

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

The Great Tribulation
Mark 13:19-20



SYNOPSIS

In this message, Pastor Frank Bennett outlines a specific eschatological (end times) view, primarily drawing from the Book of Revelation and Jesus's teachings in Mark 13. The sermon focuses on a pre-tribulation rapture of the Church, followed by a seven-year tribulation period marked by escalating divine judgments, the rise of the antichrist, and culminating in the second coming of Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. How is the Great Tribulation structured, and what are the main types of judgments that will occur during this time?

2. Can you briefly describe some of the key events associated with the seal judgments?

3. What are some of the major catastrophes described in the trumpet judgments?

4. What kind of divine wrath is poured out during the bowl judgments?

5. Who is the antichrist mentioned in the context of the Great Tribulation, and what role does he play?

6. What are the two possible outcomes presented at the end for individuals in relation to these events?

FURTHER STUDY

Revelation 6:1-16

Revelation 8:1-13

Revelation 9:1-15

Revelation 16:1-18

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ANSWER KEY

1. The Great Tribulation is described as a period encompassing a series of divine judgments that come in three phases: the seal judgments, the trumpet judgments, and the bowl judgments. These judgments are depicted in the Book of Revelation and are believed to escalate in severity, bringing about widespread destruction, death, and suffering on the earth.
2. The seal judgments begin with the arrival of the antichrist on a white horse, followed by widespread war and bloodshed (red horse), severe famine and economic hardship (black horse), and mass death from various causes including sword, famine, plague, and wild beasts (pale horse). The fifth seal reveals the martyrdom of those who become believers after the Rapture. The sixth seal involves catastrophic cosmic events like a great earthquake, the darkening of the sun and moon, falling stars, and the removal of mountains and islands, causing widespread panic. The seventh seal introduces a silence in Heaven before the subsequent trumpet judgments begin..
3. The trumpet judgments involve a series of devastating events triggered by angels blowing trumpets. These include global storms with hail and fire mixed with blood that destroy a third of the earth's vegetation, a large burning object falling into the sea causing it to turn to blood and killing a third of marine life and destroying a third of ships, a poisonous star falling on freshwater sources making them bitter and causing death, the darkening of a third of the sun, moon, and stars, the release of demonic locusts from the Abyss, and the unleashing of four angels to kill a third of mankind. The seventh trumpet announces the Second Coming of Jesus.
4. The bowl judgments are described as the direct outpouring of God's wrath upon the earth. The first bowl causes ugly, festering sores on those with the mark of the beast. The second and third bowls turn the seas and freshwater sources into blood, killing all marine life and making drinking water undrinkable. The fourth bowl intensifies the sun's heat, scorching people. The fifth bowl brings darkness upon the kingdom of the beast. The sixth bowl dries up the Euphrates River to prepare for the kings from the East and unleashes demonic spirits to gather nations for the battle of Armageddon. The seventh bowl results in a massive earthquake unlike any before, causing significant global landscape changes.
5. The antichrist is introduced as the rider on the white horse in the first seal judgment. He is described as a conqueror who comes to power during the Great Tribulation, after the Rapture. He is also referred to as "the abomination that causes desolation." The text suggests a connection between the antichrist and the implementation of the "mark of the beast," which later becomes a target of divine judgment in the bowl judgments.
6. The source concludes by stating that there are two ways to avoid these judgments. The first is to surrender one's life to Jesus Christ, leading to being taken up to Heaven during the Rapture or at death. The second possibility is to die as a sinner and face judgment, ultimately being sent to Hell. The choice of which path to take is presented as being up to each individual.