

### Part 2

Remember... What is the 7-year Tribulation and what is its primary purpose?

The Tribulation is better understood by its proper name: '**The 70th Week of Daniel**,' the final 7- year week of the great prophecy from the angel, Gabriel, to Daniel, 'The 70 Weeks of Daniel.' The Tribulation is the 70th Week which was postponed for nearly 2000 years, from the end of the 69th Week of Daniel which was when the Lord Jesus Christ presented Himself as King at His 'Triumphal Entry,' after which He was rejected, crucified and resurrected.

Remember God's purpose for all 70 of those Weeks of years, 490 years from Daniel 9:24:

*'Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city:*

- 1) to finish the transgression, and*
- 2) to make an end of sins, and*
- 3) to make reconciliation for iniquity, and*
- 4) to bring in everlasting righteousness, and*
- 5) to seal up the vision and prophecy, and*
- 6) to anoint the most Holy.'*

490 years were determined, by God, during which to accomplish those six purposes.

Because Israel rejected her King, at the end of the 69th Week, none of those 6 purposes were completed. And therefore, the 70th Week was postponed. This was, of course, God's plan all along; His intention was to insert that 2000 year gap between the end of the 69th Week and the beginning of the 70th Week for the purpose of creating and calling His chosen Bride for His Son. At the end of that gap of time, when His planned moment arrives, He will send His Son down into the clouds to call His Bride up to Himself, in the Rapture and then, shortly thereafter, the 70th Week, the Tribulation will begin as the Antichrist confirms a 7-year 'Covenant,' probably between Israel and her neighbors.

God's secondary purpose for Daniel's 70th Week, the Tribulation, is to finally judge, condemn and pass sentence on the World that has, for 6000 years, rejected Him and His love, grace and mercy. Instead, the World will finally receive His anger, judgment and wrath which has been stored up for all that time thanks to His patience and forbearance.

*'But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God'* Rom 2:5

After the Four Horsemen we saw at the beginning of the Tribulation, the Lamb of God begins to open the Seven Seals of a Heavenly Scroll. When the Seventh Seal is opened, the next seven judgments are released with seven angels sounding their seven trumpets, the Seven Trumpet Judgments.

Remember, all during the time that God's Judgments are falling on the World, His primary work is being accomplished in Israel, completing those six purposes of Daniel's 70 Weeks.

*'And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.'* Rev 8:6

*'The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.'* Rev 8:7

Several times in Scripture, God uses hail and fire together in Judgment; here, they are also mixed with blood. A third of trees will be burned up and all green grass will be burned up. Just imagine! What a blow to tree hugging eco-warriors! All they hold dear to be burned up. These judgments are one of the reasons so many deny the truth of Scripture regarding the Rapture, the Tribulation and the Millennium; God loves and reveres His creation, they claim; God would never destroy nature; the Earth is precious to Him! This kind of throws a wrench into that type of false belief system.

*'And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; <sup>9</sup> And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.'* Rev 8:8

We must imagine what, exactly, John is seeing here. Here, he says, 'as it were' so that we know it is not an actual mountain. It sounds like a very large comet or meteorite falls into the sea which causes a third of sea life to die and a third of all shipping to be destroyed. Something like this would naturally cause great, huge waves which then capsize many ships. Once God really winds up to bring His judgments, they seem to come fast and furious, one right after the other.

*'And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; <sup>11</sup> And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.'* Rev 8:10 This sounds exactly like a huge comet; God set it on its course, at Creation, and planned for its arrival at just that day.

Right on the heels of God's Judgment on the seas, another great comet like object plunges onto the land but hitting and turning poison all the rivers and their headwaters. What an unbelievably terrible time to be alive but even so, as we learned with the opening of the 5th Seal, many will try to hide themselves in the rocks and caves and wish they could be caved in upon so as to die.

*'And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise'* Rev 8:12

Just as could be seen in the judgments God poured out, through Moses, upon the Egyptians, often a natural progression can be seen in succeeding judgments.

In Egypt: 1. waters to blood 2. frogs leave the waters 3-4 lice and flies from dead frogs 5-6 disease and boils... Here, a third part of trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. That will cause an unbelievably huge amount of smoke rising up into the atmosphere and stratosphere. In 2020 we saw how much of the sun's light can be darkened with just a few large forest fires; not only was the sun's light a brownish-orange color, but we couldn't even see the moon or stars. This fourth Trumpet Judgment will be far worse still.

*'And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!'* Rev 8: 13 It's been bad so far but it will be far worse still!

Won't that be a terrible thing to hear; an angel with a loud voice crying out that the three remaining Trumpet Judgments will be even worse than what has been so far! But then, even worse will be the coming Judgments of the 'Bowls of Wrath' and the undisclosed 'Thunders!'

Even though God's primary purpose for the 7-year Tribulation, Daniel's 70th Week, is the completion of His scourging of Israel, the Gentile World is really going to be hammered like never, ever before in all of the History of the World... except, of course, when God destroyed everything and everyone save 8 of Noah's family through the Flood. But... other than that... the Tribulation will be horrible. Actually... the Tribulation will, in some ways, be even worse than the flood except for the fact that God, in His Love, Grace and Mercy has planned to call to Himself, in Salvation, many multiplied millions or even billions. The great End-Times harvest of souls which false teachers have been predicting for many years, to be 'right around the corner,' has never been 'right around the corner.' It will only happen as God judges the World and, at the same time, claims for Himself all those He chose and elected for Himself from the foundation of the World.

Now the 3 'Woes' begin. Woe #1: *'And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. <sup>2</sup> And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.* Rev 9:1

This 'star' is the angel who keeps the key to the Bottomless Pit. He is sent down to open the Bottomless Pit to release these demonic locusts to go about their cruel ministry for 5 months. This is the same angel who will later, upon Jesus' return at Armageddon, come down from Heaven again to lay hold of Satan and to bind him and cast him into the Bottomless Pit to be imprisoned there for 1000 years.

How, we wonder, could a pit be without a bottom? If we were to drill a large hole in the Earth's surface and if we could continue drilling straight down, eventually, we would actually break through the Earth's surface on the other side. If we jumped into the bottomless pit we would fall down toward the center. Then, from the Earth's center, onward, we would be traveling up for a short distance before gravity grabbed us again and pulled us down to the center.

Terminal Velocity is the maximum speed something will reach while falling through air or, our atmosphere. That number is 122 mph. The diameter of the Earth is roughly 7,926 miles. Half that, the distance to the center of the Earth is 3,963 miles... divided by 122 mph = 32 hours falling to the center of the Earth.

Imagine: if we were to jump into that bottomless pit, gravity would pull us to the center of the Earth. Then we would suddenly be falling upward for a short way and back and forth until we would come to rest, floating at the center of the Earth... that is how God's Bottomless might work... floating might be 'fun' for a day or two but pretty soon... that would be a pretty miserable way to spend 1000 years but it would be far more desirable than being in the Lake of Fire where Satan will eventually spend Eternity.

*Woe #2: 'And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. <sup>4</sup> And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.'* Rev 9:4

Remember, in the first Trumpet Judgment, all the green grass was burned up; it has apparently grown back. Now we begin to see the severe judgments of God which people simply refuse to believe; even God could not do something like that... since none of us have ever seen anything like that... but that's just the point you foolish people who refuse to believe God and His Word! This is supposed to be more terrible and more terrifying than anything which has happened before; that is God's purpose in His horrifying wrath poured out on the World. This is what happens to a World that willingly and viciously rejects, humiliates and crucifies the Beloved Son of God. This is what happens when God's patience and forbearance finally reach their end! This is God, digging deep into His creativity for the time when He has planned real terror and pain.

Notice John says, '... out of the smoke came locusts...' He doesn't say, 'like locusts,' or 'similar to locusts,' he says locusts and then he begins to describe what he is seeing. This is not John seeing helicopters or any other such explanation; this is John describing the true terror of the Tribulation.

These locusts, coming out of the bottomless pit are certainly demonic in origin and yet, they are evil spirits shaped just like John describes. God has given them the power to inflict searing pain, like a scorpion, but not lethal pain even though those attacked by them might wish for death.

*'And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. <sup>6</sup> And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.'* Rev 9:5

They can only sting and torment non believers. The ones protected are the 144,000 whom we saw were 'sealed' with the Seal of God in their foreheads. The assumption can be that this is before the 144,000 have begun leading people to faith in Jesus Christ **or** that once anyone does come to faith in Jesus Christ, they, too, like the 144,000 are also sealed in their foreheads with the Seal of God... His Seal of Ownership and protection.

Now see just how terrifying and horrifying these demonic locusts really are:

*'And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. <sup>8</sup> And they had hair as the hair of women, and their*

*teeth were as the teeth of lions. <sup>9</sup> And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. <sup>10</sup> And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.'* Rev 9:7

Doubtless, this will be the absolute worst 5 months of any of these people's lives!... so far! As we walk down the street, as we drive down the road, as we stroll through the marketplace, as we watch people on television and in movies... these are the people who will endure this horror, in just a short time from now, and the same people who would laugh in our faces if we tried to explain this and warn them of what's to come... and yet, that is our charge from the Lord Jesus Christ to *'Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; <sup>4</sup> And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. <sup>5</sup> But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.'* 2Tim 4:2

*'Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. <sup>22</sup> And of some have compassion, making a difference: <sup>23</sup> And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.'* Jude v22

These are locusts shaped like horses with armor, with crowns on their heads and human-like faces with long hair and terrible teeth; they have scorpion-like tails with horrible stingers; for 5 months they will terrorize all those who have resisted God's Grace.

Imagine something like this flying all around; I would guess that their lion-like teeth will make it possible for them to chew right through screens and doors and even walls; there will be no hiding from these little monsters. I think they will be, perhaps, larger than normal locusts but still be giant bugs. Imagine the terror!

*'And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.'* Rev 9:11

This angel, this 'fallen angel,' appears to have the authority of ruling within the Bottomless Pit. He does not hold the key and he doesn't appear to be able to come and go at will. Just like Satan has authority, allowed by God, over all the Kingdom of Darkness, so, too, does this 'Abaddon,' or, 'Apollyon' have authority there.

Remember the angel flying, crying out, 'Woe, woe, woe!'

*Now we read: 'One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter. <sup>13</sup> And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, <sup>14</sup> Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. <sup>15</sup> And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. <sup>16</sup> And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand, thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. <sup>18</sup> By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. <sup>19</sup> For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.'* Rev 9:12  
Brimstone is burning sulphur.

An army of two hundred million; we've been told by many teachers that this is the Communist Chinese Army; that is not true. When they claim this is the Chinese Army with fire-shooting tanks, it simply shows that they refuse to believe that God is capable of creating and doing what His Word says He can and will do. These are not even human soldiers; like the locusts, they are demonic creatures. They've been designed by God to create the greatest amount of terror possible. Remember, God is no longer exercising patience, forbearance, grace or mercy. This is full on war! Now He is the God of War, the God of Wrath, the God of Vengeance. This is God doing what only He can and it is His vengeance poured out on men and women who've rejected Him and spit in the face of His Grace and Mercy.

This is the time against which we should be warning people.