

A Crash Course on the Coming Tribulation

Four Horsemen and the Coming World Madness – Part I

Revelation 6:1a and Selected Scripture

Introduction

If you ask the average person on the street about national security, world peace attempts, natural resources, and the energy crisis, you will hear everything but optimism. There is uneasiness in our country that has not gone away – in fact, it is felt by nearly everyone today.

We have watched rogue nations acquire sophisticated weapon systems that threaten the balance of world powers. In recent months, we have listened to political leaders boast of their growing nuclear capabilities.

Diplomacy efforts in the Middle East regions are attempting once again to reconcile the irreconcilable.

The rise of the Far East now finds China with more than two hundred million military troops and currency reserves that recently passed the trillion dollar mark – currency reserves that grow at the rate of thirty million dollars an hour. Along with their exploding economy is a war machine that insiders admit is being prepared for war.

The European Union continues to emerge as a growing world power and the prospects of global governance is the ongoing cry of the United Nations.

We have listened to leaders predict the danger of earth running out of natural resources and a coming ecological crisis.

According to the National Institutes of Health, infectious diseases remain the leading cause of death worldwide, and the third leading cause of death in the United States. Diseases once thought to be obsolete have re-emerged as a global threat, including an antibiotic resistant form of tuberculosis which has surfaced in different countries worldwide.ⁱ

If there were ever times that could be called troubled, these are the times.

I found it interesting to read the results of a *US News and World Report* poll which revealed that 66% of Americans, including at least one-third of them who never attend church, believe that the world is going to end or be destroyed within the next few years.

We are not exactly optimistic about the future, are we?

Whether any of our current crises have anything to do with the ending of the church age or not, one thing is certain – what we are experiencing today is nothing compared to the global crisis that will hit this planet in the future. When it will arrive, no one knows.

This is a period of time known as the Tribulation. We are about to begin a study in the book of Revelation in which we will discover the significance of this to planet Earth and the human race.

I invite your attention back to the book of Revelation.

In our study of Revelation chapter 5, we celebrated with the redeemed and the hosts of heaven in singing,

*... “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain . . .”
(Revelation 5:12a)*

In fact, we played the role of the angelic beings, who shouted,

... “Amen!” (Revelation 5:14a)

“Amen,” meaning “It’s true!” Jesus Christ is indeed worthy of all,

*... blessing and honor and glory and might...
(Revelation 5:13b)*

Now, the next scene opens for us. John records the most amazing and horrifying events which will occur on planet Earth known as the Tribulation.

In Revelation chapter 6, in verse 1a, John says,
Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals . . .

The opening of this first seal signals the beginning of the Tribulation. This is the hour of testing which will impact the human race and, in fact, the entire universe.

Today I want to introduce this period of great horror, beginning in Revelation chapter 6, known as the Tribulation. With the help of our Lord, I will answer thirteen questions in order to set the stage for the opening of this first seal that precedes the coming of the first horseman.

Questions on the Tribulation

1. What exactly is the Tribulation?

I would summarize the Tribulation as a time of unparalleled human suffering, demonic boldness, cosmic disturbance, Jewish awakening, gospel preaching, and global crises – more than the world has ever witnessed. The categorical heading for the Tribulation is “The Wrath of God Revealed,” and for seven years, the earth will stagger under the weight of God’s wrath.

The first five chapters of Revelation revealed the sovereignty of Christ in His church, but the next chapters of this book will reveal the severity of Christ in His wrath or chastisement.

One author said that the Tribulation is “hell on earth” for seven years.ⁱⁱ

The term “Tribulation” covers the entire seven years, but the term “Great Tribulation” is used by our Lord in Matthew 24:21 to describe the last half of the Tribulation.

There are those who believe the rapture will occur at this point – the midway point – believing in what they call a pre-wrath rapture. However, the title “pre-wrath rapture” exposes one of the primary flaws with their view, since the first three and a half years are certainly experiencing the wrath of God as well.

Christ, in fact, referred to these first three and a half years as labor pains. Try telling your wife as she begins labor that she is not really feeling anything.

I do not know how to view the four horsemen of Revelation 6 as anything other than expressions of God’s terrifying wrath, which will result in horrifying conditions on the planet.

2. When does the Tribulation begin?

This is a little like asking, “When does the rapture occur?”

Speculation abounds on this, so I will settle it with a one-word answer – “Soon!” In fact, sooner than ever!

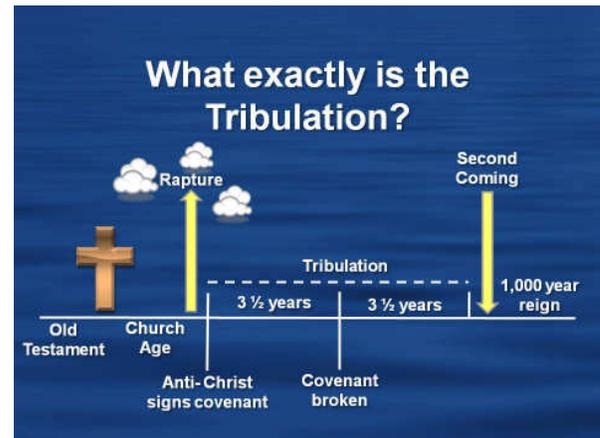
I can remember passionate arguments claiming that the rapture would occur in 1976, 1988, 1989, 1994, the year 2000, and the fall of 2006. All these prophecy experts have one thing in common – gratitude that they are not treated as Old Testament prophets who made a mistake, which resulted in stoning.

One book published in 1917 made headlines as it attempted to prove that the events leading up to World War I could only mean the Tribulation was at

hand. Twenty-five years later, another group of authors observed the rise of Hitler and said that he fit the description of the antichrist perfectly.ⁱⁱⁱ

Others have made similar arguments about Mussolini, Stalin, Henry Kissinger, and even Bill Clinton. I do not think so.

I believe the scriptures reveal that the Tribulation period will begin some time after the rapture of the church.



As I have mentioned before, in chapter 6 of Revelation, as the Tribulation period begins, there is absolutely no reference to the church on earth. Based on what we have studied in chapters 4 and 5 of Revelation, I believe the church age has ended and we have been worshipping the Lord, represented by the elders in heaven.

Events such as the Bema seat, the rewarding of the saints and the return of those rewards to the Lord will all occur while the Tribulation is taking place on planet Earth.

In other words, the rapture is still in the future because the church is still on the planet, as far as I can tell. And the Tribulation is still in the future because it cannot occur until after the rapture.

There are those who believe the Tribulation has already occurred. Because of their spiritualization of Bible prophecy, they believe that we are currently living in the millennia period.

A literal interpretation of the texts of scripture reveals nothing in history that matches all of the events described by Christ in Matthew 24 or in Revelation 6 and onward.

Furthermore, the antichrist cannot break his covenant with Israel unless the temple is standing – which he will desecrate – and sacrifices are being made.

Daniel chapter 9 clearly pictures the Tribulation period beginning after the destruction of the temple –

which occurred in AD 70. However, Daniel also clearly reveals that the antichrist will desecrate the temple, thus indicating that the temple has to be rebuilt. According to pictures I have seen of Jerusalem, this has not yet happened.

If the temple has not been rebuilt, the Tribulation covenant between Israel and the antichrist cannot be signed and then broken by the desecration of the temple by antichrist.

Furthermore, Jesus Christ, in Matthew 24, clearly places the desecration of the temple by the antichrist during the Tribulation period. The desecration of the temple was certainly illustrated by Antiochus IV in 167 BC when he desecrated the temple, but Christ says the desecration by the antichrist is still in the future.

Daniel 9:27 informs us that the Tribulation (the seventieth week of Daniel) will commence with the signing of a peace accord between the antichrist and Israel. Daniel also informs us that this temporary covenant of peace will be broken halfway through the Tribulation, triggering the last half of the Tribulation when all the horror and suffering of the first half will be doubled and tripled in intensity.

By the way, the peace covenant with the antichrist has nothing to do with the church. It has everything to do with Israel.

Let me add, one error which must be avoided in order to interpret these prophetic texts literally and understandably, is the error of identifying the church with Israel, as our covenant friends do. It is impossible that the church could ever fulfill Israel's role in the Tribulation that we will see unveiled. In order to do so, the church would have to be geographically located in the Near East; it would have to be ethnically Jewish and politically constituted as a state. The church, of course, is none of these. The church is not Israel and Israel is not the church, although they are both key elements in God's unified program for history.^{iv}

According to Daniel's prophecy, and what we will observe in Revelation chapter 6, the antichrist will come bringing peace, primarily to the Middle East. This is something most of us would consider impossible, right?

One thing is certain – not only the Middle East, but the world at large is longing to hear the galloping hoof beats of the first horseman who brings peace as they have never anticipated it before.

When I hear the President of Iran pray for the appearance of the 12th Imam who will usher in peace

and justice, I cannot help but believe the world at large is more ready for someone who can deliver peace than ever before.

In our next session, I will talk more about this 12th Imam, who embodies, I believe, the mission of the antichrist.

3. What is the purpose of the Tribulation?

- **One purpose of the Tribulation is to ready Israel for the Kingdom.**

Zechariah records,

In the whole land, declares the Lord, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive.

And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, "They are my people"; and they will say, "The Lord is my God."

(Zechariah 13:8-9)

There are many more passages indicating that the Kingdom will be preceded by a national period of purifying judgment (Isaiah 2:1-4, Jeremiah 30:1-33, Joel 2, and others).

- **A second purpose of the Tribulation is to remunerate the human race with just punishment.**

Imagine the horrors of the Tribulation – war, famine, hail, fire, fireball from heaven, oceans polluted, falling stars, darkness, sores on the worshipers of the antichrist, seas turned to blood, scorching heat, and more. Even still, humanity will curse God and millions will persist in their worship of the antichrist.

God will be just as He reveals the depravity of mankind and the just desserts of sin.

- **Another purpose of the Tribulation is to reveal God's sovereignty over His creation.**

You may remember the Pharaoh of Egypt mocking God and refusing to submit to Him, followed by God unleashing the plagues upon his land (Exodus). In a similar, yet more far-reaching display of arrogance, the antichrist will set himself against the God of heaven. And God will once again pour out His plagues to reveal His sovereignty – revealing that He alone is God.

However, mankind will respond with amazing unbelief. They will simply follow any god but the one true and living God.

- **The purpose of the Tribulation is also to reveal the character and corruption of Satan.**

The Tribulation will unmask Satan – the angel of light. He will be revealed to care nothing about the human race, in spite of generations of masquerading through false teachers his desire to improve mankind and provide prosperity and comfort.

Satan’s masquerade of light and goodness will be thrown aside and he will become the dragon attempting to destroy the purposes of God. He will spare no one in his quest.

Can you imagine his utter hatred for God and God’s creation in that he knows his doom is sure, yet, in spite of this knowledge, he plunges ahead?

John records in Revelation 12:12 this amazing description of Satan’s growing insanity:

Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!

Imagine this! This is like a prisoner on death row being told he has one hour to live, and spending that final hour cursing God.

In spite of the wickedness of humanity during the Tribulation and the evil conspiracies of hell’s minions, there is a positive purpose of the Tribulation, often overlooked.

- **Another purpose of the Tribulation is to redeem a host of believers from around the world.**

Think of the implication of those who are martyred for their faith during the Tribulation. John records, in Revelation 7:9-14, these represent every nation, tribe, people, and language. They have come to faith in Christ by the gospel message, and then have been killed by the antichrist for their defection from him as they have turned their allegiance to Christ.

Millions who have been redeemed by the grace of God will emerge from the horrors of the Tribulation prepared to serve Christ in the coming Kingdom and enjoy heaven forever.

- **One final purpose of the Tribulation is to revive Israel for her Messiah.**

This is the fulfillment of Romans 11 in which Paul speaks with great confidence of the faithfulness and completion of God’s election of Israel as he announces that,

. . . all [the remnant of] Israel will be saved. (Romans 11:26)

Ethnic Israel will be revived, reconstituted, and redeemed as their Messiah returns to earth at the end of the Tribulation.

Zechariah also records that at the end of the Tribulation, after the nations that come against Jerusalem are destroyed, they, that is the redeemed nation of Israel,

will look upon [Him] whom they pierced. (Zechariah 12:9-10 NKJV)

4. Did the prophets say anything about the Tribulation?

If we take these prophecies literally, the answer to this is yes! And we take their prophecies literally!

However, none of the prophets foresaw all the features of the Tribulation.

They also often spoke of the Messiah’s coming and establishing His kingdom as a single event, which obviously did not happen. The apostle Paul clarifies for us that the church age was a mystery – unknown and unrevealed to them, but revealed to us. He writes that this is,

. . . the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested . . . (Romans 16:25b-26a NASB)

The key then is to compare the prophetic accounts and get the fullest picture, knowing that the mystery will be fully revealed in the New Testament.

The prophet Joel speaks of the conversion of Israel and cosmic disturbances.

The prophet Amos refers to divine wrath and a Gentile world power.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the conversion of Israel, cosmic disturbances and the regal appearance of Christ.

Zechariah speaks of the salvation of Gentiles and the appearance of Christ.

Daniel and Zechariah are key prophets who inform us of:

- the length of the Tribulation;
- the coming of Satan’s Prince – the antichrist;
- the desecration of the temple;
- the coming world empire;
- the conclusion of the Tribulation by the appearance of Christ.

I find it interesting that even those who disagree with us agree with each other that the literal interpretation of Old Testament prophecy naturally leads to a belief in the coming of Christ and the existence of a literal millennial reign – and the implication of a time of purification of Israel through a Tribulation prior to the Kingdom.

Floyd Hamilton, an amillennialist, writes, “Now we frankly admit that a literal interpretation of the Old Testament prophecies gives us just such a picture of an earthly reign of the Messiah as the premillennialist pictures.”

Postmillennialist Loraine Boettner agrees and writes, “It is generally agreed that if the prophecies are taken literally, they do foretell a restoration of the nation of Israel in the land of Palestine with the Jews having a prominent place in that Kingdom and ruling over the other nations.”

They are right!

My question would simply be, “Why not consistently interpret the entire Bible with the same hermeneutic? Why change the rules and mix it up and convolute the text and spiritualize it all away in order to protect a theological bias?”

We do not have to change the rules of interpretation when confronted with prophetic scripture; we do not have to bite our nails and break out into a sweat and try to creatively spiritualize away the text. We can accept the scriptures at face value.

5. Did Jesus Christ say anything about the Tribulation?

Did He ever!

Jesus' Sermon in Matthew 24	The Seals of Revelation	The Significant Events
Matthew 24:4-5	First seal	Deception of false Christs
Matthew 24:6	Second seal	Destruction of global war
Matthew 24:7	Third seal	Devastation by famine
Matthew 24:7	Fourth seal	Disease and death
Matthew 24:9; 15-22	Fifth seal	Persecution and martyrdom
Matthew 24:29	Sixth seal	Cosmic disturbances
Matthew 24:37	Seventh seal	Global judgment (trumpets and bowls)

Jesus' sermon in Matthew 24 is called by many the “Little Apocalypse” because of the clear connection between what He preached and what John sees in Revelation 6. In fact, just by comparing His sermon in Matthew 24, the “Mount Olivet

Discourse,” with Revelation chapter 6 through the end of the book, we have a wonderful commentary on the seven seals.^v

In Matthew 24:4-5, the Lord warns of false “Christs” who will come to lead many astray.

This corresponds perfectly with the opening of the first seal, when the spirit of the antichrist will gallop throughout the world deceiving many.

Then, the Lord refers to global war in Matthew 24:6-7a, saying that there will be “. . . wars and rumors of wars . . . nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom . . .”

This corresponds perfectly with the second seal opened by the Lamb in Revelation 6:4, when people will slay one another as peace is removed from the earth.

Next, the Lord goes on to mention famine in Matthew 24:7b, corresponding with the next seal; the third seal in Revelation 6:5-6, when food is scarce and even the smallest bit costs a fortune.

We will cover the details of these horrific events later, but for now, understand that the Lord provides crystal clear commentary on the Tribulation period in His “Mount Olivet Discourse”.

The Lord, in fact, also speaks of the Tribulation as being in two parts, just as Daniel indicates. The first three and a half years witness the opening of the first four seals. The second three and a half years witness the intensifying Tribulation brought about by the persecution of new believers by the antichrist.

We are now almost halfway through this crash course on the Tribulation. How are you doing? Forget I asked!

6. Why did Christ warn the disciples about the Tribulation?

Why would the Lord warn people during New Testament times, as He does in Matthew 24, when He knew they would never live to experience these terrible times?

Perhaps it is proof that it will not happen, some might suggest.

A similar question could be asked about Isaiah's prophecy and warnings in chapter 39 concerning the Babylonian captivity, which did not occur until after all the people who were warned had died.^{vi}

Isaiah's prophecy was delivered as a warning to Israel – and everyone – about the consequences of sin.

In the same way, Christ warns every generation about the coming Holocaust.

Remember the fact that the Bible is going to last through the Tribulation. This means there will be many who will be able to read the events before they unfold and will gain insight and discover the gospel for themselves. Even though specific times for each seal, trumpet, and bowl will not be provided, and the exact moment of Christ's return to Jerusalem is not possible to pinpoint, the Bible will continue to deliver the word of truth. What a blessing it will be for Tribulation saints to have the book of Revelation to read!

7. Is unleashing the Tribulation on one generation fair treatment?

In other words, is it really fair that this one generation gets the truckload of judgment backed up to it?

For one thing, this generation will have more knowledge and more signs and more opportunity to respond to God's witness than any previous generation. Furthermore, God's judgment will be linked in its intensity to humanity's rebellion.

Even further, remember that God's forbearance with earlier generations, all of which deserved the same punishment, does not exempt this generation from judgment in the final hour.

One more note – every unbeliever in every previous generation is currently in Hades suffering torment.^{vii}

No unrepentant sinner is going unpunished or will. The horrors of God's judgment on earth during the Tribulation are a minor display of His eternal wrath against those who have rejected His salvation.

In fact, as horrifying as the Tribulation will be, everyone in Hades would gladly exchange it for the torment they are undergoing in Hades while they await the final judgment.

8. How long will the Tribulation last?

You may remember that Daniel informs us that the Tribulation will last for seven years.

Remember as well that the Lord divided the Tribulation into two sections, comparing the first section to birth pains and referring to the second as great tribulation (Matthew 24:19-21).

The entire Tribulation is an ongoing series of three judgments: 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 bowls. Each section will be like birth pains growing greater and greater in intensity.

As if I have the right to talk about birth pains! Well, I was there. They started slowly. I remember going through it several times as we had our four

children – because of our twins, we only had to go through the process three times.

My wife would say, "Honey, we need to go to the hospital." She would be calm and cool. In fact, I remember being amazed by the way she held it together, until, as every mother can testify, the pain became nearly unbearable.

This is the Lord's metaphor for the growing intensity of His judgment. The kingdom in Israel will be birthed, as it were, through the pain of Israel's Tribulation.

9. What Tribulation pain and terror unfolds first?

Revelation provides the details to add to Christ's sermon.

The first four seals, which we will look at in detail in our next discussion, reveal the coming of four horsemen. These are the famous horsemen of the Apocalypse.

- The first horseman rides a white horse, representing the deception of antichrists;
- The second rider appears on a red horse, representing the destructiveness of global war;
- The third horseman is on a black horse, representing the devastation of famine;
- Finally, the fourth rider gallops a pale horse throughout the world, prefiguring the disease and death of untold millions of people.

Revelation 6:8 tells us that a fourth of the world's population will be killed at the outset of the Tribulation.

Imagine what this would mean today. With our world's current population, this would mean that 1.6 billion people would die in a matter of a couple of years!

Imagine sixty to seventy million Americans dying in twenty-four months. This is about three million people dying every month or nearly 100,000 every single day. The casket makers will not be able to produce fast enough!

The devastation of death will be unimaginable.

10. Will anyone survive the Tribulation?

The time of Tribulation will be cut short for the sake of the elect remnant, but millions of others will survive as well (Matthew 24:22).

Those who have believed in Christ during the Tribulation will enter the kingdom, as we will study in future days. They will marry and populate the

earth over the course of the thousand year reign while wonderful and just rule is provided by Christ on David's throne, with the body of Christ reigning with Him.

11. What do all the horrors of the Tribulation reveal?

Primarily these horrors reveal that God will literally keep His promises of wrath and justice as well as His covenant with His people Israel.

God will keep His literal promise and program in place:

- of a kingdom;
- of judgment;
- for Israel's redemption;
- of an earthly reign.

The Tribulation reveals that God keeps His word.

12. Can unbelievers accept Christ during the Tribulation?

The answer is, "Yes." In fact, people will come to Christ by the millions. This has been noted already in the fact that Tribulation martyrs from every tribe and nation are found before the throne of heaven.

As an added question to this, I have been asked over the years, if those who rejected Christ during the church age can accept Christ after the rapture – after they realize they have been left behind.

II Thessalonians 2:9-12 refers to the strong delusion sent by God upon those who follow the lie of the antichrist.

This verse is often used as a support for those who say it is forever too late for the one who rejected the gospel prior to the rapture. However, the verse actually says that the people who fall under the delusion of God are those who, after the rapture, choose to follow the antichrist.

I have every reason to believe that those who rejected Christ before the rapture will continue to reject Him after the rapture.

We do know for certain that there will be untold millions of sinners who will come to faith in the Son of God during the Tribulation (Revelation 7:9-14).

Let me add a few more thoughts at this point. Many people overlook the fact that another tangible benefit of the Tribulation is the delivery of a final, worldwide invitation of the gospel.

Even though Satan will do everything in his power to defeat the witness of Christ; even though

hell will continue to pour out demons to wreak havoc on earth, Jesus Christ will be testified for.

Postmillennialists envision the church's evangelistic efforts eventually winning the world to Christ and thus preparing the way for Christ to establish His kingdom on earth. Nowhere are we told this in scripture.

You might ask, "What about Matthew 24:14?"

Matthew 24:14 is an oft repeated verse in which Christ says,

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Many believe that the church is successful in completing the great commission in one final generation. However, the church is no more successful in fulfilling her mandate to disciple those from every tongue and tribe than Israel was successful in fulfilling her mandate to be a blessing to the nations.

The program of God does not depend upon us, although those who are obedient to Christ seek to take the gospel around the world. The church at large, however, will be disobedient and lazy and fail their Lord.

So, what about the gospel being preached to the whole world?

Clearly, this is a promise to be fulfilled in the latter part of the Tribulation.

In case you are not convinced, Revelation clears up the fog as it delivers the clear truth that just before the final days of the Tribulation, an angel will fly throughout the world delivering the gospel of Christ and inviting everyone from every tribe and tongue to trust in and worship the true and living God (Revelation 14:6-7).

Then, the end will soon come.

Imagine this scene – a worldwide gospel message, delivered by a heavenly herald sent on a worldwide tour, in the language of every human being on earth. This angelic herald will deliver one final, universal invitation to everyone in the world to believe in their Creator God.

However, many will still not believe.

For those of us today who believe in Christ, these texts bring incredible awe and holy reverence before our great God.

13. Finally, why should we study the end times; why should we study prophecy at length?

- **We should study prophecy because of our view of scripture.**

We believe what we have been told and found true that,

All scripture is . . . profitable . . .
(II Timothy 3:16)

- **We should also study prophecy because of God's unique promise.**

You may remember that Revelation opened by pronouncing a special blessing on all who studied this prophecy (Revelation 1:3).

- **We study prophecy because of its place in the gospel as well.**

Paul preached to the Athenians and ended his message by telling them that God was going to come and judge the earth.

Because [God] has fixed a day on which He will judge the world . . . (Acts 17:31)

Judgment is coming. The gospel is not complete without the just wrath of God. The gospel is more than, "God loves you and wants you to be happy". The gospel is being rescued from the wrath of God (Revelation 3:10).

- **Studying prophecy also motivates evangelism.**

At least it motivated the apostle Paul, who had not only been given much of the truth of coming days, but of the glories of heaven. He wrote of his passion to serve as an,

ambassador for Christ . . . imploring [the world to] be reconciled to God.
(II Corinthians 5:20)

- **Studying prophecy encourages and promotes personal purity as well.**

The apostle Peter encouraged the believer in light of the coming of Christ to live a life of holiness and godliness (II Peter 3:11).

- **Studying prophecy yet to be fulfilled actually settles anxiety.**

This was the message of Christ to His disciples in John 14:1-4 when He told them not to be troubled in their hearts – He was leaving, but He was coming back for them.

- **Studying prophecy also provides the ultimate comfort.**

In I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Paul taught on the subject of the rapture, ending his comments by saying,

[Now] comfort one another with these words.

The truth that God will keep His promises should be the ultimate comfort for every believer.

- **We should study prophecy because it exalts the supremacy of Christ.**

The message of Revelation, in two simple words, is: Christ wins!

Christ wins!

Christ reigns!

Christ conquers!

History is "His story". He will be seen at last as our sovereign, supreme Savior.

And dear friends, we are right on schedule!

- **One more motive – we study these texts of prophecy because they reveal the faithfulness of our God.**

He will set things right;

He will judge evil;

He will keep His promise to Israel;

He will preserve the church;

He will fulfill the prophecy of His second coming;

He will fulfill the promise of a new heaven and earth.

Conclusion

So, what do we do in the meantime; what do we do prior to the Tribulation?

God gave us this much prophecy in His word not just to fill our heads, but to change, encourage, motivate, purify, impassion, and prepare our hearts for Him.

So, while we wait for Him,

- we work for Him,
- we walk with Him,
- we worship Him.

ⁱ Perspective (Dec. 26, 2007).

ⁱⁱ Mark Hitchcock, The Complete Book of Bible Prophecy (Tyndale Publishers, 1999), p. 65.

ⁱⁱⁱ John MacArthur, The Second Coming (Crossway Books, 1999), p. 14.

^{iv} Sam Smith, What the Bible Says about the Future (1996), p. 60.

^v John MacArthur, Revelation: Volume 1 (Moody Press, 1999), p. 416.

^{vi} Ibid., p. 88.

^{vii} Smith, p. 53.