

THE TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD

Text: Rev. 11-15

INTRODUCTION: Joel prophesied a coming day of judgment coming upon the earth. It is called the Day of the Lord.

Joel 2:1-3 1 Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand: 2 A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning *clouds* spread over the mountains. A people *come*, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any *such* after them, Even for many successive generations. 3 A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land *is* like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them.

The Day of the Lord is different than the Day of _____. The Day of Christ refers to the _____, but the Day of the Lord is a time of horrific judgment upon the earth. In this study we shall see why the Bible calls it a time of darkness and gloom. Jesus said that unless that time had been shortened, _____ would live through it (Mt. 24:22).

When does the Day of the Lord come? I believe the key is in Joel's prophecy. Immediately preceding that day, "A people *come*, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any *such* after them." This seems to be descriptive of what happened at the blowing of the _____ trumpet, when an army of 200 million soldiers began its march toward Israel. It will not arrive until near the end of the tribulation, just in time for Armageddon, but it is on the way. At the blowing of the seventh trumpet, we come to the _____ of the tribulation and to that tremendously significant time known as "The Day of the Lord." Much happens during this time.

I. WHAT THE ANTICHRIST DOES

A. The antichrist declares himself to be "GOD."

1. **Paul explains that the day of the Lord cannot come until after the antichrist is revealed.** 2 Thessalonians 2:2 *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.* The oldest and best ancient manuscripts say "day of the Lord" not "day of Christ."
2. **This is the "revealing" of the man of _____.** 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 3 *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, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is*

worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

3. **This is the _____ of desolations.** Daniel 9:27 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.
4. **This is the _____ of Revelation 13:5-6** 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

B. The antichrist begins his _____ of Israel. (Rev. 12)

Revelation 12 1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. 2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 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. 10 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. 11 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. 12 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."

13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. 14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. 15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he

might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, 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.

The text begins by saying that all of this was a great sign that appeared, so we know that this is signifying something. So, what is being signified?

1. **The child of 12:5 is _____.** Psalm 2:9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.

Revelation 19:15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And **He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron.** He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

2. Who is the woman of 12:1?

- a. Some say she is _____. (Sometimes we see pictures of Mary clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet with a garland of 12 stars.)

- 1) But Mary did not flee 1260 days.
- 2) Mary will not be here during the tribulation.

- b. Some say she is the _____.

- 1) But the church did not give birth to Jesus.
- 2) Jesus gave birth to the church.

- c. **The woman is _____.**

- 1) The sun, moon, stars refer to Gen. 37:9-10; and all refer to Israel. Genesis 37:9-10 9 Then he (_____) dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." 10 So he told *it* to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What *is* this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

Joseph's father was _____ whose name was changed to Israel. The sons of Jacob became the fathers of the 12 _____ of Israel.

- 2) Jesus is the _____ of Israel. Genesis 12:1-3 1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I

will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Jesus was a descendent of _____ and the One who became the blessing for all the families of the earth.

- 3) Therefore, _____ will flee to the wilderness to be protected by God for 1260 days or three and one-half years, the last half of the tribulation.

3. **The dragon is _____.** Revelation 12:9 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.

C. The antichrist intensifies his persecution of _____.

1. **He kills the two _____.** (God resurrects them!)

Revelation 11:7-13 7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

2. **He makes war on the _____.** Revelation 13:7-8 7 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. 8 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.

II. WHAT GOD DOES

A. God offers a final chance to repent and believe.

1. **God raptures the _____.** Revelation 14:1-5 1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the

voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. 3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

- 2. God sends 3 _____ with a final proclamation.** Revelation 14:6-13
- 6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— 7 saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” 8 And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” 9 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, 10 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. 11 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.”

12 Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. 13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

- The angels proclaim the _____ and warn of imminent judgment.
 - They announce the ultimate _____ of antichrist's kingdom.
 - They issue a severe warning about receiving the _____ of the beast.
- B. God prepares to pour out His _____ wrath on the earth.**
Revelation 14:10 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.

C. God begins the Two Great _____.

- 1. First is the harvest of _____.** Revelation 14:14-16 14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat *One* like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. 15

And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

- a. The harvester is the same as the sower: _____
- b. Ripe in this verse means "almost to the point of _____" and pictures the last of the crop to be gathered from the field because there is no more.
- c. No one else will be saved during the _____.
 - 1) Some saved people will live through to the _____.
 - 2) Some will be saved in the opening days of the millennium.
 - 3) But after this harvest which comes shortly after the midpoint of the tribulation, no one else comes to Christ until the tribulation and the Day of the Lord are complete. See also **Revelation 15:8** "The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

2. The second is the harvest of the grapes of _____. Revelation 14:17-20 17 Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." 19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

- a. An _____ does this harvest.
- b. It is done in a series of seven _____ judgments in which the undiluted wrath of God is poured out upon the world.
- c. The word ripe in this passage is a different Greek word than in 14:15. Here it means "ready to _____" and shows the fullness of the world's people with iniquity.
- d. This harvest culminates in the Battle of Armageddon where the blood will flow to the depth of a horse's bridle for a length of _____ miles!

CONCLUSION: Remember, God always writes the last chapter.