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Campbell Chapel Free  
Will Baptist Church

Bob Bradley

# END TIMES

(1)

**CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON**

**END TIMES (1)***May 27, 2009*

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**Mark 13:1-4**

- 1 And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here !*
- 2 And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*
- 3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,*
- 4 Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?*

We are getting close now to where Jesus is about ready to die. We've been studying the last several weeks' things that He had been teaching was happening on Tuesday. He is going to leave the temple here on this particular day for the last time. It's either Tuesday or Wednesday. I'm not really sure. It doesn't really matter on which day necessarily. However it was on either Tuesday or Wednesday before He was going to die.

He is going to leave the temple here for the last time. When you read Mark 13; Matthew 24: and Luke 21, these are all describing the same events. It's talking about the Olivet Discourse. Jesus goes and He leaves the temple. He goes over on the Mount of Olives and He begins to talk about end time events in answering questions that the disciples have asked Him. He answers these questions. Some Theologians has given it the title "The Olivet Discourse." I guess that makes sense because He is on the Mount of Olives.

When you read Matthew, Matthew gives more details of what is actually going on. Again they are writing about the same events. They are writing about the same time. As we have said many times before; one writer saw one thing, one writer heard one thing, another writer heard something else; however, when we compare Scripture with Scripture and when we look at this whole thing, we can a fuller understanding of the teaching that is taking place.

Jesus has just left the temple. He says something here that I want to read. This is found in the gospel of Matthew, chapter 23. He makes this statement.

**Matthew 23**

*37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!*  
*38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.*

I can imagine how He felt. He leaves the temple. He leaves a place that meant a lot to Him. Herod built this temple. He built it to pacify the Jews. But it was a place where they were to go to worship. It was a place where that they should have been able to go and call upon God; meditate and worship Almighty God. As we learned a few weeks ago that because of what the nation had done and what their spiritual leaders had done and what they allowed; the Bible said that it had become a “den of thieves.” Do you remember that? I could just imagine Jesus, how He felt leaving this temple. A place where the glory of God should have been, a place where the name of His Father should have been glorified, a place where people should have coming and worshipping Almighty God; yet to look at it and see how far they had departed from that, I’m sure that it broke His heart. I’m sure that it broke His heart when He thought about, looked about and seen all that was going on and knowing what it should have been. Yet He was looking and seeing what people were doing, I’m sure that it really troubled Him.

Just a little bit every now and then; I understand that. When you look at people’s lives and see what they should be and then see where they are at; it does break your heart sometimes. To see the opportunities that God has given people—I’m talking about people who go to church—the opportunities that God has given people and they just let it go through their hands, to see where they could be, where God wants them to be, but you see where they are at today; it breaks your heart sometimes. It really does.

Jesus is leaving the temple. As He is leaving the temple, as I read to you in Mark 13, as they were walking away...

**Mark 13**

*1 And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here !*

One of the disciples asked a question as they were walking away from the temple. The temple was a beautiful place. It has all kinds of buildings, porches and if we would have been able to see it; it was a wonderful beautiful place, as far as, how it was made. The temple itself, as I have read history and different people that have studied the temple; this temple was made out of stones that some of them were 45 feet long; some were 12 feet thick and 18 feet wide. Some of these stones would weigh one hundred tons. That’s a big rock. That’s a big piece of limestone. When you look at it and read about it; this had to be a beautiful place. When the Jewish people looked at their temple; they took a lot of pride in that. That was something they took a lot of pride in.

They were looking at the temple and Jesus has just said, “Your house is left unto you desolate.” The other disciples that were hearing this were probably thinking to themselves, “What does He mean by that?” We still yet have a temple here. The temple is still yet standing, therefore, that must mean that God is still with us. “What does He really mean here? Hasn’t He seen the temple here lately? Hasn’t He looked at the building? Doesn’t He know how beautiful it is?” Jesus makes a statement here. Get this.

*2 And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*

The disciple wanted Him to look at how beautiful it was and wanted to remind Jesus of how pretty the building’s were, and how elaborate they were furnished with all the gold that was there, with all the furnishings that were there, and with all carved work that would have been in there. It would have been a very beautiful place to be and to see. But Jesus made the statement that there is not going to be one stone left upon another that is not going to be thrown down.

When the disciples heard this, there is no doubt in my mind that they would have been thinking, “What is He talking about? Is He going to come now? Is He going to set up His kingdom now? Is He going to give us freedom from Romans? Are we going to have a war here? Are we going to be invaded? What is going to happen here?” We have the whole book and we can read the whole thing, but these disciples here did not have that. Their understanding was very limited. Even at this time, their understanding of things was very limited. He said, “Look at all these buildings and all the different little things around. There is not going to be one stone here that is going to be left upon another that is not going to be thrown down.”

We know that 40 years after Jesus spoke these words, judgment came. We know that, as you read your history books; we know that Titus, the Roman general came. He came to Jerusalem and burnt the place. He did something here that is quite incredible when you think about it. He burnt the inside of the temple with all the cedar and all the things that were on the inside of it would burn. You would think that would have been good enough. They destroyed the place. They tore down the walls. They burnt places. You would have thought that would have been good enough just to burn the place down and it will be gone. It will just be a bunch of walls of a building standing here. However, do you know what they did? They took it down one rock at a time from the top to the bottom. Do you know why? Because that is what Jesus said they would do.

That is the incredible thing about Almighty God. When He says something is going to happen, it is going to happen just exactly that way. When the order was given to these soldiers that were there to tear down the temple and to level it so that there would not be one stone left upon another, I’m sure it didn’t make any sense to them. But when God pronounces judgment, it is going to be just exactly that way. This building and all these buildings that were around here that made up the temple and how pretty it was...and how that the Jewish people put all their trust and confidence in this building; Jesus said, “It is going to go.” That is exactly what it did.

When God says something is going to come to pass, you can count on it. Men cannot change that. We cannot change what God has already said is going to be. We cannot change that. God wrote the Bible and He wrote the end in the beginning. There are things about that that we cannot change. I cannot change the fact that there are going to be wars and that hundreds of millions of people are going to die. I can't change that fact.

But do you know what I can change? I can change self. Do you know what? I can help change people, by the way that we live, and by spreading the gospel. There are elements in this thing that we can change. The greatest thing is that we can change ourselves. When we are changed, what I mean by that is by living a righteous, holy, and dedicated; then that means we are changed. We are not the same any longer; by doing that we can help change other people. So there are elements, we could have a better society. If we had more people living for Jesus Christ then society would be better. We wouldn't have to worry about what we see going on in Washington today. We wouldn't have to worry about that if we were a Christian nation. We would vote these guys and move on. I know a lot of folks don't like to hear that, but that's truth. We wouldn't have to worry about the alarming rate that we are seeing now of all kinds of violent crimes going through the roof. We wouldn't have to worry about those things if we were a Christian nation. Christian people don't kill one another. Many church members do but Christian people don't. Christian people don't steal, and they don't rob and they don't lie. No. Christian people don't do that; church people do, but Christian people don't. There is a difference there.

In the day that we are living in, we use the word church members and we automatically go over here and want to hang the badge of Christian on them; don't ever do that. If people live a Christian life, dedicated, set apart for the cause of Christ, but just because you go to church doesn't mean you are going to heaven. Don't get caught up in that trap.

Jesus said they are going to be torn down. There is not going to be one rock left upon another that is not going to be thrown down. We know that happened just exactly that way.

They have left the temple area and He goes over to the Mount of Olives.

*3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,  
4 Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?*

Turn to Matthew 24. I want you to read this and see it for yourself. It will help you to remember. When you the account of what Matthew says here, it gives you a little more detail.

#### **Matthew 24**

*3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying,  
Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*

That says the same thing in both accounts if you read it here. But the question was “When are these buildings going to be torn down? What is the sign of thy coming, and the end of the word?” There are actually three questions here that they ask.

1. When are the buildings going to be torn down?
2. When are you going to set up your kingdom?
3. When is the end of the world coming?

Now that is three pretty good questions. Jesus is going to talk about those things through Matthew 24, Luke 21 and Mark 13. Jesus is going to talk about these things. The answers here even though it had a near reaching fulfillment having to do with Titus in 70 A. D.; the answer to some these questions that were asked is going to go in what we call or what the Bible calls The Great Tribulation. When we think about that, we wonder what that is.

When you read the book of Daniel, Daniel tells us a lot of things that are going to happen in the end time; not only Daniel but also Ezekiel. Many different prophets tell us a lot of things that are going to happen in the end time. But the reason there has to be a tribulation is this. God is going to let men, or people are going to realize who God is. This earth is going realize that this earth really belongs to Almighty God. They are going to understand that He is the one who is in control. They are going to understand that He is the one calling the shots. There is going to be an awful time here that they are going to be going through simply because God said they were going to be going through it.

This has a direct bearing on what we are going to talk about over the next few weeks here.

## Daniel 9

*24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

*25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*

*26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*

*27 And he 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.*

Daniel is prophesying and telling some things that are going to happen in the end time. He is also giving us a time clock here. This is God's time clock. Daniel is saying we can look at and we can see some things that are going to point us to the events of the end time. He says 70 weeks are determined upon my people. When you look at what the word "week" means; it means "weeks of years." When he says 70 weeks; He is talking about 490 years. 70 times 7 is 490. He gives us something that here can tell us when the time clock or when God's clock is going to start. He tells us that from the time of the going forth of the commandment to rebuild the city of Jerusalem.

Keep in mind that Daniel was in Babylon. Jerusalem has been destroyed. We know the Medes and Persians are going to come along. God has revealed unto Daniel here that there is going to be a time that when they were going to be able to go back and rebuild the temple; we already discussed that. We read that a few weeks ago in Nehemiah, and Ezra. Do you remember reading all that? We've read that.

He gives us a clock that we can push a button and it can start running because when the command was given for them to be able to go back unto the city of Jerusalem then the time started. That happened in April 445 B. C.

This is the awesome thing. When you look at history and when you look at dates and numbers; it is an awesome thing that 483 years after the commandment went forth for the Jews to be able to go back to Jerusalem—that was the day that Jesus died. That is what it says when it talks about the prince being cut off, about Him dying here. 483 years elapsed from the time that the commandment was given by Cyrus for the people to be able to go back or Alexis or whatever you want to call him; but for the time that they were to go back, 483 years elapsed. We had 490 years to start with. 483 years of it elapsed, on the day that Jesus died, 483 years were gone—the clock stopped. You might say well, "Why?"

These prophecies had to do with Israel. They rejected Jesus as being their Messiah. They killed Him. They put Him to death. That means we have one week, we have seven years that we have to deal with or the Bible is going to tell us about as being a 7 year period or the time of Jacob's trouble. When we look at Jeremiah 30, the Bible calls it the time of the Gentiles in different places. The Bible calls it "The Great Tribulation." It calls it different things. But when we look here, we know it's going to be a week or seven years—we understand that. We are going to have during this time catastrophes after catastrophes. It's going to be a time like we have never ever saw before upon planet earth. There are going to be all kinds of things that mankind has never saw.

Men are going to understand who God is. They have rejected Almighty God. They have rejected Him. Ungodly men are going to understand there is a God in heaven. Also here God has a plan. He has not forgotten about Israel, His chosen people. When we read the book of Romans we can learn some things; we know that when Jesus died, we know that when the Spirit of God came upon Pentecost, the Word of God began to be preached and taught and men were being saved. The Gentiles were brought in. We know that today that the gospel is going all over the whole world. God is dealing with everybody everywhere. God has not forgotten about the nation of Israel. He has not forgotten about them at all. There are going to be some things that are going to happen and they are going to realize who He is and

we are going to talk about that here on down the road. However there is going to be a Great Tribulation. The seven year period here, the last seven years or the last week of Daniel's prophecy, the 70<sup>th</sup> week here has to do with great tribulation. Such, Jesus said, has never been upon the earth neither has man ever seen, nor will ever see again. It is going to be a terrible time.

You might say "Are we going to be here?" That's the question that we have a lot. We are going to get down to the meat of this thing after awhile. A lot of questions are asked. Is the church going to be here? It says we are going to have a great time of tribulation. There are going to be wars, famines, earthquake, pestilences, and all kinds of these things. Hundreds of millions of people are going to die; actually billions of people are going to die. Since that is the case are we, as Christian people, going to be here. I think the Bible gives us the answer to that. It does not matter your opinion of things if you cannot base it on scripture. We could have all kinds of opinions in our mind but if we don't have anywhere to base that on it does not mean anything.

The Bible paints a lot of different pictures about things that we can look at and we can understand some things. Can't we?

When you read Revelation 3:10, Jesus said, "...since you've kept the word of my patience then I am going to keep from the hour of temptation that is going to come upon the whole world to try the whole world." Jesus said that.

When you look at the story of Noah, God said "I am going to destroy the world with a flood. Noah, you need to build a boat and get on it because the rain is going to come." Do you know what happened? Noah built the boat. He got on it. The floods came. Before the rain ever started, Noah and his family was on the boat safe.

If you read the story about Lot, the day that God got him by the hand and led him out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven.

There are many things that we can look at that will prove to you and me—also, God has not appointed unto the church wrath. In other words, God is not mad at the ones who have believed Him. We have believed Him and believed His Son that He died for us. We have believed that and accepted that. God is not going to punish us for that. We are the obedient ones. There is going to be hell on earth—absolutely. But I'm glad of something that is going to take place. Jesus Christ is going to come and get us. Isn't He?

When we read I **Thessalonians 4**, beginning at **13**; Paul said:

*13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

*14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

*15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

*16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

That is there. Isn't it?

When you look at some of these things—Revelation 4:1, we can see here that the church of Jesus Christ, the born again is going to leave here before all the destruction and all the upheaval that is going to take place. Thank God, we are not going to be here.

When you read Revelation 6 through 19 describes the Tribulation period. Revelation 4 happens before Revelation 6. Tribulation starts in chapter 6. In chapter 4, we are already in heaven. Isn't that great! That should excite us! It does excite us. We are not going to be here. We are going to come back with Him at the end of Tribulation. We will talk about that as we go down through this study. But we are not going to be here during those times. We are going to be in heaven. When we read though some of these things, we are to understand what it's dealing with. The men that ask the questions are Jews. Peter, James and John are Jews. They are asking a question here about Jewish things. They asked about the temple. They asked when the temple was going to be destroyed. They asked when He was coming and they asked about the end of the world. They are asking about things that have to do with the Jewish nation. When He says "the end of the world" it does mean the end of things as we know the end of things. Actually when you read in the Greek, it means the consummation of the age. In other words it means "When are things going to change here? When are things going to happen here?" It does not mean when the end comes and everything is gone. That is not what He is talking about.

When you read down through Matthew 24, Luke 21, and Mark 13; when we look down through these things, you will not find the church in these things. What He is talking about, is about Jewish things. The covenant that I read to you just a minute ago that was going to be made with Israel for one week. It is made with Israel not with the United States. When all the things are going to be taking place here and all the things that are going to be happening here; it says so many things having to do with Israel; it has nothing to do with the United States. Has nothing to do with the born again people. It has to do with Israel. The reason I am saying that is that I want us to understand and I want us to be able to put things in a proper perspective here so that we will understand where we are at. Many times we take things and apply it to us that don't belong on us. Many times we read these things and say "Oh my goodness.

This is going to be a horrible time.” especially people who are spiritually immature. They look at these things and say “This is going to be a horrible time. It is going to be a horrible time.” However, if we are saved we are not going to be here.

Keep that in your mind as we read these things because it is going to play a major part in seeing and understanding what we are going to be talking about. If you try to take—this is not within any Scripture—if you try to take things that do not apply to the church that has been applied to Israel. God meant them for Israel. If you try to apply them on the church or vice versa then you get all confused and it just does not work.

I can watch little Alley, Abby, Ellie, and Gracie; most of them like to work puzzles. We can pour out all of the pieces on the floor. You can take that puzzle and all the pieces that are there and you can scatter them everywhere. However, that particular piece has got a particular place that it goes and when you put it there; do you know what it does? It works but it also makes a picture that is recognizable. Sometimes they get a little impatient and they lay it down and take their hand and try to beat it in place. Have you ever done that? Sure, I’ve seen some of you try to do that probably. It just doesn’t work. All you do is mess up your puzzle. Because you get a mouth over here and you get one on the back of your head then it just doesn’t look right.

Sometimes that is what we do with Scripture is that we try to force things and put them in places where God never intended them to be. That is why we get so confused about things here that we just don’t get sometimes.

We are not going to be here. The church is going to be gone and that could happen at any moment. There is no sign---and we are going to talk about some signs here in a moment; he asked “What is the sign of thy coming and the end of the world.” They ask for some signs. There are some signs that point to the return of Jesus Christ to planet earth. There are some signs that point to that. There are no signs that points to the appearing of Jesus Christ in the clouds when we leave here. The Revelation when Jesus Christ comes back to planet earth that’s when He comes back and establishes His kingdom on planet earth and people will see Him. The Bible says that every eye will see Him even those that pierced Him. That’s in Revelation 1 or 2. But when He appears in the clouds, that’s when we leave here. There are no signs that will point to that.

He made the statement one time about—they were looking for a sign. Do you remember when they came to Jesus and said “Give us a sign?” What they probably wanted to see was some kind of storm activity. But Jesus made the statement and said “There shall not be no sign given unto you except the sign of Jonas the Prophet.” The only sign that people are going to get is the sign of the prophet and they understood that. If we are trying to look at events today to try to pinpoint a particular day when Jesus Christ is going to come and appear in the clouds and take us out of here; we can’t do that.

What we can do is this. We can look at the signs that we see all around us that are pointing toward, that is going to be happening in the Tribulation period; we can look at these things coming about today and know that we are going to be leaving here before those things take place. We have to know that our redemption is very nigh. They are not pointing to His appearing in the clouds. They are pointing to His

return to the earth. Since that is the case, we know that between His appearing and His kingdom there is a seven year period here. When we see these things happening today, then we must know that His appearing in the clouds to call you and I home is very near. Two different times: 1) His appearing and 2) to set up His millennium kingdom.

When you read the Scriptures, make sure you put them in the proper place, because again, if you get them out of context or put them in an improper place then the puzzle just won't fit.

We are getting ready.

*4 Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?*

In other words, "When is the temple going to be torn down?" We know that happened in 70 A. D.

*4 Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?*

The question was asked "When shall these things be?" He gave the answer to that. We are going to look at that in just a moment in Luke 21:20-24.

#### **Luke 21**

*20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.*

*21 Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.*

*22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.*

*23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.*

*24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

This had to do with Titus the Roman coming.

#### **Matthew 24**

*3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*

He answers that in Mathew 24:29-44; not only that but He answers the other question here in verses 24-28.

#### **Matthew 24**

- 29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*
- 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*
- 31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*
- 32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:*
- 33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.*
- 34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.*
- 35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*
- 36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*
- 37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*
- 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,*
- 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*
- 40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*
- 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*
- 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.*
- 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.*
- 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

**Matthew 24**

*24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

*25 Behold, I have told you before.*

*26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.*

*27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

*28 For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.*

The thing I want you to notice is this. As these questions are asked and Jesus gives the answer to these questions the severity of things here gets worse and worse and worse. In Mark 13:5-13 has to do with the beginning of Tribulation. We are going to talk about that in just a moment. In 14-18 had to do with the middle of Tribulation. Verses 19-27 has to do with the events that are going to lead up to the end of Tribulation or what we call Armageddon and things; a horrible time.

As we look at the events that we see taking place today; I hope that we understand how close that we must be. If you look at the world situation as a whole, everywhere we see chaos. Our economy worldwide is terrible. Not only in America, but in every Nation today we have financial issues everywhere. Not only do we have financial issue in about every country. We have political issues in every part of the world today. We have wars and people plotting war.

Just a couple of days ago, the nut that is in North Korea; he just had some nuclear testing. He tried his missiles out here. We see the guy in Iran who has tried his missiles out here a few days ago. He has got missiles that will hit Europe. Not only that but they will hit Israel. When we look at the unrest here in America, when we look at the political issues we have here in America, when we see all the fighting and bickering among all the nations in the world where nobody can get along and nobody has the answer; we've thrown in hundreds of millions and billions of dollars into our economy in the last three, four or five months and we are worse now than we were then. That should tell us that spending more is not going to get us out of where we are at here.

Our world is in unrest. Never in the history of the world have we lived in times like we are living in today. Nothing is working right. Our political and financial systems are all collapsing. Our world today is looking for someone to come along and put all the pieces together. They are looking for someone to come along that has the right answer; they may not know what the question is, but that has the right answer, or they think that has the right answer; to be able to solve their problems. We are seeing the ground laid now for that to happen.

I read to you in the book of Daniel. Daniel talked about that there was going to come a time that there was going to be a treaty signed or a covenant signed with Israel for one week or seven years. We are seeing things come about now with all the unrest that is in Israel.

We talk about we want to rate the nations based on nuclear capability. We look at their nuclear capability or their military capability and say this is number one because they have all this or that. What most of the world understands is that Israel has nuclear weapons. Some of them don't, but most of them understand that. What they don't look at sometimes is the fact that there is a God in heaven that is a whole lot more powerful than any weapons they may have or anybody else may have. He's holding that little nation in His hand. He's got a purpose for what He is going to do here. The stage is set for the anti-christ to come on the scene.

#### **Matthew 24**

*3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*

#### **Mark 13**

*5 And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:*

So he says here "...Take heed lest any man deceive you." It begins with "Take heed" which means "to be aware." That means that we need to be watching and paying attention that no man deceive us or no man leads us astray. That is what He is telling the disciples. "Be watchful." Be watching what you are doing that no man will lead you astray.

We are seeing the stage being set for the anti-christ to come on the scene. If you watch the news much—and I like to watch the news and I'll tell you why—not because of all the junk that is on it, not because of all the negative stuff that is on it; but it is fascinating to me to see some of our politicians, some of the folks in Israel, some of the folks all around the world talk about how bad they need someone to lead them, to lead all the nations and to bring all the nations together. It is amazing to hear them talk about that.

There is someone coming up and he's alive today. He's alive on planet earth today. He's doing real well. Do I know who he is? I have absolutely no idea and you don't either. You don't have any idea who he is either. However, there is a fellow that is going to come on the scene. I believe that we are seeing him now. I believe he's making some speeches on world-wide TV. I think we are seeing a following gather behind him. I think that some of the policies that he is setting forth today are going to be policies that we can see that is going to happen during the Tribulation period. We are seeing that today.

The thing is that Jesus says, "Let no man deceive you." When you read Revelation 6:1—we are going to back up here just a little bit next week and cover chapter 5—but he says:

**Revelation 6**

*1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.*

*2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.*

What John is talking about here is the anti-christ. He is talking about the anti-christ riding a white horse, going forth conquering and to conquer. He's got a bow but he doesn't have any arrows here. He's not doing it by military might but he is doing it by political channels. He is not coming forth with tanks. He is not coming forth with military might but he is going to conquer through political avenues and political means. He is going to seemingly have the answer to all the problems. He is going to have the answers to the war in the Middle East that has been going on for centuries between Israel and the Palestinians. They have been trying to negotiate that for years and years and years. He's going to come up with a solution, or so he thinks. People are going to believe him. Not only that, but with the financial crisis that we have in the world today, this guy is going to seemingly have the answers. He is going to be a very flamboyant, flattering guy. He's not going to be red or have horns sticking out of his head. He's not going to have a big red tail with a pitch fork. That is not going to be him at all.

The devil doesn't come forth that way. He is very cunning and crafty. He comes in a way that he deceives people. Our world has rejected Christ. When we reject Christ, we will just about believe anything. It's not going to be hard for this world to believe the anti-christ when he comes on the scene. He's going to be visible. He's going to be very likable. He's going to be someone who is very intelligent. He's going to have a lot of influence. He's going to have people behind him. It seems like everything is just going to be so great.

We had better very careful—of course, we are not going to be here. I'm going to tell you this before we even go on. We better be very careful who that we are listening to and who that we are paying attention to and who that we are following because not everybody is leading us in the right direction. There are so many people who goes to church today that sits and listens to all kinds of junk being preached and taught that has no Biblical basis whatsoever to it. They have got it off the Internet. They have got it out of some sermon book somewhere. They have imagined in their mind. Grandma and grandpa believed it so therefore it has got to be true and leading people down a road that they are not going to make it to heaven. That is what is so sad.

It is sad to see people going to church, being honest; they are sincere, but sincerity is not going to get you to heaven. Being born again is what is going to get you to heaven. We need to be very careful on who we are following. I'm not necessarily talking about me, but I'm not leaving me out. Pastors and preachers and a lot of times people follow other people sometimes. Sometimes other people will lead you wrong. Many times people will lay traps for you. They will set snares for you. When you get caught they will run off and leave you.

Jesus Christ is coming. When He comes to take us out of here then all hell is going to break loose on planet earth.

Are you ready to meet Jesus Christ?

If the rapture of the church should happen tonight, if Jesus Christ should come tonight and appear in the clouds; are you ready to meet Him? Could you go to heaven with us? Could you go? If you can't then you need to make preparation tonight.

**Come—**