**SIGNS OF HIS SOON RETURN** May 24, 2020

**THE TRIBULATION**

**Rev. 7 – 9 - 14**

Jesus spoke of the Great Tribulation, a time like no other – Matt. 24:21-22

 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.  22And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. NKJV

Daniel was told Israel would suffer like no other nation in the last days – Dan. 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. NKJV

1. **Defining Moments of the Tribulation**
* there comes a treaty, a third Temple, a tyrant-turned traitor, and terrible times –

 Dan. 9:27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week

 He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who

 makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.” NKJV

Elements at work…

* God’s Calendar

He rules over all kings and nations -

Rev. 9:15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. NKVJ

Dan. 2:20-21 Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. 21And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. NKJV

* Global Control

Rev. 13 – global government, global economy (cashless), global religion

* Godless Conqueror

the “abomination of desolation” spoken of by Daniel and Jesus

“man of sin, son of perdition, lawless one, the Beast, anti-Christ”

2 Thess. 2:3-4 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that*  *Day*  *will*  *not*  *come*  unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. NKJV

1. **Deadly Judgments of the Tribulation**

 Tribulation unfolds in three series of judgments…

* Human wars – the 7 seals (Rev. 6:1)

Rev. 6:1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.” NKJV

=misery caused by human sin, inflicting suffering on one another (Ch. 6)

* Hell’s warfare – the 7 trumpets (Rev. 8:1-2)

Rev. 8:1-2 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2) And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. NKJV

=literally “Hell on earth,” demonic invasion and preparation for Armageddon (CHs. 8-9)

* Heaven’s wrath – the 7 vessels (16:1

Rev. 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.” NKJV

= a response to the Beast’s claim to be God and humanity’s worship of him

= wrath of God directly poured out on earth, climaxing in Armageddon (Ch. 16)

1. **Divine Intents of the Tribulation**

what on earth is God doing through this war, violence, bloodshed, and demonic activity?

* Persecution of His people

Church was taken out prior, but Christian converts of this time are martyred

Jews seeking the God of Abraham are chased out into the wilderness and kept by God

* Restoration of His chosen nation

the land returns to Israel, the city of Jerusalem, the Temple is built on Mt. Zion

after the church rapture, 144,000 Jews turn to Jesus and become powerful evangelists

many Jews who first worked with antichrist will see his betrayal and open their eyes to the truth of Jesus

* Redemption of His blood-bought saints

a great multitude saved out of the Great Tribulation

largest global harvest in history just before the end of this age