

## THE GREAT TRIBULATION

### Part - 1

- Say - Welcome to Sabbath School Class, let's bow our head as we ask God for understanding as we study today. Our lesson today is about an event yet to come upon the entire world; a time like no other in our world's history the Bible tells us. It is the time referred to as the "great tribulation".
- Say - The great tribulation is spoken of in nearly every book of the Bible and under various names. The reader will find information about this event under the terms referred to as the "latter days", "latter years", "time of trouble", Jacob's troubles, "captivity" as well as the "great tribulation", "birth pains" or "woman in travail" are just a few examples.
- Say - What does "tribulation" mean? It means a time of great affliction, trouble, and distress. The Bible tells us, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" Matthew 24:21. The Bible tells us the tribulation will be three and one half years, "...and they shall be given into his hand until a time (1 yr.) and times (2 yrs.) and the dividing of time (1/2 yr.)" Daniel 7:25, 12:7.
- Say - Many have wondered about the foretold great tribulation and have asked when the "time of trouble" or "tribulation" will happen. Christ's disciples asked the same question, "When shall these things be ...what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?" Mark 13:4
- Say - Christ, sitting on the Mount of Olives over looking His Temple in the beloved city, Jerusalem, answered them in a way they had never heard before. He said, "take heed lest any man deceive you for many shall come in my name saying, I am Christ (Christ was telling them don't follow them, flee from them)."
- Say - Christ continued, "You shall hear of wars and rumors of war, but the end is not yet". Christ is saying if you think those things are bad, the worst is yet to come; this is just the "beginnings of sorrows (or the beginning of intolerable calamities)" Mark 13:5-8.
- Say - Christ continued but "take heed to yourselves", before all these public calamities come such as "great earthquakes, famines, pestilence and fearful sights, they shall persecute you (God's faithful servants) and will bring you before kings (rulers) and synagogs (gathering places, churches) for my name sake" Mark 13:9, Luke 21:11-12.

Say - God in His mercy never sends a judgment or punishment with out a previous warning. But God's people are not to worry about what they will say; God is not interested in man's ideas. The Bible says, "...for it is not you that speak but (by the power of) the holy spirit (will speak through His true servant)" Matthew 10:20, Mark 13:11.

Say - Why does the tribulation happen? In the book of Deuteronomy in the law of God, Moses helps us answer this question. In Deuteronomy, chapter 28 and 29, Moses addressed God's people then and through the ages about the "blessings" for obedience and the "cursings" for disobedience to God's covenant or agreement He made with His people.

Say - "...IF thou shalt hearken (obey) diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth. And all the blessing shall come upon thee, and overtake thee..." Deuteronomy 28:1-2.

Say - Here are just a few of the "blessings". "Blessed shall thou be in the city (no crime, poverty) and ...in the field (no fungus, crop diseases so no need for pesticides which ruin the land)". "The LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods (over abundance)", "the heaven will give the rain...in his season (no drought)", "thou shalt lend to many nations, and thou shalt not borrow (Do we know of any nations on earth which are indebted trillions of dollars to other nations?)" Deuteronomy 28:1-14.

Say - In contrast, Moses continued, "...IF thou will not hearken (listen and obey) the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments..., that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee" Deuteronomy 28:15.

Say - Here are a few of the "curses". "Cursed shall thou be in the city (crime, poverty, disease)...in the field, ...fruit of the body (our children), pestilence (which brings disease vs. 21, 22), the land shall be iron (because of no rain) and will "be smitten before our enemies (will lose wars no matter how great the defense system is)" Deuteronomy 28:15-45.

Say - Moses, in Deuteronomy 28:63-66, was speaking to God's people as they were about to enter the Land of Canaan which is symbolic of the future Kingdom of God. However in verse 68 of the same chapter, Moses is talking about something yet to happen, the "time of Jacob's trouble/the tribulation" of the final "captivity" of God's people spoken of in Jeremiah 30:3 and Daniel 12:1-2. "And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again (will cause to return as captives

as once were in Egypt) ... Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you (out of captivity, only God)" Deuteronomy 28:68.

Say - Why will captivity happen again? God speaking through Jeremiah said in describing the condition of His people. He said, "...Oh that my I might weep...for...my people! ...that I might leave my people, and go from them! (Why?) for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men (faithlessly deceitful). ...they are not valiant for the truth (of God) upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil (grow worse and worse, sin upon sin), and they know not me (because they have forsaken God's laws and listened to false doctrines)..."

"...And they will deceive every one his neighbor, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies (false doctrine and deceit), and weary themselves (work hard) to commit iniquity (lawlessness)".

"...Therefore ... I will melt them, and try them (in the time of Jacob's trouble); for how shall I do for ... my people (God is saying what else is there to do for them but to bring sorrow and tribulation upon them to turn them back to me UNLESS THEY REPENT)?" ... shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this? Jeremiah 9:1-9.

Say - Why does God bring captivity upon the nations? Through Ezekiel God said, "And the heathen shall know (strangers to the true religion) that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity/lawlessness (speaking of the final captivity because it was only Judah which went into captivity in Babylon not the entire 12 tribes of Israel): (Why does God do this?) because they trespassed (sinned) against me (unfaithful to God and followed false, man-made religions and false teachers), therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all (many) by the sword".

"According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions (sins) have I done unto them, and hid my face from them" (many who believe they are righteous are not).

"Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen:..."Ezekiel 39:23-29.

Say - Most people do not see God in the way the Bible describes above. God wants us all to choose life but we choose death many times by our actions and way of life. In the great tribulation He is going to let the entire world know "...I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me..." to turn His people back to Him Isaiah 46:9.

Say - God said, "...What iniquity have your fathers found in me (God is saying, what have I done wrong that you despise Me and My laws and My way of life I have set for you?) that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity (emptiness, useless things), and are become vain?" Jeremiah 2:5.

Say - Now unfortunately many could care less, many would rather pay the price of the "curses" than get on our knees and repent and change and obey the instructions of God. On the other hand, many are totally ignorant of the instructions of God and His plan to rescue mankind and bring all nations back to Him when He intervenes in the world's establishments for once and all.

Say - Moses went on and said, "These are the words of the covenants,...keep the words of this covenant and do them that you may prosper in all that you do (if we don't, things will go wrong and the false shepherds are not telling the people)" Deuteronomy 29:1, 9.

Say - Why does the tribulation happen? In another place the Bible tells us, "...for they have turned their back unto me,... you all have transgressed (sinned, I John 3:4) against me, saith the LORD. God continued through Jeremiah..., your children; they received no correction (remember God said "keep all his commandments, ...And teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes (God's instructions and laws were to be the most important guide in our life for they "bring us to Christ", Galatians 3:24) (therefore) your own sword hath devoured your prophets (who warned us), like a destroying lion" Deuteronomy 6:2-8, Jeremiah 2:27-30. In other words, we bring the "great tribulation" on ourselves!

Say - Why were God's Instructions and Laws so important? To our Creator, God, they were the terms of the marriage covenant He made between man and God and which God's people agreed to prior to baptism. He is a very jealous "husband"; He does not want anything or anyone to come between Him and His bride. He wants to dwell with His people. When we are rebellious and reject God's Holy Laws and Instructions, we are rejecting God for we are saying we are not interested. God gave Instructions or Laws so that all could have life and have it more abundantly and for protection from sin.

Say - Here is how Paul said it, "I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet"

Romans 7:7. Sin is a destroyer; sin separates us from God. Sin will lead us to death but, in contrast, the laws of God will point out sin and "bring us to Christ", the "Life giver", when we are obedient to Him Galatians 3:4.

Say - Christ tells us, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them (obeys them), he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest (make known) myself to him" John 14:21. He does not know us when we disobey Him and disregard His laws. It is that simple for we are saying we follow another God, Satan.

Say - As a world and individually, out of lack of love and disobedience for God, we will have to pay the penalty until we come back to Him wholeheartedly and repent of our sins. He will send great tribulation to bring us back to Him; it will be a "time like no other" to prove to Him our repentance is finally sincere.

Say - How have we rejected God's Holy righteous Laws? Only each of us can answer this question before God. Let's take a look at each of the Ten Commandments of Exodus 20.

1. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me".

2. "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above (sun, moon or stars, constellations, horoscopes etc), or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments (not change them or ignore them)".

Say - Why were these two commandments so important? God said when we serve other Gods "... they will turn away My son from following me, that they may serve other gods (false gods, false man-made religions which will not bring eternal life): so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly" Deuteronomy 7:4.

Say - A "God" is anything which occupies our mind and time over the "Most High God" and keeps us from studying, worshiping, and living God's way of life. It could be our hobbies, our work, our money, clothes, food, T. V., etc. As a world spinning out of control and individually, we could all make our own list.

3. "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Say - Why was this commandment important? God's name is holy, He has many names. We are to be honest, not abuse His name. When we use His name in vain, we are in judgment.

4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy".

Say - Why was this commandment important? This is a day to "Stop" and "circle around" God. It is His day, not ours. The Sabbath Day is not business or pleasure as usual; it is a Feast day of "spiritual" and physical food with Him. God said, "Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you" Exodus 31:13.

Say - Then God explains the Sabbath for us. "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day (not the 1st, 6th, 4th or 5th day) is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Say - The last six commandments are how to love our fellow man.

5. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee".

6. "Thou shalt not kill".

7. "Thou shalt not commit adultery". Families are important to God, He wants them to stay together and be devoted to one another.

8. "Thou shalt not steal".

9. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour".

10. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's".

Say - Commandments 5 -10 God said, "I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" Matthew 25:40.

Say - Do we have a willing spirit, a teachable mind? In part 2 we will discuss the instructions of hope and comfort God gives His people during the great tribulation.

MEMORY VERSE

...IF thou shalt hearken (obey) diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe .. all his commandments...that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth. And all the blessings shall come upon thee, and overtake thee...

Deut. 28:1-2.

Memory verse for tots

MEMORY VERSE

"...observe .. all his commandments...  
all the blessings shall come...

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

ADDITIONAL VERSES FOR YOUR PERSONAL STUDY

"latter days" - Nehemiah 24:14, Deuteronomy 4:30, 31:29

"latter years" - Ezekiel 38:8, 16, Daniel 2:28, 10:14, Hosea 3:5

"final captivity" - Jereremiah 30:1, Daniel 12:1-2,

"captivity" - Psalm 14:7, Is. 22:17, Jereremiah 29:14

(please realize there are many other scriptures as well)

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS FOR TOTS

THE GREAT TRIBULATION  
PART 1

IF WE ARE SORRY FOR OUR SINS AND  
LOVE AND OBEY GOD'S LAWS, WE'RE  
BLESSED BEYOND COMPARE;  
HAPPY WE'LL BE AND PEACFUL WE'LL  
PLAY IN GOD'S CREATION  
EVERYWHERE.

SOMETIMES WE GO OUR OWN WAY AND  
CHANGE OR FORGET HIS LAWS;  
WE TURN OUR BACK TO HIM AND  
WONDER WHY WE WEEP AND FALL.

SIN IS EVIL, SIN IS A DESTROYER; IT  
SEPARATES US FROM THE LOVE OF  
GOD;  
THEREFORE I WILL LEARN HIS LAWS OF  
LOVE AND MAKE IT KNOWN TO ALL  
HE IS THE ONLY GOD!

I WILL HAVE A WILLING SPIRIT, A  
TEACHABLE LOVING MIND;  
I'LL DO MY BEST TO LEARN HIS WAY AND  
SET AN EXAMPLE TO ALL MANKIND.