



TRIBULATION BIRTH PAINS

FEBRUARY 11, 2024

THE FIRST HALF OF THE TRIBULATION

MATTHEW 24:4-14; LUKE 21:8-17; REVELATION 6:1-12a

PARALLELS BETWEEN OLIVET DISCOURSE AND SEAL JUDGMENTS (REVELATION)			
CONDITIONS/EVENTS	MATTHEW 24	LUKE 21	REVELATION 6
False Messiahs/Prophets	vv. 5, 11	v. 8	v. 2
Wars/Rumors of Wars	6	9	3-4, 8
International Discord	7	10	3-4
Famines	7	11	5-8
Pestilences		11	8
Persecution/Martyrdom	9	12-17	9-11
Earthquakes	7	11	12a

THE MEANING OF BIRTH PANGS

MATTHEW 24:8; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-3; JEREMIAH 30:6-7; LUKE 21:29-31

As a pregnant woman's _____ pains indicate a general sense of when her child will be born, so the conflicts and tragedies of Matthew 24:4-14 indicate that a much more _____ labor and a _____ are soon to come.

THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

MATTHEW 24:14; REVELATION 7:3-8; 11:3-6; 14:6-7

- ① To give those with sincere hearts the opportunity to respond to the Gospel in _____ and receive the Lord Jesus Christ for _____ salvation.
- ② To prepare those who refuse to respond to the _____ of the truth resulting in God bringing upon them His _____ judgment and wrath.

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

MATTHEW 24:15-21; DANIEL 11-12; REVELATION 13:11-15

When the "Abomination of Desolation" appears (at the _____ of the Tribulation), birth pain signs will increase dramatically in their _____ and _____.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. Why do you think so many people are fascinated with prophecy—biblical and otherwise?
2. Read Matthew 24:4-14. Jesus warns his disciples throughout the discourse about being deceived. What are some of the marks of a deceiver (see Matthew 7:15-20; 1 John 4:1-6)?
3. Jesus sees the first half of the Tribulation as being very unstable (see vv. 6-8). What signs of instability does he mention? How are these signs like "the beginning of birth pains"?
4. Read Revelation 6:2-8. From the descriptions John gives, what do you think each of the four horsemen represents? What do the judgments wrought by the four horsemen have in common with Jesus' words in Matthew 24:4-8?
5. What is the difference in reaction to God's wrath in these two chapters: from those who do belong to God (see Revelation 6:15-17) and those who belong to God (see Revelation 7:11-15)?
6. Imagine that you find out you will be persecuted for your faith tomorrow (remembering that persecution comes from the enemy). Write down the changes you need to make today?