

Rigged for the Journey
THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Lesson 12C

I. The Purpose of the Tribulation (Dan 9.24):

“Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.” (Da 9:24 NKJV)

- A. "To finish the transgression:" The tribulation will prepare Israel for the second coming of **Christ**. Israel will experience a great revival during this period of time. They will be both expecting and longing for the coming of the Messiah. Those who come against God's anointed during this period will all be destroyed at the return of Christ (Rev 19:19-21).

“And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.” (Re 19:19-21 NKJV)

- B. "To make an end of sins:" At Christ's second coming, Satan will be bound and all unbelievers will be killed. Only **believers** will enter the millennial Kingdom whose trademark will be holiness (Rev 20:1-3).

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is [the] Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.” (Re 20:1-3 NKJV)

- C. "To make reconciliation for iniquity:" At the end of the tribulation, those **Jews** who reject the beast will be reconciled back to God. At Christ's Second Coming, they will not reject Him as they did before Pilate at His first coming.
- C. "To bring everlasting righteousness:" Once the millennial Kingdom is established it will never be overthrown. After Christ has dealt with Satan and his last army at the end of the millennium, He will then officially give back to God the Father His beloved Kingdom (Gen 3:21-24). Those who have placed their faith and trust in Christ alone for salvation will spend **eternity** in the presence of Almighty God (Rev 21:3-4).

“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them [and be] their God. "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more

death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” (Re 21:3-4 NKJV)

- E. "To seal up vision and prophecy:" When Israel returns to Christ, there will no longer be a need for visions and **prophets** among Israel. At this time, Christ will live in their midst for all eternity. He will be their God and they will be His people.
- F. "To anoint the most Holy:" In the millennial Kingdom there will again be a true theocracy (Rev 19:16). Christ will be supreme **ruler** over all creation and creation will be in complete submission to His authority.

“And He has on [His] robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Re 19:16 NKJV)

- G. Therefore, the primary purpose of the Tribulation period is twofold:

1. God will take up His plan for **Israel** once again during the last 7 years of Daniel’s 70 weeks of years on God’s calendar (Dan 9:26-27). This will culminate with Israel accepting their true Messiah at the literal Second Coming of Christ (Rev 1:7).

“”And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it [shall be] with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”” (Da 9:26-27 NKJV)

“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.” (Re 1:7 NKJV)

2. During the Tribulation the wrath of God will be unleashed upon the face of the Earth, in order to **purge** the Earth of unrighteousness and prepare all creation for the rule of God.

II. The Beast's Rise to Power:

- A. Understanding this truth that “the time of the end” is still to come in Daniel 8:19, we must look at what the Bible has to say about the final beast of the Roman Empire, often called the **antichrist**. However, antichrist is a way of life more than a person (1 John 4:2-3), the second person of the satanic trinity is called the beast (Rev 11:7).

“And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end [shall be].” (Da 8:19 NKJV)

“By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the [spirit] of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.” (1Jo 4:2-3 NKJV)

“When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.” (Re 11:7 NKJV)

- B. The Church is **ruptured** before the beginning of the Great Tribulation (1 Thes 5:8-9; 1:9-10; 4:16-17; Rev 3:10).

“But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and [as] a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,” (1Th 5:8-9 NKJV)

“For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, [even] Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.” (1Th 1:9-10 NKJV)

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (1Th 4:16-17 NKJV)

““Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” (Re 3:10 NKJV)

- C. The Holy Spirit discontinues His ministry of **restraining** evil. Evil is allowed to flourish freely upon earth (2 Thes 2:7-8).

“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains [will do so] until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.” (2Th 2:7-8 NKJV)

- D. The beast **rises** to power by defeating three kings to assume the position of ruler over the final form of the Roman Empire (Dan 7:7-8, 23-25).

““After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It [was] different from all the beasts that [were] before it, and it had ten horns. “I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, [were] eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.” (Da 7:7-8 NKJV)

““Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all [other] kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns [are] ten kings [Who] shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first [ones], And shall subdue three kings. He shall speak [pompous] words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most

High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then [the saints] shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.” (Da 7:23-25 NKJV)

1. His rise to power occurs after the rapture of the **Church** (2 Thes 2:1-3, 6-8).

“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for [that Day will not come] unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,” (2Th 2:1-3 NKJV)

“And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains [will do so] until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.” (2Th 2:6-8 NKJV)

3. His nationality appears to be of Gentile origin. The Scriptures teach he will come out of the **Roman Empire**, therefore he will be of Roman blood. It should be noted that he will rule over the Roman Empire at the second coming. This does not mean he has to be a full blooded Roman. Others think he will be a composite of evil men since he is identified with all the traits of the first three empires in Daniel 2 and 7. Some even believe he will possess Jewish blood because he shall not "regard the God of his fathers" (Dan 11:37). But he will come out of the old Roman Empire (Rev 13:1-2; Dan 9:26; 11:36-37).

“Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like [the feet of] a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.” (Re 13:1-2 NKJV)

“"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it [shall be] with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.” (Da 9:26 NKJV)

“"Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. "He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above [them] all.” (Da 11:36-37 NKJV)

4. His promotion of world peace and deceitful **diplomacy** aids his rise to world prominence. His power will not be obtained through war (Dan 8:25; 11:21-24).

“"Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt [himself] in his heart. He shall destroy many in [their] prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without [human] means.” (Da 8:25 NKJV)

"And in his place shall arise a vile person, to whom they will not give the honor of royalty; but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue. "With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant. "And after the league [is made] with him he shall act deceitfully, for he shall come up and become strong with a small [number of] people. "He shall enter peaceably, even into the richest places of the province; and he shall do [what] his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches; and he shall devise his plans against the strongholds, but [only] for a time." (Da 11:21-24 NKJV)

- E. A seven year treaty made between the beast and Israel marks the **start** of the seven year tribulation period. This is thought by Israel to be the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant. However, after 3 ½ years, he will break the covenant with Israel and begin a campaign to destroy God's chosen people (Dan 9:27; Rev 13:5-7).

"Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate." (Da 9:27 NKJV)

"And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation." (Re 13:5-7 NKJV)

1. In the middle of the tribulation period, Satan is **cast out** of heaven upon the earth. It is this point that the Great Tribulation (last 3 ½ years) begins (Rev 12:9-12).

"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." (Re 12:9-12 NKJV)

2. It appears in Scripture that the beast will be killed in the middle of the tribulation, and once dead Satan will fill him and restore him to life as an **imitation** of Christ's resurrection. From this point, he will begin his genuine satanic activity (Rev 13:3-4; Dan 7:25).

"And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who [is] like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" (Re 13:3-4 NKJV)

“He shall speak [pompous] words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then [the saints] shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.” (Da 7:25 NKJV)

3. Once filled by Satan, he will **desecrate** the Temple and begin to persecute Israel and the tribulation saints. People will be so blinded because of his supernatural powers that they will worship him as a god and he will accept their worship (Rev 13:5-8; 2 Thes 2:8-12).

“And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” (Re 13:5-8 NKJV)

“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the [lawless one] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (2Th 2:8-12 NKJV)

- F. The beast will submit to the authority of the world-wide apostate church during the first part of the tribulation. The beast's submission to the world-wide church is not out of reverence, but rather to strengthen his **political position** in the world. In fact, after the beast uses the world-wide church for all he can, he will destroy it in the middle of the tribulation period. It is here the nations will willingly submit to his authority (Rev 17:5-7, 16-18, 12-13).

“And on her forehead a name [was] written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.” (Re 17:5-7 NKJV)

“"And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. "For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. "And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”” (Re 17:16-18 NKJV)

“"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. "These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.” (Re 17:12-13 NKJV)

- G. The **false prophet** or "second beast" will be a Jew who will force the world population to worship the beast (Rev 13:11-12; Matt 7:15).

“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” (Re 13:11-12 NKJV)

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.” (Mt 7:15 NKJV)

1. He is empowered by Satan and will **deceive** the unbelieving Jews into believing he is Elijah that is to come (Rev 13:13-14).

“He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.” (Re 13:13-14 NKJV)

2. He will be given the authority to kill a person not willing to **worship** the image of the beast (Rev 13:15).

“He was granted [power] to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.” (Re 13:15 NKJV)

3. He will control all world commerce through the mark of his identity "**666**." Those who take his mark will be permitted to buy and sell. It appears that this society will be a moneyless system. Those who do not have the mark will have to beg or starve. Those who take the mark of the beast will be eternally separated from God (Rev 13:16-18; 14:9-11).

“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number [is] 666.” (Re 13:16-18 NKJV)

“Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives [his] mark on his forehead or on his hand, “he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. “And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”” (Re 14:9-11 NKJV)

- H. Satan, the beast, and the false prophet comprise the satanic **trinity**. This mockery of the Holy Trinity will be freely active the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation period. Mankind has never seen anything like the destruction of human life that will occur during this short period. Remember, even though unbelievers in the world during this time deny Jehovah God; God still loves them and desires they be saved. With this in mind, every life that Satan takes will grieve the heart of God (Rev 16:13; Mark 13:19-20).

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [coming] out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.” (Re 16:13 NKJV)

““For [in] those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. "And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.” (Mr 13:19-20 NKJV)

- I. At some time during the second half of the tribulation, the armies from the **South** (Egypt), the **North** (Russia with her allies: Persia (Iran), Ethiopia (northern Arabia), Put (Lybia), Gog (Magog, Rosh, Meshech, Tubal, and Gomer ---Turkey or Armenia), and the **East** (Asian nations); will challenge the world authority of the beast. Apparently, the beast will attack the armies of the South and defeat them; however, he begins to worry about the armies of the North and East, so he establishes his headquarters in Palestine (Dan 11:40-45; Ezek 38-39).

““At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm [them], and pass through. "He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many [countries] shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. "He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. "He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians [shall follow] at his heels. "But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. "And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.” (Da 11:40-45 NKJV)

1. The army of the North will be supernaturally **destroyed** by God (Ezek 39:1-8).

““And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I [am] against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; "and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel. "Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand. "You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who [are] with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and [to] the beasts of the field to be devoured. "You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken," says the Lord GOD. "And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I [am] the LORD. "So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not [let them] profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that [I am] the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. "Surely it is coming, and it shall be done," says the Lord GOD. "This [is] the day of which I have spoken. "Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years.” (Eze 39:1-9 NKJV)

2. Toward the end of the tribulation period, God will **supernaturally** dry up the River Euphrates to allow the armies of the East to make a land assault on the army of the beast in Palestine (Rev 16:12).

“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.” (Re 16:12 NKJV)

3. These last two great world powers will engage in battle at the Mount of Megiddo (**Armageddon**). Just as Israel believes all is lost, the Lord Jesus Christ will come in power and glory to end the tribulation period and destroy these two great armies. The second advent of Christ marks the end of the beast's reign, end of the tribulation period, and the end of the times of the Gentiles (Rev 16:13-16; 19:19-21).

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [coming] out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, [which] go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed [is] he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.” (Re 16:13-16 NKJV)

“And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.” (Re 19:19-21 NKJV)

4. This brings an end to the satanic trinity and their reign of evil. Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire **forevermore**. Remember, this place of eternal torment was primarily prepared for the devil and his angels, men will go there only by choice (Rev 19:20, 20:10; Matt 25:41; John 3:36).

“Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.” (Re 19:20 NKJV)

“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet [are]. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” (Re 20:10 NKJV)

“"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:’” (Mt 25:41 NKJV)

“"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”” (Joh 3:36 NKJV)

Conclusion:

- A. God’s desire is for believers to remain **faithful** until the end (1 Cor 15:58; Eph 4:11-15).

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (1Co 15:58 NKJV)

“And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — ” (Eph 4:11-15 NKJV)

- B. Believers need to live **one day** at a time (Matt 6:33-34).

“”But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ”Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day [is] its own trouble.” (Mt 6:33-34 NKJV)

- C. Believers need to have their **eyes fixed** on Christ, the true treasure (Heb 12:1-3; 2 Cor 4:16-5:2).

“At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. And when the Pharisees saw [it], they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!" But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:” (Mt 12:1-3 NKJV)

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward [man] is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding [and] eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen [are] temporary, but the things which are not seen [are] eternal. For we know that if our earthly house, [this] tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,” (2Co 4:16-5:2 NKJV)

- D. As the time approaches the **end**, it will become more difficult for believers to remain faithful to the Master and the truth (2 Pet 2:1-3; 2 Cor 11:13-15).

“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, [and] bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.” (2Pe 2:1-3 NKJV)

“For such [are] false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore [it is] no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.” (2Co 11:13-15 NKJV)

- E. This is why believers must study and be **prepared** to share a message of hope with a world that is dead, alienated, and separated from the love of God, wherever God plants them (1 Pet 3:15; 2 Tim 4:1-2; Acts 1:8).

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always [be] ready to [give] a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;” (1Pe 3:15 NKJV)

“I charge [you] therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.” (2Ti 4:1-2 NKJV)

“”But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”” (Ac 1:8 NKJV)

Spending Time with the Master¹

Day 1: Revelation 11

What God said:

My Response to God:

Day 2: Revelation 12

What God said:

My Response to God:

Day 3: Revelation 13

What God said:

My Response to God:

Day 4: Revelation 14

What God said:

My Response to God:

Day 5: Revelation 15

What God said:

My Response to God:

Suggested reading: *Rigged for the Journey*, Chapter 11

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:58

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Cor 15:58, NKJV).

¹ Idea taken from MasterLife “Daily Master Communication Guide”, Avery T. Willis, Jr. and Kay Moore, *The Disciple’s Cross*, LifeWay Press: Nashville, TN., 1996, p. 14.