

Latter Days – Part Two

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 12/22/2018

Brethren, are you ready for the Tribulation? The people of God's Church are not worried too much about the Tribulation because they have assumed that it does not pertain to them. They think, "The world goes through the Tribulation – but not me." They think, "When the Tribulation begins – I'll be far away in the Place of Safety."

The people of God's Church reason this way, "Because I'm in the **right** church, God will protect me from the hour of Tribulation, which shall come **upon all the world**, to bring Tribulation on them that dwell upon the earth (Revelation 3:10); I've got a lock on the Kingdom of God – I've got the keys to the Kingdom."

They forget the Scriptures that say only **a part** of the Church makes it to the Place of Safety, and Satan makes war with the part of the Church that was **not counted worthy** to go to the Place of Safety because they were not used to laying down their lives to help others into God's Kingdom. Let's look at that exception. Those **not counted worthy** to go to the Place of Safety – what happens to them?

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was angry with the woman [the Church in the Place of Safety], and went **to make war** with the remnant of her seed [those caught up in the Tribulation], who keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. [But, because they were not willing to lay down their lives unto death—their lives will be taken from them in the Tribulation at the hands of the Beast.]

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

In Part One of the Latter Days, we stopped in Ezekiel 5. It is all about the coming Tribulation. God had told Ezekiel that his **hair and whiskers** would represent the whole house of Israel in the Tribulation

Ezekiel 5:1 And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair. - into three parts.

So there is Ezekiel standing there bare faced and bald!

Ezekiel 5:2 Thou shalt **burn with fire** a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled:

Burn with fire a third part... That is the initial onslaught of a blitzkrieg attack on the modern nations of Israel – all around the world – wherever they are. One-third of Americans will die straightway – and not only the USA. Hundreds of millions of modern Israelitish peoples will die around the earth.

The modern Israelitish nations of England, Wales, America, Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, Finland, Scotland, New Zealand, Iceland, Denmark, France, South Africa, Judea, Australia, the Netherlands, and others of the world, will be **decimated for their sins** of Sabbath breaking and idolatry, again.

The purpose of this sermon is to remind us of just how close we are to this date. And that is only the first third of Ezekiel's whiskers.

Ezekiel 5:2 ...and thou shalt take a third part, and **smite** about it with a knife:

That is the second third – they will be chopped up wherever they are.

But, some modern Israelitish peoples survive by being **carried into captivity** all around the globe.

Ezekiel 5:2 ...a third part thou shalt **scatter in the wind**; and I will draw out a sword after them.

Their lives will be worthless – no rights, no United Nations to plead their cause, they will die one by one – worked to death and killed to incentivize and motivate those that remain alive. Jesus' disciples came unto him privately – to ask about these things... Jesus is telling them about the Tribulation...

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be **Great Tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved alive: but for the elect's [remnant's] sake those days shall be shortened.

Let's go back to Ezekiel where we've seen 2/3 destroyed and the last 1/3 being killed off. But, Ezekiel reveals that some will be **saved alive** as Jesus said.

Ezekiel 5:3 Thou shalt also take thereof **a few** in number, and bind them in thy skirts.

It may be a million – we are not told an exact number here. Some small percentage of **modern Israelitish peoples** from all those nations that I cataloged a moment ago – will receive special attention in the Tribulation. But among that group of survivors God does give us a specific number. There will be 144,000 modern Israelites that God **will seal** to live through to the Millennium and the World Tomorrow (Revelation 7). God reveals through Ezekiel exactly how that takes place. Let's briefly review that. God will search out the **repentant and compliant attitudes** that He desires in His people.

Ezekiel 9:4 And the LORD said unto [the man doing the **sealing** with the **inkhorn**], Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and **set a mark** upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

This next verse will sound ruthless to our ears – but that is because we do not realize how vile these people have become through their abominations.

Ezekiel 9:6 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come **not** near any man upon whom is **the mark**;

God is cleaning up this earth for a new beginning – for a new Millennium. Out of that last million or so that did not demonstrate to God a repentant attitude – they too die in the Tribulation. Only 144,000 are sealed for protection – the rest are "burned in the fire."

Ezekiel 5:4 Then take of them again, and cast them into the midst of the fire, and **burn them in the fire**; for thereof shall a fire come forth into **all the house of Israel**.

The Great Tribulation will be soon and it will be horrific – with all **modern Israelitish peoples** being slaughtered because of a wrong attitude.

Ezekiel 5:9 And I will do in thee that which I **have not done** [ever before], and whereunto I will not do any more [never again] the like, because of all thine abominations.

We are given a few more details about the diseases and starvation of the Tribulation. How much time do we have to get ready? God tells us that we cannot depend on our estimation of time.

Matthew 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye **think not** the Son of man cometh.

Ezekiel 5:12 A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.

Ezekiel 5:13 Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause my fury to rest upon them, and I will be comforted: and they shall know that I the LORD have spoken it in my zeal, when I have accomplished **my fury** in them.

That is the Tribulation. At the same time that this is going on, the **Two Witnesses** are prophesying these three and a half years. This is the time of **Jacob's Trouble** which is worse than it has ever been, or ever will be. Let's look at what God says about His **Two Witnesses**.

Revelation 11:3 And I will give **power** unto my **two witnesses**, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 1260 days - that is 3 ½ years.

Revelation 11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

God protects them from the Beast so that they are indestructible.

Revelation 11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceeds out of their mouth, and devours their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

God gives the **Two Witnesses** the power to work mighty miracles.

Revelation 11:6 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.

It will be like the plagues that God sent on Egypt back in the Exodus. The Two Witnesses will be calling for **repentance**, and telling everyone on earth what will happen to them if they do not **repent**.

God gives the **Two Witnesses** 3½ years for their ministry – which comes to an end 3 ½ days before the Day of Pentecost and the last Trumpet.

1Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

It is also the Day of the resurrection of the Saints.

1Thessalonians 4:17 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.

Revelation 11:7 And when the Two Witnesses shall have finished **their testimony**, the Beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and **kill them**.

The evil world will believe that they have won a great victory – but they haven't.

Revelation 11:8 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.

Revelation 11:9 And they of the people and kindred and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies **three days and an half**, and shall not allow their dead bodies to be put in graves.

Revelation 11:10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall **send gifts one to another** [sound familiar]; because these **two prophets** tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

Revelation 11:11 And after **three days and an half** the Spirit of life from God enters into them, and they stand upon their feet; and great fear falls upon them which saw them.

Revelation 11:12 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. – [caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord].

The Saints have all been resurrected – but do not forget the 144,000 – the **remnant** who were sealed so that they would not be killed.

Revelation 11:13 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** [the elect] were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Yes, I think that it is an understatement to say they were scared when every other **Israelitish person** on earth had just died. The Church of God does not realize just how close we are to this dangerous and precarious time. There should be a heightened awareness among the people of God that, quite frankly, is not there—it is missing. How many attend Sabbath services for the very purpose of provoking one another to love and good works—exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching?

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye **see the day approaching**.

Brethren, can we see the day approaching – or not? Yes, the day is approaching, but how many are prepared? There was a time in God’s Church when there was keen interest in watching, not only world events, but the state of God’s people. More than ever today, there is **ample opportunity** to **live our Christianity**—but few know how to go about doing so these days (Matthew 24:46). Jesus said:

Matthew 24:46 Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He comes shall find so doing – **living his Christianity**.

Now is not the time to be letting down, but to renew our zeal and expectation of the coming of the Lord. The Beast Power – an evil leader and his régime is in the making as we speak, but who knows what it is that we should be on the lookout for?

The Beast is not going to have horns and a red tail! He is going to be descent looking and charismatic. People will hang on his every word. The Book of Revelation reveals a counterfeit religious system and its leader who hates the things of God. The Beast will fit right in to today’s society. The Beast’s attitude and **system** that characterizes his régime is growing rapidly.

Its onslaught has been persistent and pervasive—but where is the alarm among God’s people? Lawlessness and Godless counterfeit doctrine abounds – and if we do not see it as much as we should, it is because it has become the everyday acceptable norm. It is everywhere, it is on TV, the news, the movies, the social internet, the commercials, newspapers and magazines – you cannot get away from it... Do we Church brethren still realize that there is a war against a moral integrated society with the nuclear family as a basic unit?

God created masculinity and feminism are in the crosshairs of the Beast system because he hates what God loves. Where on earth can you still find the Godly family—with a father, mother and loveable obedient children **held in high esteem**? Our value system will be anathema to the Beast system.

John 16:2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever kills you will think that he doeth God service.

Do we realize that the enemy and his agents are going about seeking to destroy every semblance of decency? Godly families and their ideals are in serious jeopardy. The mystery of iniquity is thoroughly at work. This is truer today than ever:

2Thessalonians 2:7 The **mystery of iniquity** doth already work: only he who now lets will let, until he be taken out of the way.

He will not be taken out of the way – until Christ throws him into the burning pit. That **spirit of iniquity**, gross injustice and wickedness, is quite obvious on the **world stage** where every purveyor of irreverence is gladly accepted and welcomed.

2Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for the day of Christ shall not come, unless there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Embraced by social media, endorsed by every religion, expounded by every news outlet, and promulgated by universal social networking, the foundation for the **spirit of iniquity** is becoming ubiquitous—it is everywhere. You cannot find a place free of that terrible attitude – except in the house of God.

In the Book of Revelation, the Beast system with this counterfeit religious system is associated with Babylon the Great. John, in spirit, is shown the end-time abominations.

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 sits upon **many waters**:

Her domain is the entire earth.

Revelation 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.

Can you imagine the **attitude of hate** that swept through Hitler's inner sanctum when he was killing six million Jews? That is what it means when we read "made drunk with the wine of her fornication." John continues:

Revelation 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness [devoid of the things of God]: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Revelation 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand **full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication**:

Brethren, that is God's perspective – not ours – but it should be. To the world this will be **business as usual**.

Revelation 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

This is how the Saints of God will be martyred.

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 astonishment.

The beast power will have free reign to run rough shod over everything the Church of God stands for. If we are not right with God continuously we will be picked off and destroyed. And the details will become more clear as we run out of time.

Revelation 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man **worship the Beast** and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

Worship the Beast – you won't have to be out front **carrying a sign** for him, or **bowing down** to his feet – No! The Beast will make it easy... All you have to do is work on the Sabbath once in a while, or partake of the unclean thing... Who ever puts God's way aside in the slightest way...

Rev 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

This counterfeit system is becoming a universally accepted movement and mixture of religion, faith, and an ideology of dark camaraderie and worship which is gaining great momentum toward a world dominance that can only be destroyed by Jesus Christ at His coming. Paul speaks of the end-time Beast power.

2Thessalonians 2:8-10 Then shall that Wicked [one] be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall **destroy with the brightness of His coming**: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

Jesus will **destroy the Beast** with the brightness of His coming. Daniel describes it.

Daniel 2:31 Thou, O king [Nebuchadnezzar], saw, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

Daniel 2:32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

Daniel 2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

Daniel 2:34 You saw until that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

Daniel explained Nebuchadnezzar's dream telling him that a stone cut out **without hands** (Jesus Christ) destroyed the great image representing all the world's empires. He went on to say that the Kingdom of God would replace all worldly kingdoms forever:

Daniel 2:44 In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a Kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the Kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Daniel 2:45 Forasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the Great God has made known to the king (Nebuchadnezzar) what shall come to pass hereafter.

We are told in the Book of Revelation that the Beast will be among the destroyed kings and empires of the earth. The Beast and everything he stands for will be consumed in a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 19:19 I saw the Beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him [Jesus Christ] that sat on the horse, and against His army.

Revelation 19:20 And the Beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Brethren, it behooves us to stir up our enthusiasm in these latter days. Time is shorter than we realize. As Paul said, "The mystery of iniquity is already at work" (2Thessalonians 2:7). We need to be more cautious than we have been.

End: Latter Days – Part Two