



Mark 13 – Part 5

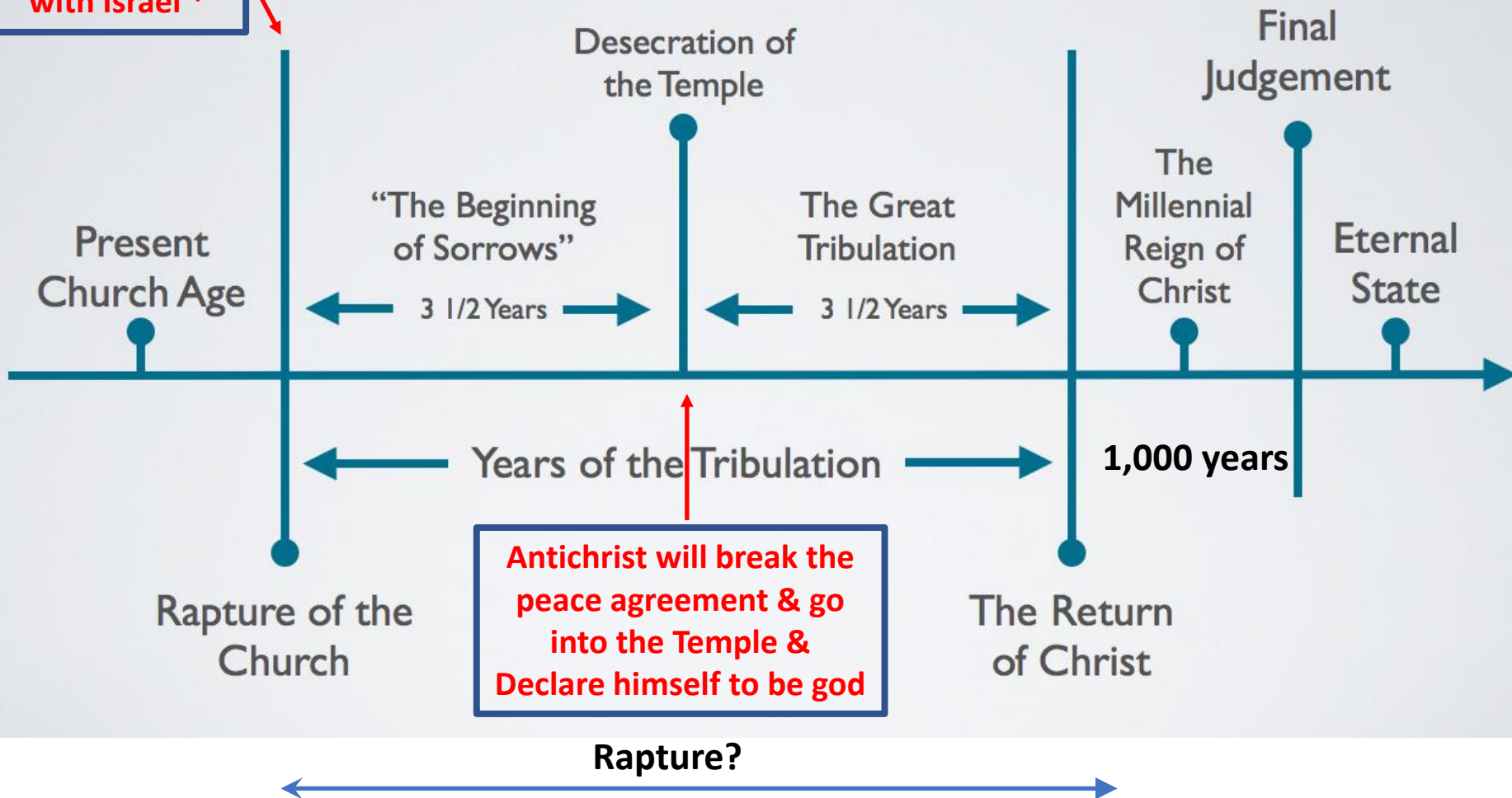
End Times Prophecy

- The Great Tribulation
- Suffering & Persecution
- “Take up you cross and Follow Me”

www.crossroadoftruth.org

Tribulation is Triggered by a 7 year Peace Agreement with Israel *

Timeline of the End Times



Mark 13: 19

Tribulation like never seen before

- This is a wild statement – worse than the Holocaust
- Zechariah 13:8 says 2/3 of Jews will be killed
- **Daniel 12:1** – **at that time Michael shall stand up and there shall be a time of trouble as their never was...**
- **Jeremiah 30:7** – time of Jacob's troubles – describes this time.
- **Revelation 7:14** – refers to the “great tribulation” and over ½ of population will be destroyed- **Rev. 6:8** (1/4); **9:15** (+1/3)
- **The Great Tribulation is what Jesus called it** (Matt. 24:21)
- Mark 13 – How will we know when this will happen
 - What's triggered by all this is the **Trumpet & Bowl judgements**

The Great Tribulation

Earth's darkest hour. Dictatorship. No more democracy or freedom. Nations are preparing now for this.

1. Time of unapparelled suffering for the whole world, especially for the Jews, but the Jews will be supernaturally preserved from total annihilation. – **Jeremiah 30:4-7 (“time of Jacob’s trouble”); Daniel 12:1; Matt. 24:21-22**
2. Will be ushered in by the Antichrist and the False Prophet who will break his 7 year covenant with the Jews in the middle of the 70th week of Daniel. He will do this by setting up the Abomination of Desolation in the Temple and demanding worship. – Dan. 9:27; Mark 13:14; Dan. 11:31; Dan. 12:11; Rev. 13:4
3. The Great Tribulation will last 3 ½ years – Rev. 13:5; Rev. 11:2-3; Dan. 7:25 (3 ½ years = 1,260 days = 42 months)
4. **The Great Tribulation will be Characterized by:**
 - a) Deception through Miracles (Rev. 13:13-14)
 - b) Worship of the Beast or Martyrdom – Rev. 13:13-14; Rev. 6:9-11
 - c) Mark of the Beast (666) is only required to Buy & Sell – Rev. 13:16-17
5. Period of Salvation for both Jews & Gentiles, the result, in all probability, of the ministry of the two witnesses. – Rev. 11:3-12; Rev. 12:14

Revelation 6-19 – The Great Tribulation

1st 3.5 Years of Tribulation

• **7 Seals of a scroll** - These are ACTS of the Antichrist

1st five Seals correspond to the signs given by Jesus in Mark 13.

- 1st seal, white horse is the Antichrist – comes in peace (bow with no arrows);
- 2nd seal is War;
- 3rd seal is Famine;
- 4th seal is Pestilence and **25% of world die**;
- 5th – 7th Seals is Great Tribulation - martyrs, earthquake, sun goes black, moon turns black. 7th seal releases the 7 trumpets.

4 Min. Video – Rev. 13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyOOSJKC6-U>

2nd 3.5 Years of Tribulation

• **7 Trumpets** – These are JUDGEMENTS of the God - Happens near the end of the tribulation. The 7th Seal (above) is not a concrete event, but extended through the end of the 7 Trumpets - **hail, fire, 1/3 earth is burned, sea becomes blood, 1/3 sun, moon stars are struck, demons released, people will long to die but can't, 1/3 of mankind will die.**

• **7 Bowls** - These are the WRATH of God - sores on people, sea creatures die, all fresh water becomes blood, sun scorches men with fire, lightning, great earthquake.

- Then comes the battle of **Armageddon, the Second Coming** & destruction of the Antichrist, the binding of Satan and Millennial reign of Christ on David's throne.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6DTeNVPkX4> – 3 minute video

Pre-Mid-Post Trib. Debate

- **Will the Church go through the tribulation?**
- The world's leading bible scholars are split on this.
- **No one knows** (despite what some people say)
- The real question is: **Are you ready for either Tribulation or Rapture?** If you are, then it doesn't matter.
- If you are ready for one, you will be ready for the other. **"Be ye ready"** Matt. 24:44; **"Watch...lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping"** Mark 13:35-37
- It's not wise to be dogmatic and opinionated on this doctrine. It's caused much division in the church and **it's wiser to hope for the best and plan for the worst.**

Suffering is Promised to Christians

- Suffering is promised to Christians, but it is a guarantee of future glory.

2 Timothy 3:12

¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Luke 14:27

“And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

Suffering is Promised to Christians

Luke 21:12-19

- ¹² But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and **persecute you**, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. ...¹³ **But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.**
- ¹⁴ Therefore settle *it* in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.
- ¹⁶ **You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.** ¹⁷ **And you will be hated by all for My name's sake.**
- ¹⁸ **But not a hair of your head shall be lost.** ¹⁹ By your patience possess your souls.

Suffering is Promised to Christians

- **John 15:18-27; 16:1-4**
- **18 “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me...**
- **26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.**
- **16 “These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. 2 They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. 3 And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. 4 But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them.**

Why do We Have to Suffer?

Genesis 50:20

²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.

Romans 5:3-4

³ And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that **tribulation produces perseverance;** ⁴**and perseverance, character; and character, hope.**

“The Blood of the Martyrs the Seed of the Church”

Tertillian, 155 AD

Why do We Have to Suffer?

- We don't rejoice for suffering itself, but **for the results they can produce** (Rom 8:28 – “all things work for good”).
- In same way we trust God to redeem us through His grace, **we must trust Him to work our suffering for Hope**. Often our suffering benefits others.
- Our objective isn't to be comfortable, but to be conformed to the image of Jesus for His glory, and we need to let Him mold us as He wills.
- **Sign of Christian maturity and sanctification and Produces:**
 - 1. Perseverance** - patience & endurance to continue working in the face of strong opposition by Satan.
 - 2. Character** – proof of purity. Trials produce proven spiritual character by cleansing us of impurities. Term originally used for testing precious metals that are purified by fire.
 - 3. Hope** – “Hope of the glory of God” is increased through process of tribulations.
- The more a believer pursues holiness, the more persecution you will face.

Romans 5:3-4

Rejoice in Tribulations

Romans 8:18; 28

¹⁸ For I consider that the **sufferings** of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the **glory** which shall be revealed in us. ²⁸ **And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.**

James 1:12

² My brethren, **count it all joy** when you fall into various **trials**...¹² Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, **he will receive the crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Tribulations reveal the True Christian

Matthew 5:10-12 - The Sermon on the Mount

¹⁰ Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Rejoice in Tribulations

1 Peter 4:12-14 : Suffering for God's Glory

¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but **rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings**, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ **If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.** On their part He is blasphemed, but on your [↑] part **He is glorified.**

This is the Promise – we will have the Holy Spirit upon us to take us through the suffering! This is where your faith in God's Word is tested. Do you believe God's Word or not?

Tribulations reveal the True Christian

- False Conversions (no conviction of sin & repentance/prosperity preaching)
- **The test of true faith** versus false teaching (emotional experiences) is how you deal with trials. Do you keep the faith even when the going gets tough? Not just “bearing with it” but strongly going through it with faith and “**glory in tribulations**”.
- Not glory in spite of tribulation, but glory because of tribulations!
- Not to be glad and thank God for our suffering. That would be unnatural. No one likes suffering. At first we are unhappy.
- But because this is something we “**know**” (Rom 5:5 “**knowing** that tribulation produces...”), we should glory in them. How? Because our faith enables us to endure them in such a way that these trails actually further our faith.
- Tribulation produces patience – the ability to endure, and this produces Hope.
- Tribulations renew a fresh need for Christ, if we have true faith! Humbles us and allows us to rely more on Christ.
- This is not unusual, but typical NT teaching:

Tribulations reveal the True Christian

John 16:33

³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”**

Acts 5:41

⁴¹ So they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.**

1 Thessalonians 3:3

³ that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.

Luke 6:26

²⁶ **Woe to you when all men speak well of you,**
For so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Tribulations reveal the True Christian

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is **but for a moment**, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* **eternal** weight of **glory**, ¹⁸ while we **do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen**. For the things which are seen *are* **temporary**, but the things which are not seen *are* **eternal**.

Tribulations reveal the True Christian

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

⁹ And He said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.**” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ **Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake.** For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Romans 5:3-4

Tribulations reveal the True Christian

Mark 4:16-17 - **Parable of Sower** –Stoney Ground

¹⁶ These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷ and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. **Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.**

Mark 8:34-38

Are You Willing to Take up Your Cross?

Mark 8 ³⁴“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

³⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.

³⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? ³⁷ Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

Suffering is not to be taken lightly

- Jesus, Paul, and millions of Christian martyrs have suffered for Christ, and many are suffering now around the world. Even if it not tribulation suffering, why would we think that this generation will not suffer severe persecution?
- **We need to examine ourselves, test our faith, pray for the courage and the strength to obey Jesus and endure whatever persecution we must face.**
- **This is VERY SERIOUS!** The Early Church and the over 50 million Christian martyrs understood this principle clearly...
- **If you deny Christ in this life, He will deny you and you will not be saved for eternity.**

Christian Suffering in the End Times

- **Daniel 7:25**

- ²⁵ He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High,

Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,

And shall intend to change times and law.

Then the saints shall be given into his hand

For a time and times and half a time.

Christian Suffering in the End Times

Daniel 12:1

“At that time Michael shall stand up,
The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of
your people;

**And there shall be a time of trouble,
Such as never was since there was a nation,
Even to that time.**

**And at that time your people shall be delivered,
Every one who is found written in the book.**

Christian Suffering in the End Times

2 Corinthians 1:4

⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:8

⁸ For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.

2 Thessalonians 1:4

⁴ so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,

Christian Suffering in the End Times

Revelation 6:9 - Fifth Seal: The Cry of the Martyrs

⁹ When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of **those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony** which they held.

Revelation 17:6

⁶ **I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.** And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

Christian Suffering in the End Times

Revelation 14:12

- ⁹ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “**If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand,** ¹⁰ **he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God,** which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be **tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.** ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and **whoever receives the mark of his name.’ ”**
- ¹² **Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.**
- ¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘**Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.**’ ”

(v.12 – “**patience of the saints**” are all who are saved who will never stop trusting and obeying Christ and will resist the mark of the beast and persevere to the end because God has promised to never leave them or forsake them – contrasted with those who take the Mark of the Beast in Rev. 14:10-11)

Christian Persecution Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23NEz3Vc4L0>
John MacArthur Video
- <https://www.christianpost.com/news/over-900000-christians-martyred-for-their-faith-in-last-10-years-report.html>
- <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/2020/may/report-620-nigerian-christians-killed-so-far-this-year-by-muslim-militants-boko-haram-fulani-herdmen>

Questions to Ponder Seriously

1. Would you be prepared to be imprisoned or executed if you are forced to deny your beliefs in Christ?

1. Jesus Christ is the one true God and Saviour, and He is returning to reign in Power;
2. God is the creator of all things;
3. The Bible is the Word of God and God's Truth.
4. Salvation through faith in Christ is the only way to heaven;
5. Everyone has a need to be saved from sin and its punishment (hell);

2. Would you be prepared to be imprisoned or executed if you are forced to take a mark (or vaccine with a tattoo) that is associated with the number "666" and is required in order to buy and sell.

- If these questions bother or scare you, ask the Holy Spirit for power to strengthen your faith and give you courage to "not be ashamed" of Jesus and His Word. (Think of the faith and courage of Daniel when he disobeyed the law to pray, even though the penalty was the lions den, or of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)

(Watch Song History: "[I have Decided to Follow Jesus](#)")

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e-transfer to :darrylmckinnon@yahoo.com

Galatians 6:6

⁶ Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

1 Timothy 5:17-18

¹⁷ Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, **especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.** ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “**The laborer is worthy of his wages.**”