Divine Judgment – The Great Tribulation <u>Matthew 24: 9-14</u>

August 6, 2023

The beginning of birth pangs (Mt. 24)	The first four seals (Rev. 6)
False messiahs who will mislead many (v. 5)	First seal: Rider on white horse, a false messiah (v. 2)
Wars, rumors of wars, nation rising against nation (vv. 6-7)	Second seal: Rider on red horse takes away peace from earth (vv. 3-4)
Famines (v. 7)	Third Seal: Rider on black horse holds balances, represents famine (vv. 5-6)
Death through famine, pestilences, and earthquakes (v. 7)	Fourth seal: Rider on pale horse, represents death through famine, pestilence, and wild beasts (vv. 7-8)



"Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.

— Daniel 7:23 (NASB[®])

'As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

— Daniel 7:24 (NASB[®])



Babylon (605-539)

Medo-Persia (539-331)

Greece (331-63)

Rome (63 BC to AD 476)

Verse 9

The followers will be hunted down and killed

The final 3 ½ years persecution will ramp up and believers will be hunted down – <u>HATED!</u>

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you"

Antichrist, possessed by Satan, will hunt down every Jew and believer he can find

The Jews flee to Petra (Bozrah), a place prepared and protected by God



This is a global persecution, all nations are involved

Mesmerized by antichrist, they hunt down Jews and believers!

Verse 10 The earth dwellers will turn on believers

Those who turn in believers think they are doing something great, but are, in fact, a pawn of Satan

Mark 13:12-13

Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

A very somber picture of the "last days":

- 1. Treachery and disloyalty within the family
- 2. Christians being hated by all men

Verse 11 False prophets will come in droves

False prophets will be numerous in the last days leading up to the end times

Why will this be possible?

PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW THE WORD OF GOD!!

Paul to Timothy, warning about deception:

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, (I Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV)

Exit the Word, exit God from the culture = enter deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons

Holy Spirit warning:

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

1 John 4: 1

TEST WITH THE WORD!!

Verse 12 Lawlessness will abound; love grows cold

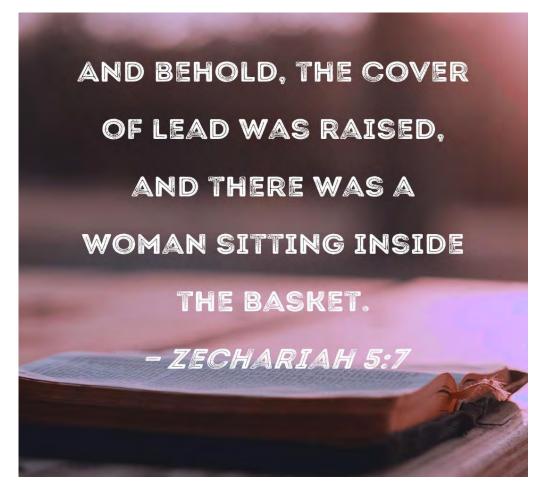
When God is taken out of a culture, the focus becomes more on "me" - "me" - "me"! With a focus on "me" comes an increase in lawlessness (no restraints)

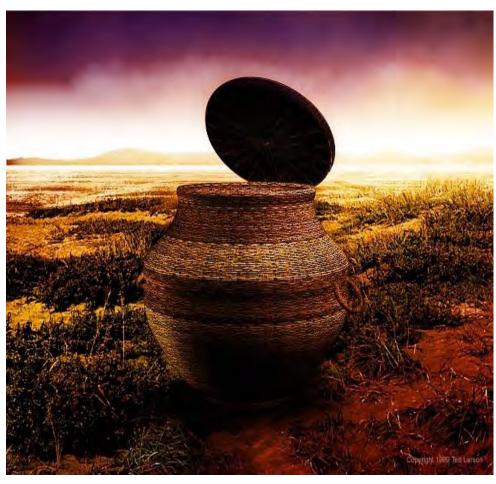


EXIT GOD - ENTER ANARCHY!!



Zechariah teaches us that evil is being restrained today





The woman in a basket is depicting evil being restrained by God

Evil cannot run loose until the time appointed by GOD!

When the lid is removed by <u>GOD</u>, the restrainer is removed (the Holy Spirit filled Church)

A global rampage of lawlessness will follow - "The love of many will grow cold"

Verse 13

Jesus to those in the Tribulation: Endure to the end

IMPORTANT:

God gives you the strength to endure:

Jude 24

1 Peter 1: 5

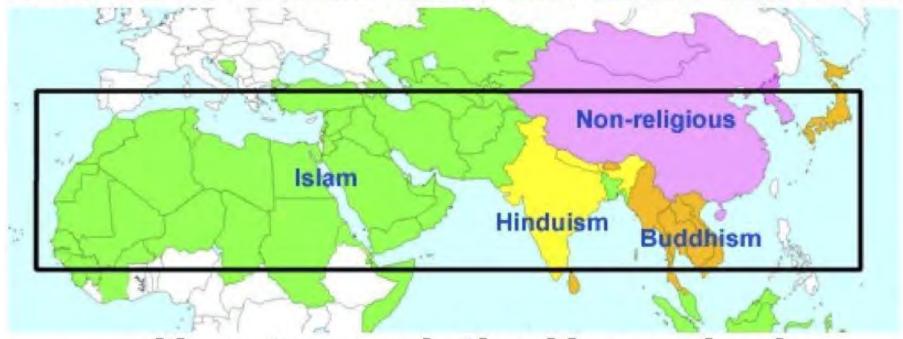
Ephesians 1: 13

It is not about me, but the God who saved me!

TO HIM BE ALL THE GLORY!!

Verse 14 The entire world will hear the Gospel

The 10-40 Window of the UNREACHED



How to reach the Unreached -

How will evangelism of the entire world occur?

- Something miraculous will happen
- God will call 144,000 Jewish evangelists, super evangelists, in the Tribulation period Revelation 7: 4-8

It doesn't stop there!

God will raise up two witnesses that the world will see - Revelation 11: 3-6

The world will hate them!



SURPRISE!!

Revelation 11:11-12

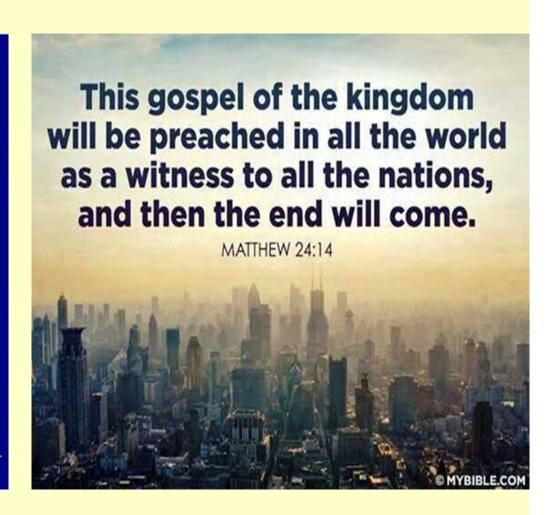
But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹²Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

It doesn't stop there! An angel preaches the Gospel!!



Revelation 14:6 - 7

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— 7saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."



CLOSING THOUGHTS:

THE OLIVET DISCOURSE IS ALL ABOUT "I AM COMING!"

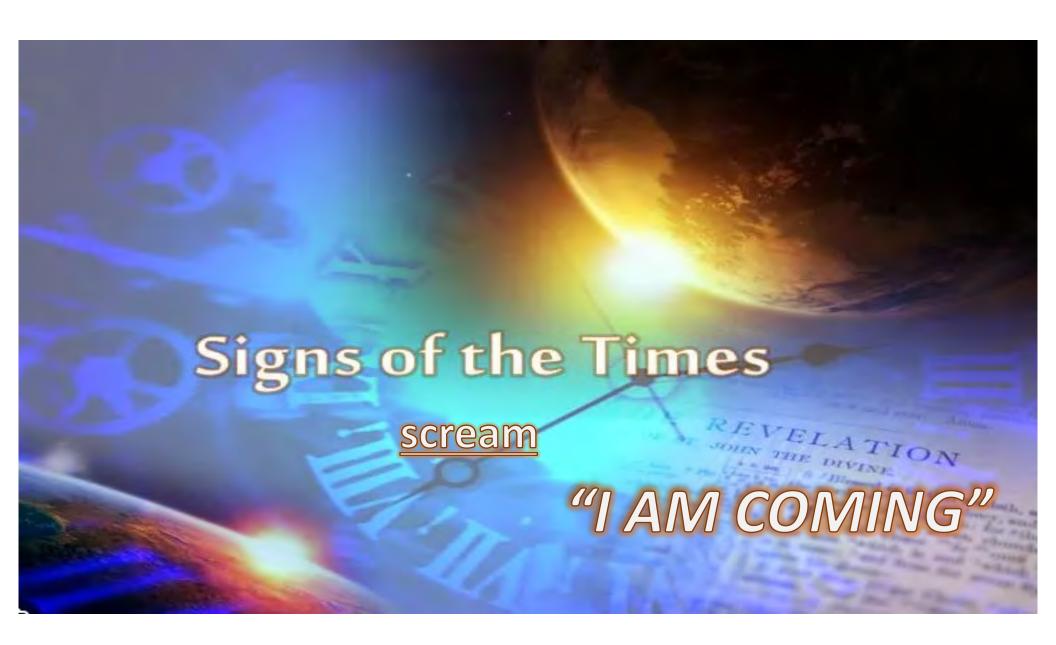
When the world sees the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments, God is giving people a chance to repent

Jesus is giving the earth dwellers a picture of what hell will be like – MISERY!!

Awake from slumber earth dwellers, the King is getting your attention!

Earth dwellers take notice, the 7-sealed scroll is about to be opened, the wrath of the Lamb is coming!





Most will not see; most are content with detaching from what is going on around them

All will be astonished when the vanishings occur (Rapture)

Your instructions Church:

1 Thessalonians 5:6-8

- 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.
- ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.
- 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

BE ALERT!!

BE A WATCHMAN!!!



