

**Lesson:** Two-Hundred thirty five

**Series:** Signs of the End

**Title:** The Fleeing of Israel

**Text:** Matthew 24:16–27

**Date:** November 22, 2020

Matthew 23:37–39 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. 38 “Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

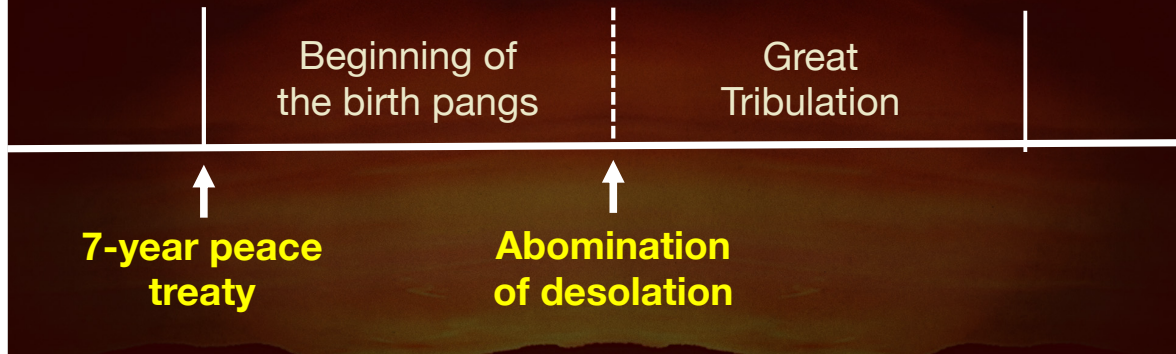
39 “For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me **until you say**, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ”

### **The beginning of birth pangs**

1. Spiritual deception
2. World-wide conflict
3. National disasters
4. Persecution of believers
5. Defection from faith
6. Worldwide proclamation of the gospel

### **7. Abomination of desolation**

## Seven-year Tribulation



Matthew 24:16–20 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. 17 “Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. 18 “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.

### “Judea”

**By God’s sovereign providence Satan will be given full access to His people.**

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.

## Satan and his emissaries

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.

Matthew 24:16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

“**flee**” [pheugo] - Present imperative

“**mountains**”

## The Doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_

God commands His saints to flee (12 times).

- David fled from Saul
- Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled to Egypt
- Moses fled from Pharaoh
- Many of the heroes in the Hebrews 11 fled to “escaped the edge of the sword”
- Elijah fled based on fear of Jezebel’s threats
- Jesus fled from being stone Him

Matthew 10:23 “But whenever they persecute you in one city, **FLEE** to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes.

17 “Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.

18 “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!

Mother’s will be at the greatest risk

“**woe**” - Interjection

**Many will be captured and killed.**

Hosea 13:16 Samaria will be held guilty, For she has rebelled against her God. They will fall by the sword, Their little ones will be dashed in pieces, And their pregnant women will be ripped open.

20 “But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.

“**winter**”

“**on the Sabbath**”

Revelation 12:6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

**“place prepared by God”**

**“nourished”**

**They will be given divine help.**

Revelation 12:14 But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

**"two wings of the great eagle"**

This could be referring to Micheal the archangel.

**Many won't escape.**

Zechariah 13:8–9 “It will come about in all the land,” Declares the Lord, “That **two parts** in it will be “cut off and perish;”

**“two parts”**

9 “And I will bring the **third part** through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’ ”

**“third part”**

It's here that we see - the main purpose of the Tribulation

**“call on His name”**

**“The Lord is my God”**

21 “For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

**“great Tribulation”**

This justifies the approach of the futuristic approach.

**The Preterists view** - Doesn't fit the scale and intensity of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

**The Historicists view** - There have been no events in the past that match all the worldwide, horrific details of the great tribulation.

**The Idealists view** - This can't be a timeless reality because the the tribulation fits within a definite time frame.

3 1/2 years, 40 months, 1260 days, Time, times and half a time

**The Futurists view is the only position that meets all the criteria of these verses.**

- It takes place after 96 A.D. (Book of Rev.)
- The Jews are in focus.
- The great tribulation follows after the rise of a world dictator.

- The scale and intensity will surpass anything the world has ever known.

22 “Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

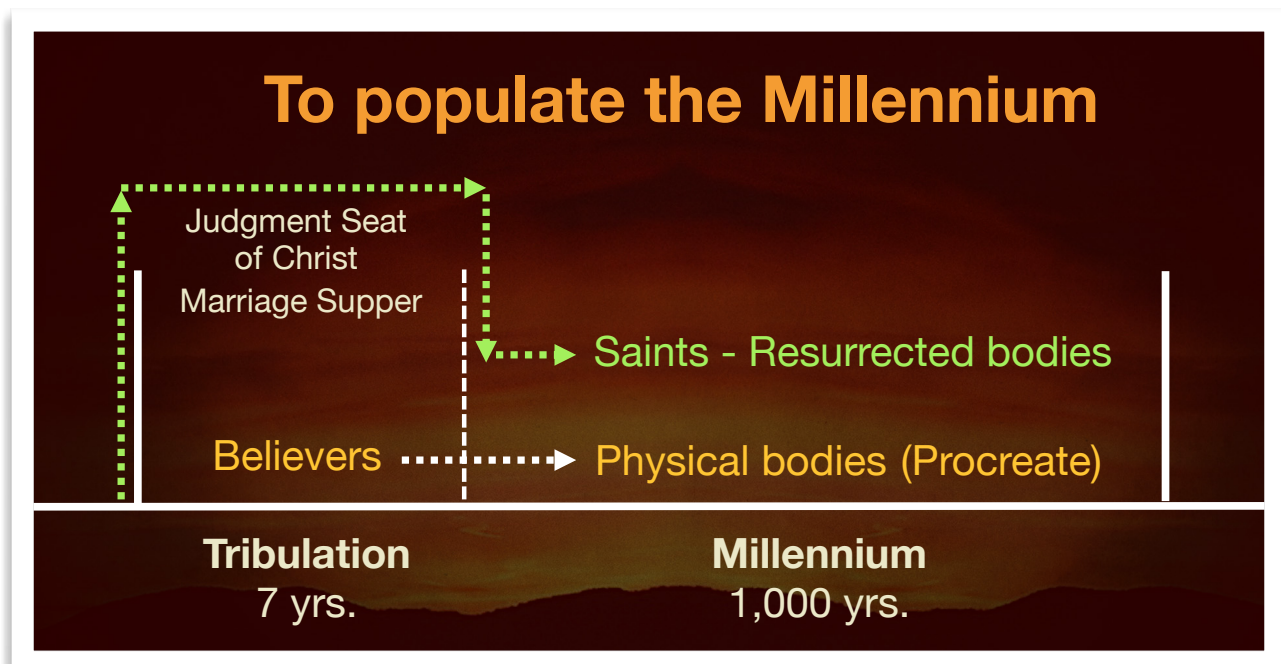
“**cut short**” [koloboo] -

He is not saying He will shorten the 3 1/2 years.

Daniel 9:24 “**Seventy weeks** have been decreed for your people and your holy city, **to finish the transgression**, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

Aorist Indicative - The cutting short was determined in the past, not during the 3 1/2 years.

“**for the sake of the elect**”



**God will protect the elect to \_\_\_\_\_  
the world.**

*Isaiah 65:20–23 “No longer will there be in it an **infant** who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Will be thought accursed.*

*23 “They will not **labor** in vain, Or **bear children** for calamity; For they are the **offspring** of those blessed by the Lord, And their descendants with them.*

*Isaiah 11:6–8 And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. 7 Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The **nursing child** will play by the hole of the cobra, And the **weaned child** will put his hand on the viper’s den.*

*Revelation 20:7–9 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like **the sand of the seashore**. 9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.*



23 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. 24 “For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the 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.

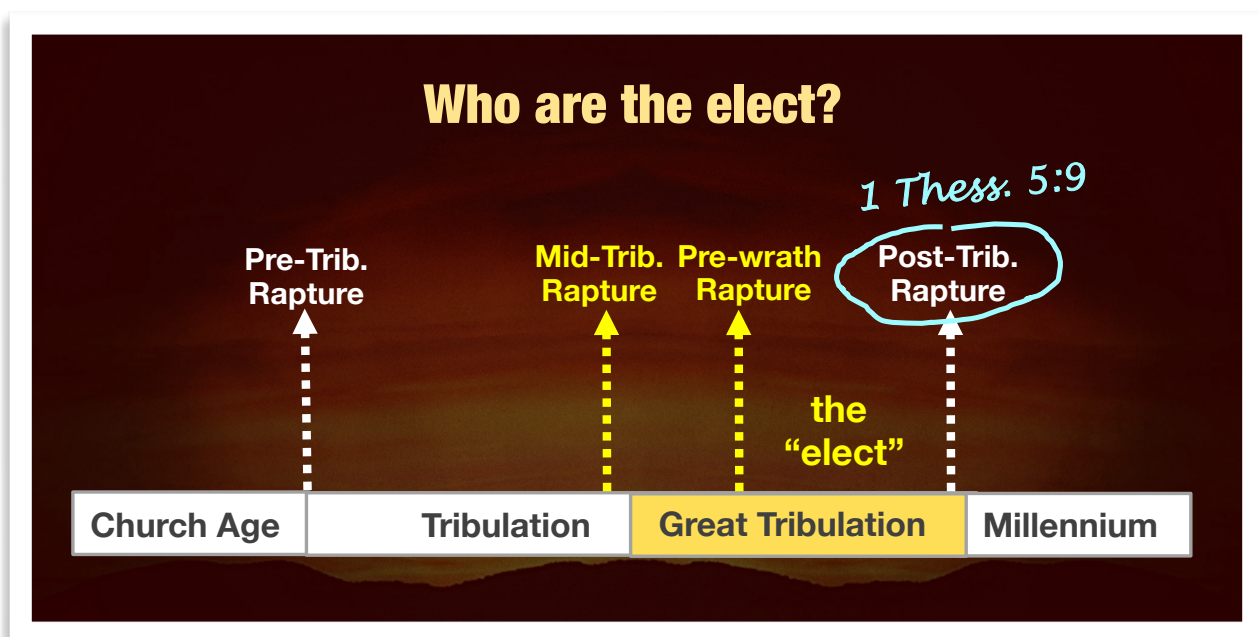
### Application for today -

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.

24 “For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, **if possible, even the elect.**

“**elect**” - Mentioned three times (22, 24, 31)

**Who is this referring to?**



If the “elect” is the church, then it will have to endure God’s wrath during the entire seven-year tribulation. Why? Because this verse falls within the context of the last 3 1/2 years of the great tribulation (Matt 24:21).

**If the “elect” is the church, then it would deny 1 Thess. 5:9.**

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

The elect can be misled on small issues, but it’s impossible for them to follow false christ’s.

John 10:27–28 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

**“My sheep”**

**“they follow Me”**

## Discussion Guide

1. This morning we were introduced to a new doctrine for many. What does the doctrine of fleeing mean and in what circumstances would it be appropriate to flee? When might it be wrong?
2. There's a lot of discussion today about the mark of the beast. What circumstances and events must be in place for believers to know when it has arrived?
3. Jesus mentions the "elect" three times in Matthew 24. Why is that description important for the context? How does it offer confidence to believers.
4. How did today's sermon bring more clarity to your understanding of Christ's return? Did you learn anything new that you didn't know before?
5. There is a rise in prophetic prophecies. Share what you have heard and evaluate whether those ideas hold up in Scripture.

**ANSWERS:** fleeing, repopulate

