

End of Time Study

God's call to urgency

THE COMING TRIBULATION

In order to understand the coming time of tribulation we must first understand something of the nature of God, Himself. While it is true that God is the ultimate expression of love, i.e. *agape*, there is another side. Part of the nature of God is His righteousness and His holiness. God loves His creation, man, so much that he suffered and died for us. He has prepared a place for us, where we can be with Him for all eternity. Having said that, we must recognize that God will not tolerate rebellion, sin and evilness. Not only does sin have consequences of results, it kindles God's wrath.

Wrath is not just being angry or mad. Wrath is the action set about by sin and rebellion. Wrath involves setting the books straight...balancing. It is the carrying out of judgment. The Tribulation era is God's judgement.

So, what is the time of tribulation? Technically speaking, the Tribulation era officially begins when the spiritual seals on this Divine Scroll are loosed and the Scroll is opened and read. The Age of Grace is closed and the age of Judgment begins.

Revelation 5:1-5 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? 3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. 4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. 5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

The Scroll contains 21 prophetic Judgments, broken down into 3 sets, with 7 Judgments each, complemented with some stand alone prophecies. The Judgments have been written by YHWH, and now Jesus, who is the only one worthy, will allow the Angels to release the forces of nature and evil against the planet. It is a seven year period that takes place after the Rapture and before the Second coming of Jesus. It will be a time when Satan reigns through the antichrist and men show their absolute rebellion towards God. One time is certain, when Israel signs a seven year peace treaty with her enemies, the world

will begin to propel itself into a period of seven years of tribulation, climaxing when the Conquering Messiah appears to save humanity from itself.

The Tribulation era will last for seven years as described in the book of Daniel:

[Daniel 9:27](#) And he (the antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make [it] desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Jesus spoke of the tribulation time in His Olivet Discourse.

[Matthew 24:21-22](#) For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Prophecy teacher and author, Tim LeHaye, spells it out like this. "It will become such a holocaust because it combines the wrath of God, the fury of Satan and the evil nature of man run wild."

When the "Saints" have been removed through the Rapture and the "Ain'ts" are left, no one will be following Christ, at least at first. The antichrist will rise to establish order. This order will be built on three pillars.

The three pillars are:

- **One World Religion**
- **One World Government**
- **One World Economy**

One World Religion

During the Tribulation years, the misguided people will adopt a new religion based on the age-old theology of pluralism's lowest common denominator, and then demand that all humanity join them, or else be persecuted by inquisition. The early Greco-Roman secular belief was pluralistic, as in all roads lead to Rome. It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you bow to all other beliefs. The problem is the weak iron-clay mixture will have little tolerance for Scriptural truth.

Satan will energize a one-world religion and work through the lawless one, better known as the Antichrist. The one world religion will be incredibly powerful and the antichrist will find a way to link up with a false faith. People will be

extraordinarily religious, but, they will not seek after the true and living God. Early in the Tribulation period, two powerful forces will come together. The antichrist, who will head the ten nation confederacy, will unite with the world wide religion. The Prophets warn that in the last days an evil global dictator will rise to power with the European nations that made up the nations of the ancient Roman Empire at it's center. This global politician will have a religious partner from the city of seven hills – believed to be the Vatican. Later, only one of these two partners come up a winner in this unholy union.

The antichrist, under the influence of Satan has two purposes:

1. To play the role of God and have people worship him. He will sit “in the temple of God displaying himself as being God” [2 Thessalonians 2:3-4](#) Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

2. To kill the true Christians and Jews. “... and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed” [Revelation 13:15](#) And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

The Apostle John was shown in a vision from God the unholy alliance between the antichrist and the worldwide religion.

[Revelation 17:1](#) And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

"Waters refer to the people of the earth. The fact that she is sitting upon them reflect her influence and control. She is called a whore and, later, a harlot is because she has sold out herself to give pleasure to others in exchange for wealth and control.

[17:2](#) With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

The kings are the leaders that have made and alliance with the whore. She has gotten power and control through this alliance.

[17:3](#) So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. [17:4](#) And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden

cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 17:5 And upon her forehead [was] a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

The seven heads and ten horns refers back to the area of the European Union and the kings we discussed before as they relate to the antichrist. She is described with great wealth and position. Purple and scarlet are the colors of royalty. Gold, precious stones and pearls symbolize her vast wealth. But, she is obviously a complete antithesis to all that is Holy and Righteous.

In her hand is a cup full of abomination and filthiness. In the Bible, these terms are often used in a spiritual way. As in Jeremiah 3:8 And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. 9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks. The writer was referring to the two divisions of the Jewish nation after the Northern Kingdom was carried off by Assyria.

Revelation 17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Notice that the woman is drunken with the blood of the saints and martyrs. She has used her power to kill Christians, saved after the Rapture. The "beast" is the priest of the antichrist. We will discuss him in later sessions. The point for now is that she is riding on him. He comes from the bottomless pit.

Revelation 17:9-13 And here [is] the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. 10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, [and] the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. 11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. 12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. 13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

It is my belief that this "Whore of Babylon" is built on the framework of the Roman Catholic Church. I am not saying that the Catholic Church is corrupt today. But, when the true Christians in the Catholic Church are removed, those that are left will still have their world wide structure. I believe that they will form

an relationship with the Muslims, Hindus, Humanist and others to form the one world church.

Characteristics of a False Religious System

The hallmarks of a false religious system include, but are not limited to, the following four characteristics:

1. Compromise of Doctrine: One of the key phrases used in the European Union is “Unity in Diversity.” It means we are a unified but diverse group of people—all of the hallmarks of tolerance. This kind of unity in a world religion necessitates a compromise of doctrine. This great tolerance is promoted in almost every area. The major exceptions are biblical Christianity and Judaism. The world religion will be tolerant of everything but the truth.

2. Experience Based: More people are traveling to many places where they say God is manifesting Himself through signs and wonders. These manifestations are, in many cases, apparitions of Mary, the mother of Jesus, or of angels, but rarely of Jesus. It is important for us to remind ourselves that biblically based Christianity is always founded on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In many cases, there are reported apparitions of Mary witnessed by Christians, unbelievers, and Muslims. The messages are oftentimes contrary to God’s Word. One of the tests of the validity of a reported vision is the credibility of the messenger.

3. Provides a Broad Road to Salvation: One rapidly growing belief system is that of universalism, which is another lie. It promotes the belief that there are many paths to God. While this may be a “politically correct” theology in our day, it is the neo-paganism of the New Age.

I have an acquaintance that is Hindu. Hindus believe in a huge pantheon of gods. When witnessed to about Jesus, my acquaintance simply states that there are many roads to get to Memphis. He sincerely believes that there are many ways to get into heaven. To him, Jesus is just one of these many ways. Unbelievers and, in many cases, Christians don’t believe or want to believe what Jesus says. This belief is addressed by Jesus when He said, “... [I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me](#)” (John 14:6).

4. Counterfeit Miracles: Miracles are very powerful. A miracle will convince an individual of the validity of a particular belief system faster than anything else. It appears to run against the natural order and, therefore, have power over the natural world.

Consider the False Prophet found in the Book of Revelation. He is the Antichrist's right hand man. He is symbolized as the second "beast." The first "beast" is the Antichrist. The False Prophet performs great signs or miracles.

Revelation 13:13-14 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by [the means of] those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

If the coming one-world false religion is characterized by tolerance and diversity how will the Muslims integrate into this system? There needs to be a common denominator between Muslims and the one-world religion. This common denominator may very well be Mary, the mother of Jesus.

The Koran exalts Mary, not Jesus. Mary is the only woman spoken of by name in the Koran. The Roman Catholic Church also exalts Mary. This along with the numerous alleged apparitions of Mary witnessed by both Muslims and Catholics creates a link between the two religions. These two religions together take in a sizeable portion of the human race.

The apparitions of Mary, including the ones in Egypt and Africa, have an underlying message. According to Mary, this message is, "**All religions are the same. We are the ones causing division.**" This message is easily identified under the third characteristic of a false religion, namely, "Provides a Broad Road to Salvation."

Mary's message is false because it contradicts Scripture. The only way to God is through Jesus. Since it is clearly demonstrated to be a false message, we can conclude that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was not the one delivering the message. Mary would never contradict her Son.

According to a British-Catholic magazine, "A Marian revival is spreading throughout Africa with alleged apparitions of Mary, finding a following among the Muslims." Although African Muslims are supposedly seeing apparitions of the Virgin Mary, they "are not required to become Christians to follow her." Most of the spectators who witnessed the Marian apparitions in Zeitoun, Egypt, were Muslim. This apparition of Mary appeared for several nights each week for years and was viewed by millions of Muslims. Mary appears to be the missing link that helps answer the previous question about how the Muslims could ever integrate into a one-world religion.

Bishop Fulton Sheen, back in the 1950s, was the first Catholic on television with his own religious talk show. He wrote a book predicting that Islam would be converted to Christianity. In the same era, the 1950s, Bishop Sheen also wrote a book titled *The World's First Love*. He stated in his book: "But after

the death of Fatima (the Prophet Muhammad's daughter), Muhammad wrote, 'Thou shall be the most blessed of all women in paradise after Mary.'" This connection with the Muslims through Mary was predicted about fifty years ago. Bishop Sheen was ahead of his time, at least as it relates to the future of Islam. The Muslims will be included in the coming One World Religion, but it will not be Christianity.

The Portuguese Village of Fatima is named after Muhammad's daughter. Bishop Sheen mentioned how remarkable it was that our Lady had the foresight to appear in the Portuguese Village of Fatima, named after Muhammad's daughter, and thus became known as Our Lady of Fatima.

Our Lady of Fatima is a title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary with respect to reported apparitions of her to three shepherd children at Fatima in Portugal on the 13th day of six consecutive months in 1917, starting on 13 May. The three children were Lúcia Santos and her cousins, siblings Jacinta and Francisco Marto. The events at Fatima gained particular fame due to their elements of prophecy, particularly with regard to possible world war and the conversion of Russia. The reported apparitions at Fatima were officially declared "worthy of belief" by the Catholic Church.

Delegates attending the Vatican and United Nations (UN) inspired annual interfaith congress "The Future of God", held during October in Fátima, heard how the Shrine is to be developed into a centre where all the religions of the world will gather to pay homage to their various gods. The Congress was held in the Paul VI Pastoral Centre and presided over by the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon José de Cruz Policarpo.

The Shrine's rector, Monsignor Luciano Guerra, told the Congress that Fátima "will change for the better." Addressing Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Orthodox, Buddhist and African Pagan representatives he stated: "The future of Fátima, or the adoration of God and His mother at this holy Shrine, must pass through the creation of a shrine where different religions can mingle. The inter-religious dialogue in Portugal, and in the Catholic Church, is still in an embryonic phase, but the Shrine of Fátima is not indifferent to this fact and is already open to being a universalistic place of vocation."

The Hindu representative Ansshok Ansraj, described how already in the Far East millions of Hindus are getting "positive vibrations" from visiting Marian shrines without endangering their faith.

Monsignor Guerra pointed out that the very fact that Fátima is the name of a Muslim and Mohammed's daughter, is indicative that the Shrine must be open to the co-existence of various faiths and beliefs. According to the Monsignor: "Therefore we must assume that it was the will of the Blessed Virgin Mary that this comes about this way." Traditional Catholics opposed to the Congress were

described by the Monsignor as "old fashioned, narrow minded, fanatic extremists and provocateurs."

In October of 2000, Pope John Paul II ordered the actual statue of Our Lady of Fatima to be moved from Fatima, Portugal, to St. Peter's Square in Rome. His purpose was to signify "his great devotion to Mary." He credits **her** with saving his life in an assassination attempt on May 13, 1981.

Take a charismatic political and religious leader (the antichrist), with his supernatural power, add the widely held but incorrect belief that God and Allah are the same, and that Islam is a religion of peace, and then subtract the spirit of discernment found in the Church and you can see how he could be one thing that a world experiencing disaster will readily follow after.

The wrath of God will be poured out on those that worship the Beast and who do not worship the one, true God.

John 3:31-36 He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. 32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. 33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. 34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure [unto him]. 35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. **36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**