

Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message 26

February 25, 2024



Zechariah's Vision of the Menorah and Olive Trees from the tribulation network

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

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Revelation Message Twenty-Six

THE MID TRIBULATION EVENTS

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Revelation chapter ten introduces the reader to the events of the middle of the Tribulation.

1. ~~The Second Worldwide Conflict—Daniel 11:40–45.~~
2. ~~The Antichrist Killed~~
3. Satan Cast Down to the Earth—Revelation 12:7–12
4. The Resurrection of the Antichrist—Revelation 13:3
5. Three Kings Killed—Seven Submit
6. Destruction of Ecclesiastical Babylon—Revelation 17:16
7. The Mission and Death of the Two Witnesses—Revelation 11:7–13
8. The Worship of the Antichrist—Revelation 13:3–10
9. The False Prophet—Revelation 13:11–15
10. 666: The Mark of the Beast—Revelation 13:16–18
11. The Seven-year Covenant Broken
12. The Abomination of Desolation
13. The Persecution of the Jews
14. Midtribulation Announcements
15. The Seventh Trumpet: The Third Woe Judgment—Revelation 11:14–19

SATAN CAST DOWN TO EARTH

At this point of time Satan is cast down out of the atmospheric heaven to the earth.

Revelation 12:7–12

⁷And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels [going forth] to war with the dragon; and the dragon warred and his angels; ⁸And they prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was cast down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him. ¹⁰And I heard a great voice in heaven, saying, Now is come the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accuseth them before our God day and night. ¹¹And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony; and they loved not their life even unto death. ¹²Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe for the earth and for the sea: because the devil is gone down unto you, having great wrath, knowing that he hath but a short time (KJV).

In the middle of the Tribulation, while the war breaks out on the earth between the Antichrist and the ten kings, war also breaks out in the atmospheric heavens, which is where Satan is living (v. 7). The conflict is between the Archangel Michael and his forces and the archenemy Satan and his

forces. Michael is victorious, and Satan and his dominions are cast out of the atmospheric heavens and confined to earth, which now becomes the next place for Satan to live (vv. 8-9). When Jesus saw Satan fall (Luke 10:18) it was from the heavenly realm (third heaven) to the earthly stratospheric realm or the second heaven. (II Corinthians 12:2) Five names are given to Satan, all describing his person and his work:

In the great dragon, his fierceness and ferociousness is seen.

The old serpent points back to the Garden of Eden where, due to his temptation, man fell, bringing sin and death unto human experience. Remember that the Great Tribulation is a judgment of man's sin.

In the word, Devil, Satan is viewed as the accuser of all of God's children.

Satan means adversary, and in this he is seen as the opponent of God's program.

As the deceiver, he is pointed out as the great master counterfeiter who attempts to deceive elect and non-elect alike.

SATAN'S CONFINEMENT TO THE EARTH BRINGS TWO RESULTS:

- 1) Satan's access to Heaven is removed, and he will no longer be able to stand before the Throne of God and be the accuser of the brethren. For this there is rejoicing in Heaven (vv. 10-12a).
- 2) Satan is now full of wrath (v. 12b). His anger is due to the fact that he knows his time is short, namely 3 ½ years. Because of Satan's wrath, it is woe for the earth.

It is important to remember this concept as we move into the other events of the Middle and Last Half of the Great Tribulation. They are linked to this event, which is causal to many of the other events.

We saw in an earlier text that the sixth Trumpet Judgment concluded at the time of the middle of the Tribulation and was followed by a temporary cessation of judgments being poured out by heaven. So, in the middle of the Tribulation, we enter a period of interlude or parenthetical events. Peace has been taken from the earth and because of that major unrest continues. The nations are in turmoil as the Antichrist proceeds to take over the political, economic and religious control of the entire world.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE ANTICHRIST

Revelation 13:3

³And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast (KJV).

Satan sets out on a course to destroy the Jews. This is very clear from Revelation 12:13-17. We will discuss this in item number 13-The Persecution of the Jews. Satan will do this by means of the two beasts of Revelation 13, the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Both are Midtribulation events. Satan will begin this course of action by bringing the Antichrist back to life.

Remember from Genesis 3:15 that Satan's seed is the antichrist due to a supernatural counterfeit birth. He now brings him back to life in a counterfeit resurrection. The idiom "*as though he had been smitten unto death*" means that the Antichrist actually died and is now brought back to life. This same idiom is used in Revelation 5:6 to refer to Christ's death. This person was killed and should have remained dead. Suddenly he is very much alive because of resurrection. The text goes on to say that his death-stroke was healed, that is, by resurrection. It is this supernatural and evil resurrection that is one of the causes that the world worships him.

Thus, the Antichrist is the counterfeit son in every respect. There has been a counterfeit multiplicity of names, a counterfeit virgin birth, a counterfeit god-man, and now a counterfeit death and resurrection. A counterfeit second death coming to rule the world can be seen, as he will move to possess the nations and kingdoms of this world. Satan is playing the part of the counterfeit father in this scenario. For as the True Father gave His authority to the True Son, so the counterfeit father will give his authority to the counterfeit son.

THREE KINGS KILLED-SEVEN SUBMIT

The attempt of the Antichrist to gain political control will be interrupted by his death. But after his resurrection, the second world war of the Tribulation will continue until three of the ten kings are killed. The text dealing with it is found in Daniel 7:24, and Revelation 17:12–13.

Daniel 7:24

²⁴ And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom shall ten kings arise: and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the former, and he shall put down three kings (ASV, 1901).

Revelation 17:12-13

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 (KJV).

The ten horns of the beast are the ten kings (v.12), but they eventually relinquish their power and authority to the Antichrist. The same point is made in verse 17.

The other kings will all begin to act in unison, which is to give their kingdom unto the beast. With this submission, the Antichrist will succeed in taking over the political control of the entire world, with the exception of Jordan. The second political system of the Tribulation will be initiated at this point. The first is the ten kings who will rule over the earth in some geographic or economic control or both. The Antichrist's next goal will be to gain world religious control. To accomplish this, he must try to remove all religious opposition. This includes the Ecclesiastical Babylon, the Two Witnesses, and the Jews.

DESTRUCTION OF ECCLESIASTICAL BABYLON

Revelation 17:16

¹⁶And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire (KJV).

One of the Antichrist's first acts in gaining religious control will be the destruction of the first religious system of the Tribulation, the Ecclesiastical Babylon. Previously, this religious system had the support of the civil government, for the first 3 ½ years. With all civil authority turned over to the hands of the antichrist, who is now in full control, civil government itself will destroy the domination of the Ecclesiastical Babylon. Nazi Germany is an example of these events.

When Adolph Hitler assumed the Chancellorship of Germany on January 30, 1933 the Protestant Churches acclaimed him as the savior. Some such as Karl Barth the theologian of Bonn University did not see any major significance to Hitler's appointment. Within one-month civil liberties were extinguished. Within two months most political opponents were imprisoned or left the country. The Reichstag surrendered its powers and gave Hitler complete control of the legislative process. Within four months all the trade unions were dissolved. Within six months all opposition parties were suppressed and forced into voluntary liquidation leaving the Nazis as the only party in Germany.

The Christian Churches began to make voluntary compromises to the Nazis.

The following items were used to further Hitler's agenda.

Churches were supported with state taxes (church married to the state)

There was a split between public and private morality (one for the state and one for the private person-The doctrine of two spheres)

1. Human ideas were substituted for God's Word. Enlightenment thinking was advanced.
2. Hatred for the Jews flourished in the churches. It was endorsed by Martin Luther.
3. Theological liberalism had replaced God's Word-Julius Wellhausen
4. The Third Reich claimed complete control over all churches in Germany
5. The Nazis stopped the Bible from being published and disseminated
6. Mein Kampf, Hitler's book replaced the Bible in Churches.
7. All crosses were removed and replaced by swastikas

THE ANTICHRIST WILL TRY TO CHANGE THE LAWS TOO.

Daniel 7:25

²⁵And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time (ASV, 1901).

All these things will come to pass as prophecied because the Scripture cannot be broken.

John 10:35

³⁵If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken (KJV).

THE TWO WITNESSES; MISSION AND DEATH

The two witnesses are given power by God to give the world God's Word for a short period of 1,260 days.

MISSION

Revelation 11:3–6

³ And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. ⁴ These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. ⁵ And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. ⁶ These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will (KJV).

God describes them as *the two olive trees* which is a representation of the vision of the Zechariah 4:3 vision of the two olive trees feeding the candlestick. The Holy Spirit of God can be viewed as olive oil and there were two of them there in the Zechariah vision and here in the Revelation as well providing the Word of God. They have the following characteristics:

1. They prophecy for 1,260 days
2. They speak God's Word
3. They breath fire of God to protect them from enemies
4. They have Power to stop rain for 1,260 days
5. They have Power to turn water to blood
6. They have Power to hurt the earth with plagues



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DEATH

Revelation 11:7

⁷ And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. ⁸ And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. ⁹ And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and a half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. ¹⁰ And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. ¹¹ And after three days and a half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. ¹² And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. ¹³ And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven (KJV).

In his quest to further religious allegiances of the world masses, the Antichrist will also move against the Two Witnesses who, because of their supernatural abilities, caused so much havoc for the inhabitants of the earth during the first half of the Tribulation.

The Antichrist will war against the Two Witnesses and will succeed in killing them (v.7). That this incident will happen after his resurrection from the dead is clear from the statement, the beast that comes up out of the abyss, and he will come back from the Abyss by means of his resurrection from Satan. Along with his resurrection, the act of killing the Two Witnesses will provide another reason why mankind will worship him. All previous attempts to kill the Two Witnesses failed because of the miraculous powers of the Two Witnesses, which kill those who attempt to murder them. But now their ministry is over, and God allows the Antichrist to have power over them and to kill them. This power of the Antichrist over the Two Witnesses, when all others failed, will be another reason why mankind will give its allegiance to the Antichrist.

Perhaps in order to display the new power, the Antichrist will not allow the bodies to be buried. They will lie where they die in the streets of Jerusalem for all to see (vv.8-9). The fact that the whole world is able to view the bodies indicates that such things would be possible in a time future to John's day. Through modern technology this is no longer impossible to believe and has silenced many a former critic of the Scriptures. The bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem unburied for 3 ½ days.

During the time that the bodies lie in the streets, the inhabitants of the earth will rejoice over the death of the Two Witnesses because of the plagues they suffered via the Two Witnesses (v.10) and the fact that God's Word is so offensive to them. The rejoicing extends to the point that they are giving gifts to one another of their death.

The rejoicing will cease suddenly though. After 3 ½ days, the Two Witnesses will be resurrected and taken to Heaven in the sight of all (vv.11-12) Suddenly fear will fall on all as they are able to observe the ascension of the Two Witnesses into Heaven.

Jerusalem, where the murder will take place and where the bodies will be displayed, will receive sudden judgment (v.13). Jerusalem will suffer an earthquake that will destroy one-tenth of the city, killing 7,000 inhabitants. While the Gentiles will begin to worship the Antichrist, the Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem will give the glory to the God of Heaven. The salvation of Jews of Jerusalem in the middle of the Tribulation will eventually lead to the saving of "all Israel" at the end of the Tribulation. (Romans 11:26)

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION MSG. XXVII

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

pentwaterbiblechurch@scofieldinstitute.org Toll Free 877-706-2479