

### Part 3

We are studying ***The Tribulation***; it is the final 7 years of human government, the final, most evil, 7 years of human government led by the most evil human governor since human history began: all of history's many Adolph Hitler/Stalin-types rolled into one, the one finally indwelt and fully possessed by Satan, himself... the Antichrist. The Tribulation will be the 70th Week of Daniel: the final 7 years before the Lord Jesus Christ returns to Earth, at Armageddon, when He will destroy all His enemies and then set up His Earthly Kingdom where He will rule and reign for 1000 years: The Millennium. We, the True Church, His Body and Bride will rule and reign with Him for 1000 years and then forever after He destroys the present Heavens and Earth and recreates a New Heavens and a New Earth wherein only God's Righteousness remains forever.

The Tribulation has not, yet, begun even though much of what we see in the World, today, looks very much like what we read, in God's Word regarding the Tribulation... wars, rumors of wars, famine, disease, pandemics, unbridled inflation, crime, filth and debauchery... all of these and so much more... it's happening all around us at breakneck speed. Never before has so much evil been happening all around the World with so much quantity and frequency; it's just like a woman's labor pains but instead of a beautiful baby being born, that which is about to be born is the unimaginable evil of the Antichrist and his kingdom during the Tribulation.

We are watching people around the World become more and more ready and willing to give up more and more of their rights and freedom in exchange ***for the promise of peace and safety***... people are increasingly fearful of the lawlessness we see growing exponentially, daily, around us and around the World.

*'For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. <sup>2</sup> For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> For **when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup> But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. <sup>5</sup> Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. <sup>6</sup> Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.'*** 1Thes 4:16

When Jesus returns for us, at the Rapture, will it be as a thief in the night. Then will begin the Tribulation.

As we've studied what God has told us about that very significant 7-year period, the difficulty has been in not getting lost in the details. We've mostly studied what will be happening on the Earth, that is, the 'tribulation' God causes to the inhabitants of the Earth. We've not looked at what is happening in Heaven except insofar as the entire revelation is given to John while he is in Heaven but we are concentrating on God's Wrath poured out on the World which has spurned His Love, Grace, Mercy and Salvation which were poured out on the World without measure during the previous 2000 years of the time of the Church.

We saw the 'Four Horsemen' beginning with the Antichrist going out conquering and to conquer. Then we saw the 'Lamb of God' loosing the 7 Seals of a Heavenly Scroll.

When He loosed the 7th Seal, that was the preparation of 7 angels to sound the 7 'Trumpet Judgments.' The 5th Trumpet brought the demonic locusts and the 6th Trumpet brought the 200 million demonic horsemen. The locusts were not allowed to kill, only to torment; the demonic horsemen, however, were allowed to kill fully 1/3 of all humans still alive at that time.

Even so, after all that's gone before, up to these two horrific Trumpet Judgments, John writes: *'And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: <sup>21</sup> Neither repented they of their **murders**, nor of their **sorceries**, nor of their **fornication**, nor of their **thefts**.'*

Rev 9:20

This will be a time of 'open season' for hunting down those who refuse to worship the Antichrist or receive the Mark of the Beast and who turn, in faith, to the Lord Jesus Christ. They will be raped, murdered, their belongings

stolen while all the time, followers of the Antichrist will be feasting on drugs of every kind which is sorcery. A huge percentage will willingly give up freedom, worship the Antichrist and receive his mark on their right hands or foreheads and kill Christians in exchange for unlimited drugs and alcohol.

This sounds exactly like what we see on the news every day: **murder** everywhere, **thefts** and looting following, gross **fornication**/debauchery as everything becomes about sex and one's chosen sexual identity and, of course, **sorcery** through drugs as more and more are legalized and made widely available. (In case you've forgotten, the Greek word used for sorcery is '*pharmakeia*' from which we get pharmacy... drugs: drugs being used for intercourse between the physical realm and the spiritual realm.

After the 6th Trumpet Judgment, John writes: '*... seven thunders uttered their voices. <sup>4</sup> And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.*' Rev 10:3

Daniel was told: '*But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book (of Daniel), even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*' *Much of his Prophecy was not meant for his time but, rather, for the 'time of the end.'*... that is our time, now, and soon into the Tribulation. Dan 12:4

There are approx. 150,000 airline flights per day and over 1 billion automobiles! That's a lot of running to and fro! Before 1900, human knowledge doubled every 100 years. By 2013 it was doubling every 12 months and now it is doubling faster than every 12 hours. That's a lot of knowledge being increased!

We do not know what John heard in the '7 Thunders.' They are not simply saying something interesting; in light of the demonic locusts and horsemen of the 5th and 6th Trumpet Judgments, no one would probably even believe it if God had revealed it. Doubtless, they have been reserved for some of the worst part of the Tribulation: seven previously unknown, undisclosed, unimaginable surprise horrors kept for the Antichrist and his followers. Every terror dreamt and created by Hollywood will have been but a shadow of what God has in store when His Wrath and Judgment are finally poured out without measure.

Why wouldn't God want us to not know what these 7 Judgments will be? Perhaps they are so horrible, so unbelievable, and so 'outlandish' that if we tried to warn people of their coming, they would simply laugh, mock and turn away. Think about it: the Rapture: even Christians refuse to believe in it. The demonic locusts, etc: again, even Christians try to explain them away.

God is unbelievable, unimaginable, incomprehensible, and impenetrable but He is not untrue nor is He a liar.

The next thing we see are God's 'Two Witnesses:' '*And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth... And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. <sup>6</sup> These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.* Rev 11:3 (These are thought to be Elijah and Moses or Enoch. Both Elijah and Enoch were taken up to Heaven without having died. They are able to command curses like those of Moses.) <sup>7</sup> *And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit (the Antichrist) shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. <sup>8</sup> And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup> And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. <sup>10</sup> And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. <sup>11</sup> And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. <sup>12</sup> And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, **Come up hither.** And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. <sup>13</sup> And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. <sup>14</sup> The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.'* Rev 11

The Two Witnesses are on Earth during the first half of the Tribulation. Next, we see a combination of things: Satan is cast out of Heaven. The Antichrist seems to be killed and then come back to life. All are forced to worship the Antichrist and receive the Mark of the Beast.

*'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 forever and ever.'* Rev 11:15

*'And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, <sup>7</sup> Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. <sup>9</sup> And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, <sup>10</sup> The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.'* Rev 14:6

This is the time of which Jesus spoke in Matt 24: *'And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.'*

Next, we see a picture of God's slaughter of the wicked which culminates at Armageddon:

*'And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. <sup>17</sup> And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup> And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. <sup>19</sup> And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. <sup>20</sup> And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.'* Rev 14:16

This is how great will be the slaughter throughout the World.

*'And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.'* Rev 15:1

These will be the final plagues of God's Wrath.

*'And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles... And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels **seven golden vials full of the wrath of God**, who liveth for ever and ever.'* Rev 15:6

These last plagues, in Revelation 16, come fast and furious... like the grand finale of a fireworks show; these are what lead up to Armageddon: *'And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. <sup>2</sup> And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.'* Rev 16:1

These are terrible sores perhaps they are even the result of a new genetic strain of 'monkey pox' which is being set up as the next big pandemic... *if they could only get it to spread beyond the homosexual community.* And, just as monkey pox is, so far, affecting primarily the homosexual community, these foul, horrible sores are affecting only the 666 community, only those who've willingly received the Mark of the Beast.

The old English word, 'noisome' doesn't mean noisy/loud; it means, foul, evil, disgusting, noxious.

*'And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.'*

The blood of a dead person is thick and viscous; imagine all the sea being like that with everything in it dying.

*'And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. <sup>5</sup> And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. <sup>6</sup> For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. <sup>7</sup> And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.'*

We'll look at the Millennium, perhaps next, but I think what we are seeing through the Tribulation is that God is destroying almost everything: life in the seas and waterways all die; all the greenery gets burned up resulting in the starvation of most or all of land life... a complete breakdown of the Earthly kingdom which will then be able to grow back into a flourishing paradise in a relatively short time, just a few years. He will raze it down to its very foundation. Later, after the Millennium, God will completely destroy everything, the Heavens and the Earth, and recreate everything again in absolute perfection and sinlessness.

*'And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. <sup>9</sup> And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.'*

Imagine: they took the Mark of the Beast; they are without hope; like brute beasts, all they can think of is to blaspheme the name of God. They are almost in Hell already: no hope, miserable and gnashing their teeth at God; they will not repent; they cannot repent because God will not grant them the gift of repentance. Remember: this is war! The God of Vengeance is at war and He will take no prisoners... no Grace, no Mercy!

*'And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, <sup>11</sup> **And blasphemed the God of heaven** because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.'* All these plagues are being compounded on those before.

These people!! Every time: *'And they blasphemed the God of Heaven!'* All these are showing forth the Righteousness of God's Wrath being poured out. Just like us, these people deserve to go to Hell.

*'And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. (So they could make their way to the Battle of Armageddon) <sup>13</sup> And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. <sup>14</sup> For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, **which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.***

*<sup>15</sup> Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. <sup>16</sup> And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue **Armageddon.**'*

Demonic spirits go out and draw the remaining armies of the World to their doom at Armageddon.

Here is the last great battle: Armageddon! The blood will run 5 feet deep for 200 miles! This will be the last, great slaughter until 1000 years later at the end of the Millennium.

*'And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, **It is done.** <sup>18</sup> And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. <sup>19</sup> And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. <sup>20</sup> And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. <sup>21</sup> And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.'*

The greatest earthquake ever with huge boulders of ice, the size of gallon jugs, traveling 212 mph, crashing down and destroying everyone and everything! There is nothing left; everything will be flattened and demolished. This is the World in which the Lord Jesus Christ will set up His Kingdom on Earth. But... God will protect His elect through all of this so that there will be representatives, left alive, of every nation, tribe and tongue to repopulate the Earth in Jesus Christ's Millennial Kingdom. From that time onward, everything will begin to grow back without the restriction and suppression of God's curse from the Garden. So much will be starting over as it was at Creation.

It's possible that all animals and plants will have been wiped out. Perhaps the Lord Jesus Christ will create all new plants and a new pair of every animal creature: male and female, to reproduce and fill the Earth as He rules and reigns in Righteousness for 1000 years and then forever as we rule and reign with Him as His beloved Bride.