³¹ And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

- **The End Times are real, but still future.**

What are the "Signs of the Times"?

A. The Return of Israel to their homeland -1948 the State of Israel was reborn

B. The process to rebuild a Temple in Jerusalem. Peace talks to even allow it to be built on Temple Mt. (Between the Muslims – Dome of the Rock & Al-Aqsa Mosque).

=God is not finished with the Jews. God is still a Covenant God. A remnant will be saved. The Temple will be rebuilt. Sacrifices will resume.

C. The beginning of a One World currency; watch the world financial markets & technology

- **The Rapture will take the church out of the way before the 7 year tribulation begins. = wrath of God**
- **7 year Tribulation (peace, Temple is built, used; 3.5yrs there is a break in Cov., Anti-Christ demands to be worshipped, the mark of the beast (Anti-Christ) is given, and God pours out His judgment on the whole earth – while still allowing people to be saved!**
- **The Second Coming: Jesus Christ will return physically on this earth – to judge the world; to rescue the elect who was saved during the 7 year tribulation; to inaugurate the millennial reign; to bind satan for 1000 years.**
- **The Lord's Calling is that we are to know the world will be ever increasing in its hostility to the people of God & that the Church is to be ready for His Coming and the judgments that will follow:**
- **It is only an arrogant disregard to God's Word when we are dissatisfied with waiting and think we are clever enough to string clues together to discern when and where He will return.**

Acts 1:6-7 "Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ He said to them: "**It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.**"⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- **Are you Ready? Are you witnessing NOW? Are you a tool in God's hand to give Christ to the Nations?**