Road to Eternity – The Tribulation

Review – Bema Seat Judgment

- Bema Seat is only for Christians!
- Bema Seat is about Stewardship & Service; NOT Sin & Salvation.
- What is judged? Works! Were they worthy for the Kingdom, or worthless?
- Key Point: What you do matters! Its measurable and it makes an impact
- Don't focus on the reward – focus on the heart's motivation: Glory, Honor Thanks!

Revelation 4:9-10 And whenever the living creatures give **glory** and **honor** and **thanks** to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne …

Questions

- If I tell people about something I did in ministry, or people talk about it, did I lose my reward? Depends on the heart posture. Did you do "ministry" for your glory, honor, or thanks from others – if so, you received your reward from them. If you did ministry for His glory, honor or thanks, then you will receive your reward from Him.
- If a person has committed suicide, how does their good works help them? Are they doomed because of suicide? No. Suicide = self murder = sin. Sin was dealt with at cross for a believer, not at Bema. Can it be forgiven? Yes! No condemnation, nothing separates us from His love. It's sin – dealt with at cross for believer, no impact on Bema rewards as Bema has nothing to do with sin – only our work.
- Who will be in the rapture? Christians! Those who have believed in Jesus as Lord
- Is there an order to the crowns? No particular order – simply listed in scripture.
- What does it mean that a crown is "designated authority"? Depends on the crown. A *diadema* is a crown that is a designated authority; a *stephanos* crown is earned.

The Tribulation

Zeph 1:15 A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

- Mentioned nearly 50 times in the OT and 15 times in NT by various names

Jer 30:4-7
These are the words the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah: "This is what the Lord says:
'Cries of fear are heard— terror, not peace. Ask and see: Can a man bear children?
Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor,
every face turned deathly pale? How awful that day will be! No other will be like it.
It will be **a time of trouble for Jacob**, but he will be saved out of it.

Matt 24:21-22
For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

Tribulation: *thlipsis* #2347 – to crush, break, compress, squeeze. A narrow place that hems someone in leaving them restricted / without options. Grievous affliction, distress, persecution.

The English word 'tribulation' comes from the Latin word '*tribulum'*, meaning a "threshing sledge", which uses pressure and friction **to separate the chaff from heads of grain.**

The 70th Week of Daniel's Prophecy.
Daniel 9:24-27 NIV

"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed **for your people** and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

"Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of **the ruler who will come** will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

He will confirm a **covenant with many for one 'seven**.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

7 Years X **360** Prophetic Days = 2,520 days

References to 3.5 years as times, time, and half a time, 42 months, 1,260 days include: Dan 7:25, 12:7, Rev 11:2-3, 12:6, 12:14, 13:5

- Seven-year period of time with 3 distinct anchor points:
  - Begins with a Covenant (Peace Treaty) = Day 0
  - Midpoint is the Abomination of Desolation = 3.5 years = 42 months = Day 1,260
  - Ends with the Return of Jesus = Day 2,520

The Antichrist

Antichrist: "Against / Opposed to" or "Instead of / In place of" the "Anointed One"
The word 'antichrist' is only used 5 times in 3 passages, all by John.

- 1 John 2:18-22
- 1 John 4:2-3
- 2 John 7

1 John 4:3 This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

The spirit of the antichrist denies:

1) That Jesus is the Christ / Messiah
2) The Father and the Son (that Jesus is the Son of God / Deity)
3) That Jesus came in the flesh (God became man)

The Antichrist is called many things in scripture (one claim of 33 names in OT and 13 in NT)

2 Thess 2:3-4
Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

Dan 8:23-25
"At the end of their rule, when their sin is at its height, a fierce king, a master of intrigue, will rise to power. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause a shocking amount of destruction and succeed in everything he does. He will destroy powerful leaders and devastate the holy people. He will be a master of deception and will become arrogant; he will destroy many without warning. He will even take on the Prince of princes in battle, but he will be broken, though not by human power.

2 Thess 2:9-10
that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

Dan 7:8, 20-21
"While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

20I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them,

Rev 13:5-8
And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against

God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

'The Revelation' Overview:

Chapter 1 Jesus meets John
Chapters 2-3 Church Age
Chapter 4 Rapture and Bema Seat Judgment
Chapter 5 Jesus receives the Scroll with 7 Seals
Chapters 6-19 The Tribulation

- Tribulation Begins: Antichrist signs a Covenant with Israel Revelation 6:2
    1) Wrath: 7 Seals Revelation 6
    2) Wrath: 7 Trumpets Revelation 8-9, 11:15
- Mid-Point of Tribulation: Abomination of Desolation Revelation 11-14
    3) Great Wrath: 7 Bowls Revelation 16
- Tribulation Ends: Return of Jesus Revelation 19

Chapter 20 The Millennial Kingdom
Chapters 21-22 New Heaven and New Earth

Overview of The Tribulation

The 7 Seals Revelation 6

Seal #1	White Horse, rider with crown & bow	Antichrist conquers politically

Rev 6:2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

Seal #2	Red Horse, rider with fiery sword	Antichrist conquers via warfare
Seal #3	Black Horse, rider with a pair of scales	Global inflation
Seal #4	Pale Horse, rider is Death	25% killed by famine, sword, plague, wild beasts
Seal #5	Souls under the Altar	Tribulation Saints are martyred
Seal #6	Great Earthquake, Astronomical Disturbances	Wrath of the Lamb is displayed
Seal #7	The 7 Trumpets	30 minutes silence in Heaven

State of Men's Hearts: Rev 6:15-16 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

Other events in First ½ of Tribulation

- 144,000 Jewish men are divinely elected Revelation 7:3-8
- 2 Witnesses are in Jerusalem Revelation 11

The 7 Trumpets Revelation 8-9, 11:15

Trumpet #1	Hail & Fire	1/3 land burned up
Trumpet #2	Mountain hits Seas	1/3 seas turn to blood
Trumpet #3	Star hits Rivers	1/3 rivers become bitter as wormwood
Trumpet #4	Stars go dark	1/3 of celestial lights go dark
*Trumpet #5	Locusts from Abyss	People are stung and tormented for 5 months
*Trumpet #6	Army of 200 Million	1/3 of mankind is killed
*Trumpet #7	Earthquake & Hail	The 7 Bowl Judgements are released

* The Woe Judgments (Rev 8:13) #6 likely occurs after the Midpoint. #7 is after midpoint

State of Men's Hearts: Rev 9:20 But the people who did not die in these plagues still refused to repent of their evil deeds and turn to God.

Mid-Point of Tribulation Events Revelation 11-14

- War in Heaven. Satan thrown to earth by Michael Rev 12:7-9
- Antichrist is killed by a wound to head; then resurrects and is worshipped. Rev 13:3-4
- The Two Witnesses killed by Antichrist, lie dead for 3.5 days, then resurrected / raptured
- Abomination of Desolation. Rev 13:15

2 Thess 2:3-4 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

Rev 13:14-15 Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

- Remnant flees to wilderness. Rev 12:6,14-16, Mic 2:12
- False Prophet establishes global religion from Jerusalem Rev 13:11-14
- Mark of the Beast established requiring allegiant worship to buy or sell Rev 13:16-18
- Angelic gospel and warnings proclaimed throughout the earth Rev 14:6-11
- Intense persecution and martyrdom for those who do not worship Antichrist

Rev 13:4-5 And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

And who is behind it all??

Revelation 11:15-17 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for **you have taken your great power and begun to reign**.

The 7 Bowls of Wrath Revelation 16

Bowl #1	Loathsome / Malignant sores	Poured out on those with mark of the Beast
Bowl #2	Seas turned to blood	Every living thing in the sea dies
Bowl #3	Rivers turned to blood	Every living thing in the rivers die
Bowl #4	Sun becomes scorching	Fierce heat scorches all people
Bowl #5	Painful deep darkness	Causes people to gnaw tongues in pain
Bowl #6	Euphrates river dries up	Satanic messengers gather people for war
Bowl #7	Earthquake & 100# Hailstones	Greatest earthquake ever recorded

State of Men's Hearts: Rev 16:11 and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

Babylon's Fate Revelation 17-18

- Babylon, Mother of Harlots is destroyed — Every religion is demolished
- Babylon, Great City is destroyed — Political and Financial system collapses

End of The Tribulation Revelation 19

1) Repentance of the Remnant of Israel

Hosea 5:15 I will return again to my place, **until** they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and **in their distress** earnestly seek me.

Zechariah 12:10-11 And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

Romans 11:25-27 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in; and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB." "AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

2) The Return of Jesus with His Bride Revelation 19:11-16

Close

1 Peter 4:12-13, 19 NLT

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

19So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

Colossians 1:15-18 ESV

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Revelation 12:11

And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.