

"Escaping the Coming Evil"

Joel 2:1-10

Introduction: To begin with this morning I want to show you a little graph that I made to help you to understand the future events which the Bible speaks about.

➤ **Timeline Chart**

We briefly talked about how the Tribulation period will not start until the peace treaty is signed between the Anti-Christ and Israel.

Daniel 9:27

²⁷ And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The "ONE WEEK" here is a **WEEK OF YEARS** which is also known as the 70th Week of Daniel.

Daniel 9:24

²⁴ Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

The Tribulation is therefore 7 years long and, in the middle, the Anti-Christ will break the covenant with Israel, and he will turn on them. This will bring the last half of the Tribulation known as the Great Tribulation.

Matthew 24:16-21

¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

¹⁷ Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

¹⁸ Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

¹⁹ And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

²⁰ But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Now let me go back to the period of time between the Rapture and the signing of the covenant. What if it is 5 years, what if it is 10, 15, or 20 years? These are all possibilities. Let me then give you something to think about.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-8

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

When the church is raptured, the restraints will be removed from the demonic forces. Now if there is a 10-year gap until the Tribulation can we just imagine how wicked it will become in our world? Think about what it is like today and there are restraints! When we are gone the forces of evil will be free to corrupt and so we can only imagine what it will be like during those days. The longer it goes the more wicked society will become.

The questions then are, "Why would you want to even risk getting left behind after the Rapture?" "Why would you not turn to Jesus Christ and get saved now?"

I say this because I believe that in the number of people that we have attending here there are people who are not saved. You may come every week, but you have never been born again. Let me show you what Jesus said concerning the Tribulation.

Matthew 24:36-42

³⁶ But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

⁴⁰ Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴¹ Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Jesus says that the Tribulation will be as it was in the days of Noah when the people were living for the appetites of the flesh. This is what we are seeing today. People are not concerned about prophetic events happening all around us and they are just going about life trying to fulfill the hunger within them. They are given over to money, entertainment, hobbies, sports, and the list goes on and on. The thought of these things fills their mind and completely consumes them.

If that is you, I want to show you what you are headed for.

Genesis 6:1-13

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

² *That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.*

³ *And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*

⁴ *There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.*

⁵ And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

¹¹ The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

¹² And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

¹³ And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

➤ How can I be sure of going in the Rapture?

I want to take the time to explain to you how you can be saved.

- You will die and you will face the Judgment of God.

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Job 14:1-2, 5

Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.

² He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

⁵ Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;

- We are all sinners.

Romans 3:23

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

- Sin separates us from God.

Isaiah 59:2

² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

- **All sin must be paid for.**

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- **You cannot earn the forgiveness of sin.**

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- **God loves you and provided a sacrifice for your sins.**

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

- **Jesus died for you to pay for your sins.**

1 Corinthians 15:3

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

You must understand that sin can only be forgiven by a blood sacrifice.

Hebrews 9:22

²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

- **Forgiveness is a free gift from God.**

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

➤ **You need to rest your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.**

You need to receive Jesus as your Savior.

John 1:12

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

There is only 1 way to heaven. John 14:6

Hebrews 2:10

¹⁰ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Conclusion:

How do we know we are saved? Our lives are forever changed.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

1 John 3:7-9

⁷ Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

⁸ He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

⁹ Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.