

## 02 – DELIVERED INTO TRIBULATION

### Things to Remember

- 1.) **Chronological Order** – Matt. 24-25 is written in chronological order.
- 2.) **Well Defined Sections** – He's moving section-by-section through the Trib., and you can clearly see when He moves from one to the next.

**v. 4-8** – Signs that the Tribulation is about to begin.

**v. 9-14** – The 1<sup>st</sup> Half of the Tribulation.

**v. 15-26** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of the Tribulation.

**v. 27-30** – The Second Coming.

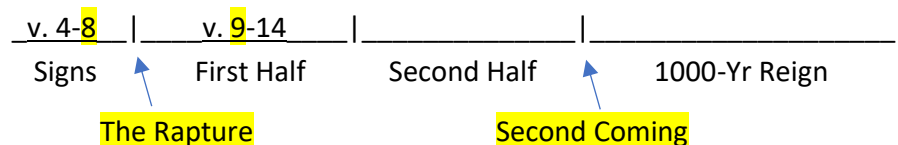
**24:31-Ch. 25** – What Happens After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

- 3.) **The Rapture** – is not discussed AT ALL in Matthew 24-25.

✓ 1 Cor. 15:51 calls the Rapture a “mystery” (musterion). A mystery in the Bible isn't “something that can't be understood”. The word “mystery” refers to “something that was hidden in the OT but now is revealed in the New”.

*Col. 1:26 – (Williams) – “... the open secret, covered up from the people of former ages and generations, but now uncovered to God's people ...”*

✓ The Rapture was hidden to the disciples. (They couldn't see it from that side of the Cross.) But from *our* vantage point, we see clearly enough that we can place it on the timeline.



- ✓ Since I believe in a pre-Tribulation Rapture, I placed it between verse 8 and 9.

### Why I Believe in a Pre-Trib. Rapture

- a.) The Rapture is Called a “Comfort” – (*1 Thess. 4:18 – “Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”*)

✓ **Think About It:** If the church has to go through the Tribulation period, where's the comfort? **If I Said:** “Jesus called the Tribulation the worst time in history. Satan's wrath (Rev. 12:12), man's wrath (Rev. 11:18), and God's wrath (Rev. 6:16-17) are poured out simultaneously. People will die in unprecedented numbers – (a third of the world's population dies; then a quarter). Sin and demon activity are off the charts. When you refuse the Mark, you'll face execution (along with your family), and because of technology, there'll be nowhere to hide. “Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” (Or, how about this, instead ...)

*1 Thess. 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. Wherefore comfort ...”*

- b.) We're told to watch for Jesus Christ, not the Antichrist.

*Titus 2:13 – “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” (Appearing = Rapture)*

*Phil. 3:20 – “For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

- c.) The Church has no instructions on how to go through the Trib.

However, He repeatedly gives instructions to the Jews.

*Matt. 24:16,20 – “Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains ... But pray that your flight is not in the winter, or on the sabbath day...” (Only the Jews would care about that.)*

d.) After John describes the 7 churches (in Revelation 2-3), the Church disappears from the pages of Revelation until chapter 19 when they return with Christ at the Second Coming. We see the **Tribulation saints on earth** (in Ch. 4-18), but not the Church.

e.) A Pre-Trib. Rapture allows for the Doctrine of Imminence. (Jesus could return at any moment.) The apostles clearly believed that.

*James 5:8* – “... be patient; strengthen your hearts [keep them energized and firmly committed to God], because **the Master could arrive at any time.**” (AMP, MSG)

f.) The Restrainer has to be removed before the Antichrist can be revealed.

*2 Thess. 2:6-8* – “And you know what **restrains** the Antichrist now, so he will be revealed at the proper time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work ... only **he who now restrains** (holds back) will do so until he is **taken out of the way.** **THEN** that **wicked one (AC) shall be revealed.**”

✓ Some say the Restrainer is the Church. Others say it's the Holy Spirit. Either way, we have to leave before the Antichrist is revealed. (If the Holy Ghost is pulled out, we'd have to go with Him, since Jesus promised the Spirit would be with us forever.)

g.) The Church hasn't been appointed unto wrath. (1 Th. 5:9)

✓ But that's the Tribulation is – God's wrath poured out on a Christ-rejecting world. (We haven't been appointed unto wrath, so why should we even *be* here? It's the time of *Jacob's* trouble, not ours.)

✓ As we arrive at Matthew 24:9, the Church Age is over, we've been Raptured, and God turns back to the Jews for Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week.

### **v. 9-14 – The First Half of the Tribulation**

*v. 9* – “Then shall they deliver you **into tribulation** (the Trib. begins), and shall kill you, and you shall be **hated by all nations** for my name's sake.”

✓ He's specifically speaking to the Jews here. (Once the church is gone, Israel won't have a friend in the world.)

*v. 10-13* – “And then many will be offended; they will **betray** one another (Lk. 21:16) and hate one another. And many **false prophets** will rise up and **deceive** many. Because of the **overwhelming spread of lawlessness**, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who remains **faithful to the end** will be delivered.”

✓ The one who “remains faithful to the end” of what? The end of the Tribulation. (“Hang in there! Deliverance will eventually come!”) That pretty much sums up the first half of the Tribulation. It's a “ramping up” of what began at the end of the Church Age.

✓ Next, we find a verse that transitions us into the second half of the Tribulation: “And **this gospel of the kingdom** shall be **preached in all the world** for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

✓ I hear so many Christians say, “the Rapture can't happen yet, because the whole world hasn't heard the gospel”. But this isn't a Church Age verse! It's a Tribulation verse! He's saying that in the Tribulation the whole world will hear the gospel. But how will they accomplish in 7 years, what the Church couldn't do in 2000 years? At Mid-Trib., *angels* begin to preach.

### **4 Ways the Gospel Is Preached (After the Church leaves)**

✓ In the first half of the Tribulation, **the 144,000** Jewish evangelists and **their converts** preach the Gospel. (You can read about them in Revelation chapters 7 and 14.) In the last half of the Tribulation, **the two witnesses** (Rev. 11) and **angels** begin preaching.

*Rev. 14:6* – “And I saw another **angel** fly in the midst of heaven, **having the everlasting gospel to preach** unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.” (Angels also warn people not to take the mark.)

## v. 15-26 – The Second Half of the Tribulation

v. 15-16 – “So when you see the horrible abomination that Daniel talked about standing in the holy place (in the Temple), (let the reader understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

- ✓ This chapter is Jewish, through and through. Once the Antichrist enters the Temple, and the False Prophet sets up the image, and institutes the Mark of the Beast, the Jews are told to flee. (According to Dan. 11:41 they’ll flee to the mtns. of Edom, Moab & Ammon.)

v. 17 – “If you are on the roof of your house, don’t go inside to get anything: Neither let him which is in the field return to take his clothes. How terrible it will be for women who are pregnant or nursing babies in those days! Pray that your escape may not be in winter time or on a Sabbath.”

- ✓ Again, He’s talking to Jews. (Only they care about the Sabbath laws.)

“For then shall be great tribulation, unlike anything that has happened from the beginning of the world until now, or ever will happen. If the length of this time had not been limited, no one would survive; but for the sake of those who have been chosen, its length will be limited. THEN, (once you’ve fled to the mountains), if anyone says to you, ‘Look! Here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe it. (Evidently, they’re calling out to the Jews from the base of the mountain.)

“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform great (Gr – MEGA) signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Listen carefully, I have told you in advance. If someone says, ‘He’s out there in the desert’— don’t go out there. And if someone says, ‘He’s in the inner rooms’ (bed chambers) — do not believe him.”

- ✓ In this verse, we’re seeing the false prophets’ attempts to get the Jews to come out of their place of hiding. (“The Messiah is here! He’s in the desert!” Or, “He’s looking for you at your house!”) Verse 26 describes how He’s not coming back. (He’s not hanging out in the desert or rifling through people’s bedrooms.) Verse 27-30 describes how He *\*is\** coming back. We’ll look at that next week.