

I. JESUS' END TIME PARABLE

1. **24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.-Mt 13:24-30**

B. In Matthew 13:36-43 Jesus explains this important parable

1. The field = the world
2. The good seed = sons of the Kingdom
3. The weeds = sons of the evil one
4. The enemy = the devil
5. The harvest = the end of the age
6. The reapers = angels

C. The main point of the parable is that the Kingdom of God grows in a world where evil also grows. God allows both to coexist for a time, but final judgment and separation will come at the end of the age.

D. There will be only two different types of people at the end of the age. The church, and the non church, the saved and the lost, those dead to sin and those dead in sin.

II. DARKNESS AND GLORY

A. The prophet Isaiah echoes this parable.

1. Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. -Is 60:1-2

III. TEN MAJOR PLAYERS DURING THE GREAT TRIBULATION

1. JESUS CHRIST

a) Opens the seals (Rev 6), oversees judgment, reaps a harvest, returns in glory, destroys the Antichrist, wars against the kings of the earth in the battle for Jerusalem, establishes His kingdom

2. SATAN

a) Also called the dragon. Cast down to earth, leads darkest period of human history, empowers the Antichrist, wages war against Israel and the church, raging because his time is short (Rev 12)

3. ANITCHRIST

a) Known as The Beast (Rev 13), Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2), and the Little Horn (Daniel 7)

b) Global political leader, makes covenant with Israel and middle east nations, breaks covenant middle of last seven years, sits in the temple as God and demands global worship, Institutes the Mark of the Beast, will be destroyed by Jesus at His second coming

4. FALSE PROPHET

a) Known as the second beast. Will lead the Antichrist's false religion as a global religious leader supporting the Antichrist.

Performs signs and wonders. Enforces worship of the Beast
Oversees the Mark system

5. ISRAEL

- a) The central focus of all end-time conflict, and primary target of the Antichrist. Some are protected by God for 3.5 years. (Rev. 12:6)
- b) Will face the severest intense persecution in her history leading to two thirds dying by the sword. This time is called Jacobs trouble. (Rev. 12:13) (Zech 13:8)

(1) Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it. -Jer 30:7

- c) Ultimately experiences national salvation (Zech 12:10, Zech 13, Matthew 23:39)

6. THE NATIONS

- a) Gathered against Jerusalem, deceived by demonic spirits and assembled at Armageddon.

(1) For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem -Zech 14:2

(2) 12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. -Rev 16:12

- b) Most of the nations will be enraged with God, the Person of Jesus Christ, and God's Holy Scriptures

(1) Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed. saying, 3 "Let us break Their

bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.”(God’s Word) -Ps 2:1-3

7. RESISTERS

- a) These are people during the great tribulation that neither have been born again or have taken the mark of the beast and don’t follow the Antichrist.
- b) They are the nations that survive the great tribulation and go into the thousand reign of Christ unsaved.

(1) 16 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. -Zech 14:16

8. 144 THOUSAND JEWISH BELIEVING EVANGELISTS

- a) The 144,000 are mentioned in two places in the book of Revelation, chapters 7:1-8 and 14:1-5
- b) They are a remnant of ethnic jews who follow Jesus and evangelize with great power during the great tribulation period. They will be sealed and protected by God.
- c) The 144,000 are made up of 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. They will be prophetic singers and musicians and will be standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion (Rev. 14:2-3)
- d) They are described as having the Father’s name on their foreheads, being morally pure, and called “firstfruits to God and to the Lamb”

9. TWO WITNESSES

- a) The Two Witnesses are end-time prophetic figures empowered by God to confront the Antichrist’s system in Jerusalem, call the world to repentance, and demonstrate God’s authority before Christ’s return.(Rev. 11)

- b) They will walk in unusual power, authority, and perform signs and wonders including shutting up the heaven so it does not rain, calling fire from heaven, and striking the earth with plagues. They will prophesy for 1260 days (3.5 yrs), and then be killed by the antichrist and resurrected publicly three days later and will ascend to heaven in the rapture.

10. THE PROPHETIC PRAYING CHURCH

- a) God will have a victorious church during this period that will worship and pray day and night as she completes the great commission, provokes Israel to jealousy, stands with Israel, and operates in the greatest measure of signs, wonders, authority, and power the church has ever done in history. **(Isaiah 42:10-13, 52:8-9, 62:6-7, Acts 2:17-21; Matthew 28:16-20; Matthew 17:11, Matthew 24:14; Romans 10:19)**

IV. WHY I BELIEVE THE CHURCH WILL GO THROUGH THE GREAT TRIBULATION

- A. Some teach that the Church will be raptured before the Tribulation. This teaching is based in part on the argument that since the term “Church” is not mentioned after Revelation 4, the Church must no longer be on earth at that time. This is an assumption that is based on silence rather than what the Scripture directly says. There is much evidence in the book of Revelation that the saints will be living and functioning on earth during the Great Tribulation.
- B. During the great tribulation, the Lord will release great glory on His people related to protection, provision, prayer, proclamation of the gospel, witness, and prophesy.
- C. A great example of this is seen in the foreshadowing story of the Exodus when God did not allow the plagues of Egypt to touch the place where God’s people dwelled. God will use the “Goshen principle” at an even greater level at the end of the age.

- 1. ***22 And on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land. 23 I will make a difference between My people and your people. -Exodus 8:22-23***

2. ***Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the LORD's anger. -Zeph 2:3***
3. ***Come, My people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past. 21 For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; The earth will also disclose her blood, And will no more cover her slain. -Is. 26:20-21***

V. 10 BIBLICAL PROOFS THE CHURCH WILL GO THROUGH THE GREAT TRIBULATION

1. RAPTURE HAPPENS AFTER GREAT TRIBULATION

- a) ***29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. -Mt. 24:29-31***

2. THE GREAT HARVEST OF THIS PERIOD

- a) The great harvest of souls from all nations occurs during the tribulation. The Church will not be absent at the time of our greatest increase and effectiveness in evangelism.

(1) 9 Behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne... 14 These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Rev. 7:9, 14)

3. COMPLETION OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

- a) The church is called to fulfill the great commission all the way to the end of the age

(1) 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.-Mt 28:19-20

(2) 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.-Mt 24:14

4. THE CHURCH OVERCOMES SATAN

- a) **11 And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony-Rev. 12:11**

5. MARYTRDOM

- a) **9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.-Rev 6:9-11**
- b) **They...they have shed the blood of saints and prophets. (Rev. 16:6)**
- c) **I saw the woman [Harlot Babylon], drunk with the blood of the saints... (Rev. 17:6)**

d) I saw...those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus...who had not worshiped the beast [the Antichrist].
(Rev. 20:4)

6. ANTICHRIST PERSECUTION

a) The saints must be on earth during the Tribulation for the Antichrist to war against them.

(1) It was granted to him [Antichrist] to make war with the saints. -Rev. 13:7

b) The dragon [Satan] was enraged with the woman [remnant of Israel], and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev. 12:17)

7. GLOBAL PRAYER AND WORSHIP MOVEMENT

a) The church will be on the earth participating in a matured global prayer and worship movement that will be day and night

(1) Your watchmen shall lift up their voices,With their voices they shall sing together;For they shall see eye to eyeWhen the LORD brings back Zion.-Is 52:8

(2) I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem;They shall [f]never hold their peace day or night.You who [g]make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent,7 And give Him no rest till He establishesAnd till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.-Is. 62:6-7

(3) 6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"-Lk 18:6-8

(4) 8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. -Rev 5:8

**(5) 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.
5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. -Rev 8:4-5**