

## Jacob's Trouble - The Seven Year Tribulation

In recent messages, we have been tracing the great unfolding of God's plan for the end time of this world. Two weeks ago, we were reminded of Christ's command to "Occupy till I come." We need to remain faithful, diligent, and engaged in His work. We are not to be idle spectators of prophecy, but as active stewards of the gospel. Then last week, we were "Surprised by the Rapture," reflecting on that sudden moment when the Church is caught away to meet the Lord in the air, leaving this world to enter a time of unparalleled judgment and upheaval.

Now we turn to that next great chapter in God's prophetic program: the Seven-Year Tribulation.

People who are new to the faith might be impressed by today's sensational headlines of wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes in diverse places, and the surge of globalism. These things actually *are* consistent with the shadows of the coming Antichrist's empire. And, indeed, such things are harbingers of what Scripture foretells. We must remember, though, that since the resurrection of Christ, no further sign has actually been needed to confirm that His return is near. The next event on God's calendar is not another earthquake or another war, but the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God.

The Antichrist will try to proclaim his triumph over a world in catastrophe. But, when we look more deeply into the Tribulation itself, we find far more than the chaos of that time of judgment. We also see the hand of a sovereign God directing every judgment, setting every limit, and fulfilling every prophecy exactly as He has spoken. It is the vindication of righteousness, the consummation of God's covenant promises, and the demonstration of His power over the kingdoms of men.

As we look at this period, we need to not only gain a sober understanding of the coming wrath but also a renewed awe for the God who rules over history. He is

never taken by surprise, never overthrown, and never absent from the affairs of men.

## 1. Antichrist Globalism -

From the earliest pages of Scripture, humanity has shown a persistent desire to unite, not *under* God's authority, but in rebellion *against* it. The first such attempt came under Nimrod at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 10-11). Mankind sought to build "a city and a tower whose top may reach unto heaven," not to glorify God, but to "make a name for ourselves." It was the first recorded experiment in globalism without God. That same rebellious spirit has echoed through the ages and will reach its full expression in the person of the Antichrist.

Centuries after Babel, God revealed to Daniel the prophetic outline of the kingdoms of this world. Nebuchadnezzar saw this in a dream of a great image with its head of gold, chest of silver, belly of bronze, legs of iron, and ten toes partly of iron and partly of clay (Daniel 2). These portrayed successive empires culminating in a final divided global power. That last stage of the image corresponds to the revived form of Gentile dominion that will exist in the last days according to the book of the Revelation. It will be a ten-king confederation that yields its authority to the Antichrist.

Rev 17:12-17 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

...

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

The vision in Daniel does *not* end in

human triumph. Daniel saw a stone "cut out without hands" strike the image at its feet, shattering it completely.

Dan 2:44-45 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream *is* certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

That stone is Christ Himself, the Rock of Ages, who will return to establish the kingdom of God that shall never be destroyed.

Revelation 13 reveals the final form of globalism in its most complete and terrifying expression.

The Beast rises from the sea which represents the turbulent mass of nations. He receives power from the dragon, Satan. He rules over "all kindreds, and tongues, and nations" (Rev. 13:7). His control will be economic, for "no man might buy or sell save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Rev. 13:17). His reign will also be religious, for a second Beast, the False Prophet, compels all to worship the image of the Beast (Rev. 13:14–15). This is the final counterfeit trinity: Satan as the false father, the Antichrist as the false Christ, and the False Prophet as the false spirit.

This global empire, dazzling in its technological reach and apparent invincibility, will fall just as Babel did. Revelation 18 describes the fall of Babylon, the great commercial and political system of the last days. The nations will mourn her ruin, but heaven

will rejoice.

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Every tower men have built to reach heaven has ultimately crumbled under the weight of its own pride. The average length of any regime in history has been about 250 years before it collapses. The Antichrist's global kingdom will be no different. After so many thousands of years of attempting to kick off his kingdom, Satan will get only seven years to try to rule before he is destroyed. What began in rebellion under Nimrod will end in destruction under the Rock: Christ Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords.

## 2. Jacob's Trouble -

The global aspect of the Tribulation may capture the attention of those who study international politics. But, for the believer, there is something far more profound. While the world will be engulfed in upheaval, the spiritual center of the conflict will once again be Israel. Over the last 2500 years believers interpreted their world events as pointing to the end of the world. Of all the kinds of things that have gone on, there is one aspect that stands out in sharp contrast and that has been Satan's focus on the Jews. Satan will not only attempt to dominate the world. There is one particular dimension of his rebellion against God that he has consistently maintained in history and that is to destroy God's people, the Jews. That is why Jeremiah has called the Tribulation, "the time of Jacob's trouble."

Jer 30:7 Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: it *is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

From the beginning, Satan's rebellion

against God has been a struggle for dominion over creation. But when God chose Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to bear His covenant of redemption, Satan's wrath found a distinct focus: God's chosen people. From that moment forward, the great spiritual battle of history has revolved around Israel and the promises of God fulfilled through her.

Pharaoh sought to enslave the children of Israel and destroy their deliverer, Moses. Balak tried to curse them as they entered the Promised Land, and Balaam sought to corrupt them through immorality. Ungodly kings in Israel plunged the nation into idolatry. The Assyrians and Babylonians carried them into captivity. Daniel predicted in chapter 11 that the Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanes, mockingly called *Epimanes*, meaning "the madman," that he would desecrate the Temple by dedicating it to Zeus and offering swine upon the altar. This was done foreshadowing the abomination of desolation to come in the Revelation. The Romans followed, destroying the Temple and renaming the land *Palestine* in an attempt to erase Israel's identity altogether.

Here are about 20 instances of the numerous of Satan's attempt to destroy God's people.

- Babylonian Exile – 586 BC Jerusalem destroyed; Judah's population deported to Babylon.
- Seleucid Persecution – c. 167–160 BC Antiochus IV Epiphanes outlawed Jewish worship and defiled the Temple.
- Roman Destruction of the Second Temple – 70 AD Jerusalem besieged and the Temple burned; nation scattered.
- Bar Kokhba Revolt Suppression – 132–135 Rome crushed the revolt and banned Jews from Jerusalem.
- First Crusade Massacres – 1096 Thousands of Jews slain in Rhineland pogroms by Crusaders.
- Medieval Expulsions – 13th–15th Centuries, Jews expelled from England, France, and other European

realms.

- Spanish Expulsion & Inquisition – 1492 Onward, Jews expelled; converts persecuted under church tribunals.
- Khmelnytsky Massacres – 1648–1657 Cossack uprising slaughtered tens of thousands in Eastern Europe.
- Russian Pogroms – 1881–1917 Widespread mob attacks prompted mass Jewish emigration.
- The Holocaust – 1933–1945 Nazi Germany's systematic genocide of six million Jews.

In addition, there have been many modern and regional persecutions of the Jewish people.

- The Farhud – Iraq, 1941 Anti-Jewish riots in Baghdad left hundreds dead and homes destroyed.
- Expulsions from Arab Lands – 1948–1970s Around 850,000 Jews forced to flee or were expelled from Arab nations.
- Yemenite Exodus (Operation Magic Carpet) – 1949–1950 Airlift rescued nearly 49,000 Jews amid persecution and violence.
- Libyan Pogroms – 1945 & 1948 Riots in Tripoli and Benghazi killed many and erased ancient communities.
- Egyptian Expulsions – 1956 Suez Crisis Thousands of Jews expelled; property seized under Nasser's regime.
- Soviet Antisemitic Campaigns – 1948–1980s Religious, cultural, and emigration restrictions on Jews under Communism.
- Polish "Anti-Zionist" Purge – 1968 Thousands of Polish Jews stripped of citizenship and forced to leave.
- Iraqi Executions – 1969 Nine Jews publicly hanged in Baghdad on false espionage charges.
- North African Exodus – 1950s–1960s Jewish communities fled Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco amid hostility.
- Iranian Revolution Persecution –

1979–Present Post-revolutionary repression and executions drove most Jews from Iran.

We see this same attitude in our present day widespread efforts of Antisemitism. The current attempt at peace in the Middle East has been diminished and called an effort to take away the bargaining power of the so-called Palestinians.

This lying propagandist campaign statement is common and was made regarding the infamy of October 7. It represents the great effort to blame Jews for the trouble of the Middle East.

In the aftermath of [October 7], Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Israeli government launched a genocidal war [propaganda]: a death toll that now far exceeds 67,000 [propaganda]; with the Israeli military bombing homes, hospitals, and schools into rubble [propaganda]. Every day in Gaza has become a place where grief itself has run out of language. I mourn these lives and pray for the families that have been shattered. Our government has been complicit through it all [propaganda, but this was made before the current administration made new headway in a peace agreement].

This must end. The occupation and apartheid [outright disinformation] must end. Peace must be pursued through diplomacy, not war crimes [propaganda], and our government must act to end these atrocities and hold those responsible to account [Antisemitic propaganda].

– Zohran Mamdani

Through every age, Satan has sought to destroy, disperse, or defile the people through whom God would bring His Messiah. Yet Israel has endured, preserved by the faithfulness of God.

And in the coming Tribulation, this long conflict will reach its final and fiercest stage: the time of Jacob's Trouble, when God will once again turn His covenant people's hearts back to Himself and vindicate His promises before all nations.

With the Church removed from the earth at the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:16–17; Rev. 4:1), the task of bearing witness to the gospel will fall to those whom God raises up during the Tribulation.

Revelation 7:3-8 describes 144,000 sealed servants of God, twelve thousand from each tribe of Israel, whom He will protect and empower as faithful evangelists in a darkened world. Alongside them stand the two witnesses of Revelation 11:3-12, who will prophesy in Jerusalem for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth, performing miracles, and calling the nations to repentance. They will work the miracles and signs of Moses and Elijah. Though the Antichrist will slay them, their resurrection and ascension will strike terror into all who see it. Through their testimony and the divine protection upon the 144,000, countless souls from every nation will come to faith.

Rev 7:9-10 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;  
10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

In this final period of judgment and grace, God's mercy still reaches forth, calling men and women to repentance even as His wrath is revealed. This will be the last great revival before Christ's return. It will be a harvest of redemption amid the world's rebellion. Satan will be even *more* focused on pursuing the Jews.

Rev 12:6,13,14,17 And the

woman **[Israel]** fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man *child*.

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

As the Tribulation reaches its climax, the forces of the Antichrist will converge upon the land of Israel in a final attempt to annihilate God's covenant people and overthrow His declared purposes. Revelation 16:13-16 describes demonic spirits proceeding from the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet. They will be deceiving the kings of the earth and gathering them to the place, called in Hebrew, Armageddon. There, the armies of the world will be arrayed not merely against Israel, but against the returning Christ Himself. Yet their rebellion will be short-lived. As Zechariah foretold, "Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations."

Zech 14:1-4 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then shall the LORD go forth,

and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

At His appearing, the heavens will open, and the Lord Jesus will descend as King of kings and Lord of lords. With the sword of His mouth He will destroy the gathered hosts, cast the beast and the false prophet into the lake of fire, and establish His millennial reign from Jerusalem. What humanity calls Armageddon will be the end of human defiance and the beginning of the righteous kingdom of Christ.

### 3. The Battle We Fight -

Behind every human empire stands a spiritual reality. Daniel 10 unveils the existence of "the prince of Persia" and "the prince of Grecia." They are demonic powers influencing earthly kingdoms.

Ezekiel 28 pulls back the veil even further when God speaks to the "prince of Tyrus," and then, shifting language, addresses the power behind the prince which is Satan himself. These passages reveal that global ambitions for domination are never merely political; they are energized by a dark spiritual hierarchy opposing the purposes of God. The Antichrist's future empire will be the culmination of this satanic manipulation of the nations.

Israel is certainly at the center of world conflict, but the stage for that battle will lie in the future after we are raptured out of this world. For now, our fight is in the spiritual realm. The focus on Antisemitism through history will continue into the Tribulation. This should not only awaken us to the need to

stand against the particular hatred of Jews in the world. It should *also* make us focus on our job as God's people grafted into God's kingdom. What we should attend to is the same *mission* of evangelism that the Jews will have in the Tribulation. By having the same mission, as the church we are doing our job to fight against the sin that Satan uses to enslave the world in this present time.

2Cor 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

The weapons of our warfare are used to spread the Gospel and free people who are held captive the world and the devil.

Eph 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of

faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

We are already facing the spirit of the Antichrist.

1John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

1John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

2John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

The thing that Satan tries to ruin by deception is the opportunity to hear and confess the Gospel. We have this grave warning. When the Antichrist of the Tribulation is revealed, those who have heard how to get saved but have resisted will be honored. God will leave them alone just as they wish. The warning is that they will believe the lies of the Antichrist and they will be damned.

2Thess 2:8-12 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 *Even him*, whose coming is

after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

That is the most important battle you will face because that is the battle that damns and sends you to Hell. The devil has no advantage in this. He will not be ruling in Hell. He will be suffering his own punishment. It would be a tragedy if you let the one who ruined eternity for himself deceived you so that you had to suffer that same eternity. Do you know that if you were to die today that you would be with Jesus in glory? You can make that decision right now to ask Him to forgive you and change you into a child of God. We have been given a grave warning.

For the believer, you are involved in the greatest warfare and you cannot be AWOL (away with out leave). If you were crouched in a foxhole in war with an enemy charging down on you, would you turn to your fellow soldier and say, I won't fight with you because you offended me? Our battle is far greater than that. We must enter into the battle with spiritual training and efficient military organization. Let this be the day that you volunteer for the love of those who need to be rescued from Hell.

1. Antichrist Globalism - Rev 17:12-17, Dan 2:44-45, Rev 11:15
2. Jacob's Trouble - Jer 30:7 , Rev 7:9-10, 12:6,13,14,17, Zech 14:1-4
3. The Battle We Fight - 2Cor 10:3-5, Eph 6:10-18, 1John 2:18, 4:3, 2John 1:7, 2Thess 2:8-12