

2010 BIBLICAL STUDY FOCUSING ON

DEATH - AFTERLIFE AND THE END TIME

Session #13

**FOCUS ON THE
TRIBULATION
PERIOD**

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIBULATION?

**STUDY COMPILED, EDITED AND PRESENTED
BY CHAPLAIN LARRY P. VANCE
PASTOR, VINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIBULATION?

#1 A PURPOSE FOR ISRAEL

TO PURGE THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Zech 13:7-9 NLT

⁷⁻ "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, the man who is my partner," says the LORD OF HEAVEN'S ARMIES. "STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, and THE SHEEP WILL BE SCATTERED, and I will turn against the lambs. ⁸⁻ TWO-THIRDS of the people in the land will be cut off and die," says the Lord. "But ONE-THIRD will be left in the land. ⁹⁻ I WILL BRING THAT GROUP THROUGH THE FIRE AND MAKE THEM PURE. I WILL REFINE THEM like silver and purify them like gold. THEY WILL CALL ON MY NAME, AND I WILL ANSWER THEM. I WILL SAY, 'THESE ARE MY PEOPLE,' AND THEY WILL SAY, 'THE LORD IS OUR GOD.'"

**DURING THE TRIBULATION MANY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE
WILL CRY OUT TO GOD FOR SALVATION**

Isa 64:1 NLT

Oh, that you would BURST FROM THE HEAVENS AND COME DOWN! How the mountains would quake in your presence!

Isa 64:5-6 NLT

⁵⁻ YOU WELCOME those who GLADLY DO GOOD, who follow GODLY WAYS. But you have been VERY ANGRY WITH US, for we are NOT GODLY. We are CONSTANT SINNERS; how can PEOPLE LIKE US BE SAVED? ⁶⁻ We are ALL INFECTED and IMPURE WITH SIN. When WE DISPLAY OUR RIGHTEOUS DEEDS, they are nothing but FILTHY RAGS. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and OUR SINS SWEEP US AWAY like the wind.

Isa 64:8-9 NLT

⁸⁻ And yet, O Lord, YOU ARE OUR FATHER. We are the CLAY, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand. ⁹⁻ DON'T BE SO ANGRY WITH US, LORD. PLEASE DON'T REMEMBER OUR SINS FOREVER. Look at us, we pray, and see that we are all your people.

#2 A PURPOSE FOR THE GENTILES

**GOD WILL PUNISH THE GENTILE NATIONS
AND ALL UNBELIEVERS
FOR REJECTING JESUS CHRIST
AND FOR PERSECUTING GOD'S PEOPLE**

Isa 13:11-13 NLT

¹¹⁻ "**I, THE LORD**, **WILL PUNISH THE WORLD FOR ITS EVIL** and **THE WICKED FOR THEIR SIN**. **I WILL CRUSH THE ARROGANCE OF THE PROUD** and **HUMBLE THE PRIDE OF THE MIGHTY**. ¹²⁻ **I WILL MAKE PEOPLE SCARCER THAN GOLD**—more rare than the fine gold of Ophir. ¹³⁻ For **I WILL SHAKE THE HEAVENS**. The **EARTH WILL MOVE FROM ITS PLACE** when **THE LORD OF HEAVEN'S ARMIES DISPLAYS HIS WRATH IN THE DAY OF HIS FIERCE ANGER**."

Joel 3:2 NLT

I will gather the **ARMIES OF THE WORLD** into the **VALLEY OF JEHOSEPHAT**. There I **WILL JUDGE THEM**. *FOR HARMING MY PEOPLE, my special possession, for scattering my people among the nations, and for dividing up my land.

Obad 15-16 NLT

¹⁵⁻ "The day is near when **I, THE LORD**, will **JUDGE ALL GODLESS NATIONS!** As you have done to Israel, so it will be done to you. All your evil deeds will fall back on your own heads. ¹⁶⁻ Just as you swallowed up my people on my holy mountain, so you and the surrounding nations will swallow the punishment I pour out on you. Yes, **ALL YOU NATIONS WILL DRINK AND STAGGER AND DIS-APPEAR FROM HISTORY**.

#3 A PURPOSE FOR GOD

**ABOUT 35 HUNDRED YEARS AGO
PHARAOH **MOCKED** THE GOD OF HEAVEN**

Ex 5:2 NIV

PHARAOH said, "WHO IS THE LORD, THAT I SHOULD OBEY HIM AND LET ISRAEL GO? I DO NOT KNOW THE LORD and I will not let Israel go."

**IN THE NEXT 8 CHAPTERS OF EXODUS
GOD TOOK **PHARAOH'S CHALLENGE**
AND **PROVED TO HIM** AND HIS **MAGICIANS**
AND **ALL THE PEOPLE**
WHO HE IS**

WHEN GOD HAD **FINISHED WITH THE TEN PLAGUES
PHARAOH WAS **BEGGING** THE **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL** TO LEAVE**

THE ANTICHRIST WILL HAVE THE SAME SPIRIT AS PHARAOH

HE WILL DENIE THE TRUE GOD

AND DECLARE HIMSELF TO BE GOD

GOD WILL ONCE AGAIN **POUR OUT HIS PLAGUES**

TO PROVE HIS POWER

AND VINDICATE HIS REPUTATION

THE REBELLIOUS WORLD WILL **KNOW THAT**

THE GOD OF THE BEGINNING IS STILL THE TRUE GOD

#4 A PURPOSE FOR SATAN

**GOD WILL USE THE TRIBULATION TO UN-MASK SATAN
AS A LIAR THIEF AND MURDERER**

Rev 12:12 NIV

Therefore REJOICE, YOU HEAVENS and YOU WHO DWELL IN THEM! But WOE TO THE EARTH and the SEA, because the DEVIL HAS GONE DOWN TO YOU! He is filled with FURY, because HE KNOWS that HIS TIME IS SHORT."

IN SPEAKING TO THOSE WHO SERVE SATAN

JESUS HAD THIS TO SAY

John 8:44-47 NKJV

⁴⁴⁻ YOU ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL, and the DESIRES OF YOUR FATHER YOU WANT TO DO. He was a MURDERER from the BEGINNING, and DOES NOT STAND in the TRUTH, because there is NO TRUTH IN HIM. When he SPEAKS A LIE, HE SPEAKS FROM HIS OWN RESOURCES, FOR HE IS A LIAR AND THE FATHER OF IT. ⁴⁵⁻ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶⁻ Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷⁻ HE WHO IS OF GOD HEARS GOD'S WORDS; therefore YOU DO NOT HEAR, BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT OF GOD."

#5 A PURPOSE FOR BELIEVERS

**JESUS WILL USE THE TRIBULATION
TO HARVEST MORE SOULS THAN **ANYONE CAN COUNT****

Rev 7:9-10 NLT

⁹- After this I saw a VAST CROWD, TOO GREAT TO COUNT, from EVERY NATION and TRIBE and **PEOPLE** and **LANGUAGE**, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were **CLOTHED IN WHITE ROBES** and HELD PALM BRANCHES IN THEIR HANDS. ¹⁰- And they were SHOUTING WITH A MIGHTY SHOUT, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!"

Rev 7:13-14 NLT

¹³- Then one of the twenty-four elders asked me, "Who are these who are CLOTHED IN WHITE? Where did they come from?" ¹⁴- And I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "**THESE ARE THE ONES WHO DIED IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION. THEY HAVE WASHED THEIR ROBES IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND MADE THEM WHITE.**"