

LESSON 25 – THROUGH TRIBULATION VALLEY TO THE KINGDOM

Revelation

THEME: To set forth the events of the last days before Christ returns to set up THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN upon the earth.

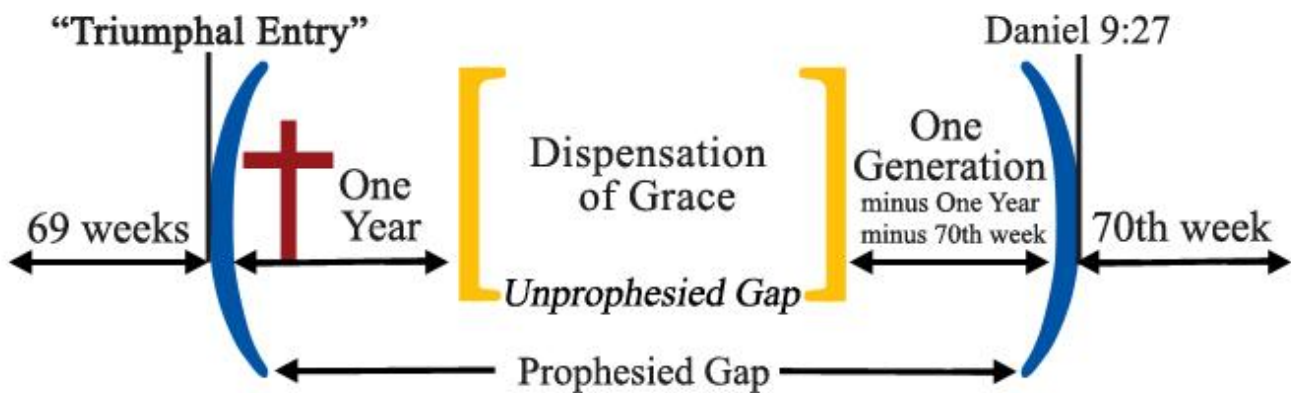
The world will find out one day that all true believers in Christ are gone. Why? THE BODY OF CHRIST on earth (represented by SALVATION LINER) has been completed and called home to be with Christ forever. God's *secret purpose* has also been completed. Then KINGDOM BOULEVARD will again be opened. You might remember that the Prophets saw two mountain peaks of prophecy: one MOUNT CALVARY where Jesus was crucified, the other God's HOLY KINGDOM MOUNTAIN where David's throne was to be established forever over Israel, and from which blessings would flow to all nations. The way of salvation will no longer be through the gospel of the grace of God (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) but again through the kingdom gospel, the belief that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the King of Israel (Matthew 16:13-17, John 11:23-27). Those believers will prove their faith by "enduring to the end" (Matthew 24:13), enduring the sufferings of TRIBULATION VALLEY.

The prophet Daniel is being told by the angel Gabriel in Daniel 9:24, how long his people will have to wait for the coming of the kingdom of heaven on earth. God had "determined" that *seventy weeks* must transpire before the kingdom could come. A Hebrew who knew his Bible well, Daniel would know that Gabriel was speaking about *weeks of 7 years*, not weeks of 7 days (cf. Genesis 29:27; Leviticus 25:8). Knowing that the Jews used a 360-day lunar calendar, with each year consisting of 12 months of 30 days each (compare Genesis 7:11,24 with 8:3,4), we find that the 69 weeks in Daniel 9:25 work out to the very day the Lord Jesus Christ rode the colt into Jerusalem and made an official presentation of Himself to Israel.

In Daniel 9:26, we read that "after" the 69th week ended, He would be "cut off" or *killed*, "cut off *out of the land of the living*" (Isaiah 53:8). While Gabriel does not say how long after, we now know that our Lord died a few days after His "triumphal entry" into Jerusalem. This means He died after the 69th week ended, but before the beginning of the 70th week (Daniel 9:27). Thus, our Lord died during a *gap* in the 70 weeks prophecy. The Cross was still a prophesied event, of course, but a prophesied event that transpired outside the confines of the prophesied 70 weeks. The gap in the seventy weeks prophecy is *not* the current dispensation of grace. The dispensation of grace is an unprophesied gap in God's prophetic program. However, the prophesied gap is what allowed God to insert the unprophesied dispensation of grace into the 70 weeks prophecy, a sort of gap within a gap. Without this prophesied gap, even God Himself, would have no right to insert a dispensation of about two thousand years duration into the precise timetable of the 70 weeks prophecy.

The prophesied gap worked out to Israel's advantage, because God gave them an additional year to reconsider what they had done at Calvary. This additional year is the subject of the Lord's parable about a fig tree in Luke 13:6-9. When at the end of this additional year, the leaders of Israel stoned Stephen, a man filled with the Holy Ghost (Acts 7:55), it showed that the fig tree of Israel had still not produced the spiritual fruit that God was seeking. At that point, God had no choice but to "cut it down" (Luke 13:9). And this cutting down of Israel explains the unfulfillment of Bible verses like Matthew 16:28 and 24:34.

In Matthew 24:34, after speaking of events that will transpire during the Great Tribulation, the Lord asserted that "this generation will not pass away until all these things take place." Had the Dispensation of Grace not interrupted the prophetic program, that generation would have lived to see the Tribulation, and the subsequent establishment of the kingdom of heaven on earth. This is why after the Rapture, but before the beginning of Daniel's 70th week, a period of time remains of up to a generation minus the additional year before the age of the mystery and minus the 70th week.



Source from "The prophet Daniel..." until this scheme: "The Gap Theory" by Pastor Ricky Kurth (Berean Searchlight of November 2011)

After the rapture, the Jews will begin to go back to Israel from all over the world and will establish their worship in the Third Temple of Jerusalem. The First temple was destroyed in 587 BC by the ancient Babylonians and the Second Temple in AD 70 by the Romans. The existence of another temple is confirmed by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:4, when he mentions that the antichrist takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. He will make a firm covenant with them for 7 years, but after 3,5 years he will break it. Daniel 9:27. Then will begin the most horrible 3,5 years of trouble that has ever come upon this earth, called THE GREAT TRIBULATION. Matthew 24:21. Revelation offers us the most information about THE GREAT TRIBULATION, the last half of the seven-year tribulation period. From Revelation 13, when the beasts are described, until Christ returns in Revelation 19, we are given a picture of God's wrath on the earth because of unbelief and rebellion (Revelation 16-18). Many people will be killed before they reach the KINGDOM GATE.

But the end will come when Christ Himself will come from heaven riding upon a white horse. Revelation 19:11. The Lord will defeat His enemies in the battle of Armageddon. The beast and the false prophet will be taken and thrown into THE LAKE OF FIRE. Revelation 16:16; 19:20,21. Satan will be bound for a 1,000 years and thrown into the abyss. Revelation 20:2,3.

The Lord will establish the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN on earth, and raise the kingdom saints (among them the Old Testament and Tribulation saints) from the dead to enter this kingdom. Revelation 20:1-5. Together with believing Jews who have come victoriously through TRIBULATION VALLEY, they will then rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years. Revelation 20:6. This period is called, The Millennium. The glory of the promised KINGDOM will be set up. The animals will not be wild any longer: the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat. Isaiah 11:6. Gentile nations will come up to Jerusalem to worship and to marvel. Isaiah 11:10, Zechariah 8:20-22, Zechariah 14:16-17. Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16), will be worshipped. Even on the bells of the horses will be inscribed: "Holy to the Lord." Zechariah 14:20.

You are probably asking where you will be when all this takes place. If you are saved, and belong to the Body of Christ, you have been raptured and will already be with Christ in the heavenly places. If you are still on earth after the Rapture, your way of salvation would be through the kingdom gospel and as a proof of this by enduring to the end. Matthew 24:13. But if you are not saved at the end or at the moment of death, the end for you is condemnation and eternal separation from God. Your name will not be found written in the book of life, and you will be thrown in the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15. For all the saints, what follows is the eternal state, "a new heaven and a new earth" (Revelation 21:1) wherein God will "sum up all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth" (Ephesians 1:10). God's earthly people of Israel, and His heavenly people in the Body of Christ, will then be able to serve God and enjoy one another's fellowship throughout eternity.

Our study of *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE* on this earth is finished. We began with the first Adam and have ended with the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45). Traffic has moved in one direction only - always forward. It is a *ONE-WAY ROAD*. There is no chance after death. Hebrews 9:27. Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of your salvation. 2 Corinthians 6:2. Why not pray now and tell God you trust His Son? Example prayer: Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I know my sin deserves to be punished with eternal death. But, I believe Christ died for me and rose from the grave. I trust Jesus Christ alone, as my personal Saviour from hell. Thank you for the forgiveness and everlasting life I now have in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

MEMORY VERSE: "And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:15.

LESSON 25 – WORK SHEET

After THE BODY OF CHRIST is taken up out of this world, God will again resume His dealings with Israel. The book of Revelation gives us a glimpse of the events, which will take place during the seven years, called THE TRIBULATION, and represented by TRIBULATION VALLEY on the chart. Look up the following references to get the answers to the questions. Fill in the spaces.

1. Revelation tells us of two Beasts who will hate God's people and will blaspheme God. The second Beast will make an image of the first and it was given to him to give breath to the image of the first Beast. This would make the image speak and cause _____
_____ Revelation 13:14-15.
2. Name four of the judgments which will be poured out upon the earth. Revelation 16:2,4,8,10. _____
_____.
3. What will the angel do to protect the faithful saints? Revelation 7:2-3. _____
_____.
4. Describe the vision of Christ as John saw Him coming from Heaven. Revelation 19:11-16. He was called _____ and _____. His eyes _____. On His head are _____. He was clothed with a robe _____. Out of His mouth _____. The name written on His robe: _____.
5. What will the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies do? Revelation 19:19. _____
_____.
6. Where will they be thrown alive? Revelation 19:20. _____.
7. What will happen to satan? Revelation 20:2. _____.
8. What will happen to the kingdom gospel believers who died or who endured through THE GREAT TRIBULATION? Revelation 20:4 _____.
9. What will happen at the end of the 1000 year reign of Christ over the old earth? Revelation 21:1 _____.
- 10 Write Revelation 20:15: _____
_____.