

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD LESSON 12

In our last lesson, we discussed the signs of the end times and the rapture of the church. The rapture of the church is the great hope of God's people. Yet, it is not the end of the story.

I. The Tribulation:

- a. This is a seven-year period of tremendous conflict and judgements.
 - i. The Seven Seals (Revelation 6; 8:1)
 - ii. The Seven Trumpets (Revelation 8-9)
 - iii. The Seven Vials (Revelation 16)

The Tribulation will be a time of hail, war, famine, death, and great suffering.

- b. The Tribulation is the fulfillment of Daniel's Seventieth Week. (Read Daniel 9:24-27)
 - i. Daniel prophesied that there were seventy weeks determined for God's people (the nation of Israel).
 - ii. Each week represented seven years. Therefore, he prophesied that there were 490 years determined for the nation of Israel.
 - iii. 7 weeks or 49 years – To the rebuilding of Jerusalem.
 - iv. 62 weeks or 434 years – Till the crucifixion of Messiah.
 - v. That leaves one last week for the nation of Israel – The Tribulation Week.

II. The Reign of the Antichrist:

During the Tribulation, the world will witness the rise of a leader known as the Antichrist.

- a. A one-world government will be controlled by the Antichrist. Revelation chapter 13 describes the Antichrist as a "beast." (Read Revelation 13:4-8)
- b. The Antichrist will turn on Israel:

He will be a global leader who promises peace and will make a covenant with the nation of Israel, possibly restoring to them the Temple Mount. Three-and-a-half years into the covenant he will demand that he himself be worshiped as God. He will then unite the world against the nation of Israel.

Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate...

2 Thessalonians 2:3–4 (NKJV)

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

III. The Battle of Armageddon:

- a. Preparation for the battle: (Read Rev 16:14-16)
- b. Armageddon is the culmination of the Tribulation period. (Read Revelation 19:11-21)
- c. Jesus returns and defeats the Antichrist with the Word of God.
- d. The Beast (Antichrist) is thrown into the Lake of Fire.

IV. The Great White Throne Judgement: (Read Revelations 20:11-15)

Anyone whose name is not written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death.

V. Time Ends... Then Eternity:

- a. Heavens and earth destroyed: (Read 2 Peter 3:10-13)
- b. There will be a new heaven and a new earth: (Read Rev 21:1-4 & Rev 22:1-5)
- c. Characteristics of the new earth:
 - i. The new Jerusalem (John 14:2-3)
 - ii. Filled with righteousness
 - iii. No more pain or tears
 - iv. No more curse or death
 - v. Tree of Life is restored
 - vi. Complete access to God