

- The *Illustrations of Readiness* and the *Examples of Readiness* all describe the end of the Tribulation and those situations which allow the faithful to enter into the Millennium.
- The Millennium is a physical Kingdom on this same physical Earth which is populated by physical people coming out of the Tribulation.
- The Church (the Bride of Christ) will have administrative (ruling) responsibilities which they will carry out in their glorified bodies.

I. Reviewing The Meaning and Description of The Tribulation

A. Meaning

- Jesus used the word tribulation in Mt. 24:21 & 29
- It is from the Greek . . .
 - Thlipsis: pressure, persecution, affliction, distress, tribulation
- The biblical Tribulation will be a 7-year time of judgment on the unbelieving Jewish and Gentile world
- The Tribulation is the last “week” of Daniel’s 70 weeks

B. There is a Warning here

II. Notable Events of the Tribulation

- ❖ 666 = The International ID # to conduct business
- ❖ 144,000 = The chosen Jewish preachers of Jesus’ Gospel
- ❖ 2 = Supernaturally protected witnesses known to World
- ❖ Babylon’s Destruction of both the Spiritual & Commercial
- ❖ USA = A “no show”. US no longer a supporter of Israel.

III. The Danger of the Tribulation

- Being killed in the natural disasters or God’s judgments
- Being deceived by the lie of religious & govt. leaders
 - 2 Th. 2:11
 - Deception will place people in position of rebellion

The Protection Against the Tribulation = Jn. 3:3, Rom. 10:13



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The Tribulation: Character of Tragedy

This second-out-of-five lessons in the series, “*After the Resurrection*” deals with the period known as **The Tribulation**.

Preview: Mt. 24 - 25

Matthew 24:1 begins with the disciples making a statement of the grandeur of the Temple complex in Jerusalem. Jesus counters their statement with a prophetic statement of His own.

The group seems to walk on leaving the city and going up onto the Mt. of Olives where they could look back onto the city. The disciples, who have evidently been thinking about the Lord’s words, ask Jesus three questions. The answer Jesus gives provides two chapters rich with Tribulational commentary by the Son of God!

The Disciples Questions of Mt. 24:3

1. WHEN shall these things be?
 2. WHAT shall be the _____ of Thy coming?
 3. WHAT shall be the sign of the _____ of the _____?
- Jesus only gives answers to the last two of their questions.
- Therefore, all of Mt. 24 & 25 are spoken in context of these answers which give explanation of tribulational events that lead up to His coming.

1st Half of the Tribulation: Mt. 24:4-13

- Many deceivers, Christs v. 5
- Wars & rumors of wars v. 6
- Those who endure to end @ be saved v. 13
 - Not of works, but of faith & its demonstrated acts
 - These people are being saved during the Tribulation
- Gospel preached to _____ v. 14
 - This will be the mission of the 144,000 evangelists

2nd Half of the Tribulation: Mt. 24:15 - 31

- Abomination of Desolation (Dan. 9:27) v. 15
- Time of Great Tribulation v. 21
- False Christs v. 24
- Sun, Moon, Stars Phenomena v. 29
- See Christ Coming in Power v. 30
 - The clue that Bible references mean Christ's 2nd coming (rather than the Rapture) are the words of "coming in power" or "coming in glory" or "coming with His angels" etc.

Illustrations of Readiness

- The Fig Tree v. 32
 - Leaves mean "soon" . . . "at the door"
- The Days of Noah v. 36
 - "Eating & drinking" etc. does not mean sinful living, but living with no regard to God
 - Noah "remained"; sinful were taken away
- The "Two . . ." v. 40
 - The very end---at Christ's coming. The faithful are left, the sinful are taken away (cmp. Mt. 25:31-46 and Rev. 19:20-21)
- The House Owner v. 42
 - Readiness prevents house from being broken into or "taken away"

Examples of Readiness and Reward

- ❖ The Wise Servant 24:45
 - The unfaithful servant is removed
- ❖ The Ten Virgins 25:1
 - The unprepared virgins are left out
- ❖ The Talents 25:14
 - The slothful servant is stripped of reward & cast out

The Summary of Mt. 24 & 25

- Dividing of the _____ and _____
righteous, believing *unbelievers*
- Righteous get to inherit the Kingdom
 - These will go into the millennial kingdom
 - The Earth will revert to pre-fall created conditions
- Actions of faith in life-and-death-situations during Trib
 - Actions demonstrated faith; did not take "the mark"
- Unrighteous being "taken away" into everlasting torment (Rev. 19:21; 20:5) (After Mill. @ brought to Great White Throne for their final sentence of doom – Rev. 20:11-15)