



Lesson: Two Hundred twenty four
Series: Signs of the End.

Title:. The Birth Pains, Part 4

Text: Matthew 24:7b-9

Date: August 2, 2020

Matthew 24:3 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 end of the age?"

Signs of Christ's return (birth pangs)

1. Spiritual deception

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,' and will mislead many.

2. International conflict

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.

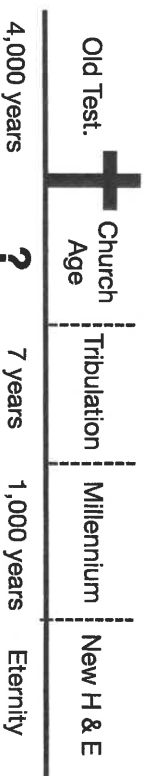
3. _____ disasters

Matthew 24:7b and in various places there will be famines

and earthquakes.

“famines”

The Olivet Discourse is foundational and the framework for end time prophecies, especially for the book of Revelation



The futurist philosophy of interpretation seems to fit Scripture the best.

It creates problems for the Preterists view for two reasons:

1. John wrote Revelation in 96 A.D.. 26 years after Jerusalem was destroyed.
2. It does not match John's instructions.

Revelation 1:19 “Therefore write the things which you **HAVE SEEN**, the things which **ARE**, and the things which **WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER** these things.

“have seen” - Past, Chapter 1
“are” - Present at the time it was written, Chapters 2-3
“will take place after” - Future, Chapters 4-22

Three sets of seven judgments in the Tribulation.

Discussion Guide

1. How has our study on the end times impacted your life so far? Has it brought fear, encouragement, discernment, courage, doubt, etc?
2. Obviously end-time prophecy is important, so why are pastors avoiding it and how has that impacted the church?
3. Based on what we learned this morning about persecution, why does God allow it and what is His purpose?
4. Have you ever experienced any kind of opposition for your faith?
If “no” why do you believe you haven’t?
If yes, what was the issue and how did you respond to it, what was the outcome?
5. What insight from today's sermon impacted you the most and why?

ANSWERS: Natural, seal, trumpet, bowl, 191, 191, 573, 765, 1,950,000,000, 1,900,000,000, 6, mercy, Persecution, arrested, witness, surprised

#7 refers to God's perfection and completeness

God's wrathful judgments in the Tribulation

Seven _____ judgments - Chapter 6

Seven _____ judgments - Chapters 8-9

Seven _____ judgments - Chapter 16

Seals 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Trumpets 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Bowls 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Revelation 6:5-6 When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine."

One "denarius" = one day's wage - \$ _____

One quart of wheat = \$ _____

Three quarts of barley = \$ _____

So for 4 quarts of food = \$ _____

How will the famines come about?

John 15:18-19 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

1 Peter 1:1 "strangers in the world"

1 Peter 2:11 "aliens, strangers or sojourners"

2 Cor 5:20 - "ambassadors for Christ"

2 Timothy 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. (Indicative mood - future reality)

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Revelation 6:8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to **kill** with sword and with **FAMINE** and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

“a fourth of the earth”

World's population = 7.8 billion people

_____ **deaths**

Revelation 8:7 The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and **a third of the earth** was burned up, and **a third of the trees** were burned up, and **all the green grass** was burned up.

U.S. _____ **acres** -

_____ **times the size of U.S.**

Revelation 8:9 and **a third of the creatures** which were in the sea and had life, died; and **a third of the ships** were destroyed.

10 The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on **a third of the rivers** and on the **springs of waters**. 11 The name of the star is called **Wormwood**; and **a third of the waters became wormwood**, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

God will allow the two witnesses to be killed.

Revelation 11:7 When they have finished their **testimony**, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.

Satan will go after Israel.

Revelation 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.

God grants the antichrist authority to kill.

Revelation 13:7 It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

The “great harlot” (false religious system)

Revelation 17:6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly.

How should Christians respond to suffering?

1. We should not be _____ by it.

1 Peter 4:12–19 Beloved, do not be **SURPRISED** at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

God uses persecution as a platform to _____ to those carrying

out the opposition.

10 "The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.
11 "When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 6:9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain **because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;**

10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

Wormwood - A bitter, poisonous plant

Deut. 29:18; Prov. 5:4; Jer. 9:15; 23:15; Lam. 3:15, 19; Amos 5:7

12 The fourth angel sounded, and **a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars** were struck, so that **a third of them would be darkened** and the day would not shine for **a third of it**, and the night in the same way.

Why is the devastation "a third?"

Trumpet judgments	Bowl judgments
1/3 vegetation scorched	People are scorched
1/3 sea creatures die	All the creatures die
1/3 of the waters polluted	All the waters are polluted
1/3 of sun, moon, stars are darkened	Complete darkness

Even in God's wrath, He remembers _____ and gives time for sinners to repent and to be saved.

Matthew 24:7b and in various places there will be famines and **EARTHQUAKE.**

God has three massive earthquakes planned:

Revelation 6:12 I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a **great earthquake**; and the sun became black

as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;

Revelation 11:1-13 And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Revelation 16:1-8 And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty.

Famines, earthquakes, and plagues

Luke 21:1-11 and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places **PLAGUES** and famines;

“plagues” [loimonij] diseases / viruses

ESV / NIV / JKV - “pestilence”

ANT - “malignant / contagious or infectious epidemic diseases which are deadly and devastating”

What these diseases will be like.

Revelation 16:2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a **loathsome and malignant sore** on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

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Famines, earthquakes, plagues, and signs from heaven

Luke 21:1-11 and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; “and there will be terrors and great **signs from heaven.**”

8 “But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

4. _____ of believers.

9 “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

“deliver” [paradidomi] - It means to be _____

“because of my name”

Why are we persecuted in Christ's name?

Mark 13:9 “But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them.”

“for My sake?”

“as a testimony to them.”

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