

Pre-Tribulation Precursors

Luke 21:7-11

Pastor Arlyn

Message Transcript

[00:00:00] Luke, chapter 21. Our last two Luke studies have led us to the question, in Luke chapter 21 verse 7, that launches Jesus into the Olivet discourse. And that simply means a teaching, discourse means teaching, a teaching that Jesus gave from the Mount of Olives or Mount Olivet. So that question in verse 7 launches us into that Olivet discourse that we have all been so excited and anxious about studying. In Verse 5 of Luke Chapter 21, the disciples were quite impressed with the temple in Jerusalem and they wanted to see if maybe the Lord was too, because it was beautiful. We spoke about that last week in our build up to this message. Herod the Great was an impressive builder. I mean, he was he was a phenomenal builder in his own right. But this is the Lord that we're talking about, who we're told in the Gospel of John in the book of Colossians made all things. All things were made by him and through him, and for him, all things were made. So the temple, as wonderful as it may have looked to people, well, that was just made of limestone, which is just a fancy word for fancy dirt. And you're talking to the Lord here who made planets and people and living things and galaxies and the sun, the moon, the stars, the entire cosmos. He made that dirt. He made that that fancy dirt, that limestone that Herod used to build, that what they thought to be a magnificent temple. But that was the Lord's dirt. The Lord created that. So I figure the Lord would be very tough to impress when it comes to human ingenuity and creativity. [00:02:06][126.8]

[00:02:08] And there they are. Lord, look at what we made with your dirt. Not impressed. I made everything. [00:02:19][11.0]

[00:02:21] So they give him the tour of the temple structures there. [00:02:25][3.5]

[00:02:26] And Jesus responds by saying in verse 6, it is all coming down. Every single stone from that magnificent temple is going to be thrown down. That was not the response that they were anticipating. And then they move on. They begin walking out from the Temple Mount, down through the Kidron Valley and up the slope to the hilltop there on the Mount of Olives, where they are in this verse, verse 7 that we begin reading today. [00:03:00][34.1]

[00:03:01] They are directly facing the temple. Mark chapter 13 verse 3 tells us that and that prophetic statement that Jesus gave to them about the destruction of the temple that has stuck with them. That did not sit easy, that has disquieted their spirits and they want to know more. [00:03:22][20.9]

[00:03:22] So the question is for that purpose, Lord, we're good Bible prophecy students, so we want to know every single thing that you were alluding to when you made that statement about the temple. And that's what we have. Verse 7, the question that is given to Jesus, according to Matthew 24:3 in the privacy of the discipleship group by specifically the Peter, James, John and Andrew, the fearsome foursome. They asked this question, Lord, tell us more. Let's read the question before we do a little disclaimer. I am not going to rush through these verses, that is why I have only slated us to get to verse 11 today. I don't even know if we'll get that far. If we have to stop mid verse, I want you to be in this with me. I want us to have this agreement, this deal. We're going to take our time through this so that we get everything out of these verses that the Lord wants us to get out of them. Are you with me on that? Are we agreed? Let's take a vote. Two votes in one day. All right. Verse 7. Let's read the question that launches the discourse. So they ask him saying teacher, but

when will these things be? Speaking of, of course, what he referenced there in the destruction of the temple, when will these things be and what sign will there be when these things are about to take place? The first thing we need to do here is to get the complete question. Because to get the complete question is to get the complete understanding of where the disciples are in their prophetic thinking at this time, and that complete question comes from Matthew chapter 24 verse 3. We don't have this on the overhead, I apologize. That is an oversight on my part and not the control booth back there. So I'll have to read this to you. [00:05:29][127.2]

[00:05:30] And if you have your Bibles with you, follow along. Matthew chapter 24 verse 3. Here is the full, complete question that they asked Jesus. Now, as he sat on the Mount of Olives, Mark chapter 13 verse 3 adds that they sat opposite the temple. [00:05:49][18.9]

[00:05:49] They were facing the temple. The disciples came to him privately saying. Tell us, when will these things be and what will be the sign of your coming end of the end of the age? So you see there they're not just asking about the destruction of the temple there in Jerusalem, are they? [00:06:13][24.1]

[00:06:14] They have erroneously connected that event, the destruction of the Jerusalem temple with the second coming of Christ and the end of life on Earth as they knew it now. Kudos to them for at least understanding that before Jesus would set up his physical kingdom, he would first go away and then return in his second coming. [00:06:41][26.5]

[00:06:41] Do you see that? [00:06:41][0.5]

[00:06:42] They understood that based on the question, they clearly understood that, that he's not going to set up the physical kingdom. The physical rule and reign of God right then and there, but that he's going to go away, that he's going to return in his second coming and then at his second coming, he will then establish the physical rule and reign over all the kingdoms of the Earth. They understand that much. [00:07:06][24.5]

[00:07:07] Major kudos to them. Now, how did they know that? Weren't they, like, really confused on this issue? [00:07:15][8.8]

[00:07:17] Yeah, they were for a long time. They were really confused on Bible prophecy. They were really confused on the first coming of Messiah and the second coming of Messiah. But that is why Jesus taught them what he did in Luke chapter 19 verse 11. Ground that we already covered, Jesus gave them a parable about the kingdom. Why did he do it? We're told there, right in verse 11, he did that. [00:07:43][26.0]

[00:07:44] He gave them that parable because they thought the kingdom of God should immediately appear. They were expecting the kingdom to be set up right there, right then. 32 A.D.. So Jesus gives them that parable, the parable of the 10 menas, to clear up that misunderstanding. And what was his message in that parable? His message was this: [00:08:08][23.8]

[00:08:09] That the Lord was going to go off into a foreign country, we understand that to be heaven, a reference to the ascension of Christ, and then he would return and bring all of his servants into account. So they walked away with at least the understanding that he is leaving. We're not sure what that's about. It's an undefined time period, we're not sure how long he's going to be, but he is leaving and then he comes back to set up the kingdom. [00:08:35][25.8]

[00:08:35] It's just that they misunderstood the relation of those things one to another. This is, this is the way things looked in their thinking. It was this. [00:08:46][10.1]

[00:08:47] If Jesus says that the temple is coming down, then that must be the end. If Jesus says the temple is coming down, man, we must be talking end of days here, he must be speaking about his return.

[00:09:04][17.0]

[00:09:05] He must be speaking about his reign. He must be speaking about the end of life on Earth, as we know it, the end of all human reign. [00:09:13][8.6]

[00:09:15] Well, actually, he wasn't. [00:09:16][1.0]

[00:09:18] When Jesus gave them that prophecy about the temple, he was speaking only about the fall of Jerusalem to Rome in 70 A.D. Funny how they rushed to that conclusion, isn't it? They know if Jerusalem is going down, that's the end of the world. [00:09:36][17.8]

[00:09:38] Let's not get too arrogant here, because I think as American Christians, we have the same tendency to do the same thing. [00:09:49][11.7]

[00:09:50] We have the tendency to look at America as if it's the epicenter of end time Bible prophecy. We have the habit, the tendency of looking at the American Christian as if any time Bible prophecy centers around them and it doesn't. [00:10:09][18.7]

[00:10:10] So when things start going haywire in America, we shouldn't be saying, oh, America is going to fall, that's it. It's the end of the world as we know it. We don't know that. We don't know that at all. We do know this. [00:10:25][14.4]

[00:10:26] America is not the epicenter for Bible prophecy, nor is the American Christian the major player in Bible prophecy. We are told who that centers around in Daniel chapter 9 verse 24. It is Jerusalem. It is Israel that is the epicenter of all Bible prophecy. It is the Jew that is the key player in all of Bible prophecy. And you can read that later. But in Daniel 9:24, Daniel is given that prophecy. The Lord speaks to him and the Lord says seventy weeks, seventy periods of seven years are determined for your people. Who's the Lord speaking to? Daniel. [00:11:09][43.6]

[00:11:10] Who's Daniel? A Jew. [00:11:12][1.3]

[00:11:14] Seven weeks are determined for your people, the Jews and for your holy city, Jerusalem. [00:11:20][6.5]

[00:11:22] Jerusalem is the epicenter of Bible prophecy. That's the place to be watching, not America. Where do we fit in? Well, I do believe America is seen in Bible prophecy. And I'm going to show you where we fit in in Bible prophecy when we get to the Book of Revelation. So before we read Christ's response, the prophetic Olivet discourse, here's what we need to know first. His audience. Jesus, is primarily speaking to the Jews about their involvement in any time Bible prophecy. Who asked the question? Jews. Who gets the response? Jews. Who's delivering the response? A Jew, the God man who happened to be a Jew as well. So what we're getting in the Olivet discourse is the Jewish vantage point on end time prophecy. [00:12:24][61.8]

[00:12:25] It's unmistakable. [00:12:26][0.3]

[00:12:28] The Olivet discourse is written in geocentric language. It is written in terms and language that applies to one specific geographical location. Jerusalem is the epicenter of Christ's prophecy in the Olivet discourse. Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21. Jerusalem is the epicenter. We read about people being up on their

roofs. That is definitely not a Western civilization thing. We don't do that. We read about the importance, the significance of events happening on the Sabbath day. That is a non issue to a non Jew. [00:13:14][45.7]

[00:13:15] We read about the mountains of Judea as a rallying point during the intense times that Jesus speaks about. We read about the fig tree metaphor that will be used as a time stamp. That absolutely, certainly is a reference to the nation of Israel. [00:13:35][19.8]

[00:13:35] So those are all Jewish things pertaining to the nation of Israel. Arlyn, we get the point, Jesus wrote this specifically with the Jews in mind. Great. But hang on, it gets even more complex than that. In his response, Jesus is speaking to those Jews, about that temple. [00:14:02][27.1]

[00:14:06] But then he says a whole bunch of stuff that could not possibly apply to those people and that temple and that time period. So what Jesus has done in this discourse, now keep in mind they have asked a two sided question, they thought the two went together. They've asked a two sided question, and he's going to give us or give them that two sided question, which means in his response, he is going to be talking, first of all, near prophecy. He's going to be speaking to near Jews about the near future. That is the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. But he's also, in this same teaching, going to be speaking to future Jews about a future prophecy concerning the destruction of all things on this earth. And so that is what we are seeing in this section. It can only mean that Jesus, in one teaching is speaking about both things. And we might then have the question if this is a very Jewish chapter and if this is a very Jewish teaching, well, then where do I, as a gentile New Testament church believer, fit in? How does this apply to me? [00:15:40][94.3]

[00:15:42] And that's where it gets a little bit tricky for us, because we have to know our place in all of it before we even begin to study it. Really, before we approach the Olivet discourse, we need to know prophecy pretty well in advance in order to be able to draw up those lines and find out what applies to us.

[00:16:02][20.4]

[00:16:02] How will this affect us? What will this look like? Now, that is why I ask you to do a little homework. I encouraged you, I did everything short of begging you, to go back through this week, this past week, and listen to our overview on eschatology teaching so that you could have a good grasp on the overall flow of Bible prophecy. End time, Bible prophecy. I hope you did that. I'm not going to ask you if you did, but if you did that, that is going to help me out as I teach my way down through that. It's going to help us to just figure out where it all fits in. With all of that in mind, with all of that in place, let's now look at Christ's answer, verse 8.

[00:16:48][45.8]

[00:16:50] And he said, take heed that you not be deceived. [00:16:57][6.7]

[00:16:58] This is where Jesus begins. They ask for signs, they ask for info. Jesus begins with this deception. Be very careful that you do not end up being deceived, because we know, according to the second Thessalonians Chapter 2, that the Lord is going to send a dark deception, a deep delusion to cover this earth like a blanket at the time of the end. You can read about that for yourself, specifically verse 11 of Second Thessalonians, chapter 2. I don't have the time to deliver that to you today. Suffice it to say, deception is not just picking the wrong side and then staying on the wrong side. Deception is being completely spiritually blinded to the truth. Deception is being incapable of seeing things the way that God sees them. And we see that deception already in play in our world today, don't we? It's so sad, so sad. [00:18:14][76.7]

[00:18:15] So many are already in this place where they are incapable of listening to logic and tracking with the truth and responding to reason. They're just incapable. And you try to talk with them and and you're just blown away. [00:18:30][15.1]

[00:18:30] How does this not make sense to you? How is my position, my stance, not the obvious, clear cut, better choice on this particular issue. You're baffled. You're blown away. They can not see your viewpoint. It is not that they don't want to, I mean, that's part of it, but it's not just that they cannot see it, because as the apostle John told us, the spirit of Antichrist is already in the world working. That deception is already covering the planet. Long before we set this church up here. Forty one years ago or so. *[00:19:11][40.7]*

[00:19:13] Well, different church, but same building, you know, so that spirit is already working. That deception is already following. We know without a doubt, it is much worse today in 2021. That deception, that delusion is far worse. And I'm here to tell you some bad news. There's going to be a lot of bad news today, get ready for it. It's only going to get worse. You think they're tough to reason with now, you just wait. It's going to get worse. We need to be ready for it church. Reading on in verse 8, for many will come in my name saying I am he. And the time has drawn near. Therefore, do not go after them. Do not fall for it. Do not buy whatever they are selling. And the word here in verse 8 that you see in italics, the word he, that does not need to be there. In the King James version, you have the word Christ. That word does not need to be there. Now, I'm not saying that is a bad translation or a poor translation. I'm just saying it is additional and it is unnecessary. *[00:20:28][74.6]*

[00:20:29] Because when you say a word italicized in a translation church, what does that mean? It means it was added by translators to help to clarify something. It means by admission because it's in italics, it has no original word in the manuscript that it is attached to. It is entirely additional. *[00:20:50][20.8]*

[00:20:51] Now, if you have Christ in there, that's a fine translation, it's it's slightly different from the major point. If you have he in there, that's a good translation. But here's the way it should read, as it does in the original manuscript, for many will come in my name saying I am. What is that? What is I am? That is the name of God, that is the covenant name of God, Ego Eimi in the Greek, Yahweh, the Tetragrammaton in the Hebrew, Ego Eimi, Yahweh, the covenant name of God, which means I am. That's a proper translation of it. *[00:21:35][43.2]*

[00:21:36] And what that is supposed to communicate is the eternal city of God. That's God's way, by calling himself I am, that's his way of saying I operate outside of the time and space continuum. *[00:21:48][12.3]*

[00:21:49] I live in the eternal now. *[00:21:51][1.9]*

[00:21:52] I'm not a god of the past, I'm not a god of the future, I'm the God of the eternal. Now, I didn't have a beginning of days, I won't have an ending day. I am, right? *[00:22:04][11.6]*

[00:22:04] The title of deity, the name of God that Jesus claimed for himself multiple times, many times in the Gospels. So that's what we're seeing here. *[00:22:15][11.3]*

[00:22:21] This is people that had a beginning of days. People that live in the time and space continuum and yet stepping up into the world scene and claiming to be I am. Deity God, it is an absurd thought. *[00:22:40][19.6]*

[00:22:41] It is an absurd claim, they are false prophets and their message is always gloom and doom. Do you see that? *[00:22:49][7.8]*

[00:22:50] I am. I'm God. And the end is near. That's always the claim deity and gloom and doom, the end is near here, drink some Kool-Aid. Oh, good. You guys got that. *[00:23:06][16.4]*

[00:23:08] You know the story. You're familiar with that the Peoples Temple cult led by leader Jim Jones, the Jonestown Massacre, that whole mess where Jim Jones had his followers convinced that they had to kill themselves in order to start a revolution. And what did he do? He gave them Kool-Aid laced with cyanide.

[00:23:28][20.1]

[00:23:29] It was the biggest mass suicide in history. Nine hundred and eighteen people died. Three hundred in some of those of which were children. [00:23:39][10.0]

[00:23:41] Pitiful. What caused that? [00:23:43][2.1]

[00:23:45] These very things Jesus is speaking about. Or how about the cult known as Heaven's Gate, led by Marshall Applewhite there in 1997. Came along the Hale Bopp Comet, pardon me. And Applewhite had his followers convinced that flying behind that Hale Bopp Comet was a spaceship that was ready to beam them up and take them into heaven. [00:24:15][29.8]

[00:24:17] And it sounds to me like he was watching too much Star Trek, but he was actually able to convince his followers that that was the real deal. [00:24:27][10.1]

[00:24:27] They bought it, they went for it, and there was another mass suicide that killed themselves off. This time it was an apple sauce laced with cyanide. It was ah, pardon me. It wasn't Kool-Aid laced with cyanide. It was applesauce laced with a deadly drug. And they took plastic bags and tied them around their necks.

[00:24:49][21.3]

[00:24:51] That's deception. Only one answer for that. [00:24:53][2.6]

[00:24:55] Only one that's crazy. There's only one possibility that could cause a person to do that, and that is deception. What about David Koresh? You know that story, the Branch Davidian, he had that group convinced that he was the Messiah. And what was he doing the whole time? [00:25:11][16.4]

[00:25:13] Committing unseemly acts with the females, proving very much so, that all he was was a man obsessed with power and filled with fornication, but he did the same thing. [00:25:24][10.7]

[00:25:24] He had his followers convinced, he got them very paranoid. [00:25:27][3.0]

[00:25:29] And so was it 80 some people, 20, 30 kids killed at the hands of the ATF, as it were, all because they fell for the deception of people that thought way too highly of themselves, way, way more than they should. These are good reminders for us of the power of deception and of just how serious this is that the Lord is speaking to us. Now, again, I want to revive an old statement that I've shared in here before. There are two things certain in this life: [00:26:07][37.8]

[00:26:10] There is a God and you are not him. That is a true statement to speak to anyone that you are talking to. [00:26:19][9.2]

[00:26:20] So where do we fit here? How does this apply to us? False Christs and false prophecy, those are big problems. [00:26:30][10.1]

[00:26:33] I know not all false prophets and false prophecies end up in those big of disasters. [00:26:40][7.7]

[00:26:42] I understand that, but that does not mean that false prophets and false prophecies aren't harmless. I've seen some of the things people did in the recent months as a result of false prophecies about the election. Now, it was just unnecessary stuff, but what I'm seeing there is the connection of what people believe to how they act and what they do. [00:27:06][23.8]

[00:27:07] It's very serious stuff. [00:27:08][0.8]

[00:27:10] So just because there's no mass suicides or mass killings that come from a false prophecy or false prophet movement, that does not mean that it is not harmful. [00:27:22][11.6]

[00:27:22] Let me just give you the most obvious harmful result from false prophets and false prophecies. [00:27:28][6.0]

[00:27:29] It's this. It feels hatred for Christians, true Christians, and it feels hatred for profits, anyone that stands up and speaks in the name of the Lord and we can see that in the Book of Revelation. [00:27:46][16.7]

[00:27:46] I truly believe this, in the Book of Revelation, during the tribulation period, God will end up actually sending two prophets during the tribulation period. And when the world sees those prophets, the reception they give them is hate. [00:28:03][16.7]

[00:28:05] Why is that? [00:28:05][0.5]

[00:28:07] I think obvious answer. They are going to be, this world is going to be so burned out on false prophets and false prophecies that by the time a real prophet comes along, they're going to hate that prophet. They're going to despise everything that he stands for. And they're going to, they're going to determine that it would be more profitable to be profitless. [00:28:29][22.0]

[00:28:33] Well, you guys missed a good joke there. [00:28:35][1.4]

[00:28:40] You read that passage, it's disgusting. [00:28:43][2.6]

[00:28:45] The Lord allows those two prophets to finally be killed. [00:28:48][3.0]

[00:28:51] They parade those bodies, they set those bodies up for viewing in the streets of Jerusalem for three days, the whole world watches. And what do they do? They celebrate that these these two prophets were dead. They made a holiday out of it. The scriptures there in Revelation tell us they started given one another gifts like New Holiday, Dead Prophets Day, let's celebrate. Here's a present to honor the occasion. That's what they're going to do. In the past, that seemed unthinkable and unfathomable, impossible that something like that would happen. [00:29:32][41.0]

[00:29:33] I don't think, not really so much anymore, huh? Because I've seen people rejoice over the destruction of people and property just because they didn't agree with their positions and stances. [00:29:49][15.8]

[00:29:52] And just over the last couple of days, I watched our our newly elected vice president rejoice over the impending future codification of the Roe vs. Wade disaster. I watched her rejoicing that she would be able to codify that right for a woman to slaughter her child and call it abortion and call it a good thing. [00:30:19][27.8]

[00:30:22] So, yeah, I see those things happening now. Well, that's a little bit of a pig path that I don't have time to take, so back to the issue at hand. I will add this, the Jews that Jesus was speaking to in this discourse, they saw this happen, this was fulfilled in their time. There was a near fulfillment of of this very thing, false prophets, false messiahs and false prophecies. Right after the ascension of Jesus, it just became like prime time for false prophets. [00:31:00][37.8]

[00:31:01] And one after another, there, on up to leading into that 70 A.D. destruction of Jerusalem there was profit after profit, false prophet that stepped up and deceived the people into believing that he was the Messiah and that they would overthrow the Roman oppression. [00:31:19][18.6]

[00:31:20] And one after another, it was disaster after disaster. So we saw the near fulfillment to those disciple's those Jews. We have seen the future fulfillment that Jesus was speaking about, we have seen it. Applewhite, Jim Jones, David Koresh, and we will continue to see it, won't we? It is going to continue to happen on up until the time of the tribulation. And here's what the Lord wants you to know about that. [00:31:59][39.0]

[00:32:02] Be watching for it and don't be afraid to point it out. You're only doing us a favor iff you do, you're only doing us a favor. If you see false prophets and you point them out, that is going to help the world out. That's going to let the world know they don't belong to us. [00:32:22][20.1]

[00:32:23] We're not of the same thing, and we shouldn't be lumped in to the same clump with them, should we? False prophets, false prophecies, verse 9. And when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified. For these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately. Now we don't need to define war. We know what war is. If you're a parent of young kids, toddlers, you know what war is. We know what war is, this is a good translation, no need to define it. But I do want to define for you the word commotions. It has a startling definition. As I was studying through this, I was a little bit taken aback by the definition that I read. It is the Greek word akatastasia. Just rolls right off the tongue. Akatastasia, it means instability, disorder, commotion, and get this rioting. So the word commotions means, we've seen a lot of that in the past year. Rioting, disorder, confusion, commotion, we've seen a lot of that in America, but not exclusively in America. [00:33:51][87.6]

[00:33:52] Unrest and rioting has been happening at an escalated pace throughout this entire world. [00:34:00][8.6]

[00:34:03] And there is more and much worse ahead for us on this planet's horizon. That's what we're heading to. [00:34:13][10.4]

[00:34:15] But you the Christian, Jesus want you to know this: [00:34:19][4.4]

[00:34:21] Don't be terrified by it. You're going to see it, it must happen. [00:34:26][5.4]

[00:34:29] Don't be frightened by wars. Don't be frightened by the instability of government, man, I needed to hear this this week. Don't be frightened by rioting and looting. [00:34:40][11.3]

[00:34:41] These things must come to pass. The world has to move in this direction. And if you're terrified by these things and losing your faith in these things, you are missing out on the point and you are missing out on his piece. [00:34:55][14.0]

[00:34:58] Here's the issue, do you want the Lord to return? [00:35:00][2.1]

[00:35:03] Do you want the Lord to make all things new? In order for him to do that, then wars and commotions must come to pass. Let me put it to you like this one, like this, if you want things to wind up, then don't get all wound up when they do. Arlyn, I've been praying for the rapture of the church. I've been praying for God's rule on the Earth. Isn't that the model prayer? Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, right? We're praying for kingdom. Arlyn, I've been praying about the kingdom of and praying that the Lord comes back and just puts us all out of our collective misery and takes us home and institutes his divine peace. [00:35:52][49.3]

[00:35:53] I've been praying for that, but it hasn't been working. Man, things have just been getting worse and worse. The world's getting more and more of a mess. [00:36:02][8.7]

[00:36:02] No, that's proof that it is working. [00:36:04][1.5]

[00:36:05] That's what Jesus to say. And that's proof that we're moving toward this. Things have to get worse before they get better. If there's going to be perfect peace, if there's going to be a rapture, if there's going to be a tribulation that brings about perfect peace, there first has to be a build up of war and commotion to bring us into that time period so that the Lord can wrap this up, take us home and be done with it all.

[00:36:30][25.1]

[00:36:37] We're almost home church, we're almost home, hang in there. Verse 10, then he said to them, nation will rise again to nation and kingdom against kingdom verse 11 and there will be great earthquakes in various places and famines and pestilence, and stop right there for a moment. [00:37:02][25.6]

[00:37:05] We're going to define those signs that we have read in verses 10 and 11. I am not reading these definitions from a secret journal that no one else has access to. I'm reading these definitions from Greek concordances and dictionaries that anyone has access to for free online. Obviously, I'm saying that for a reason. I'm saying that because I believe you're going to have trouble accepting my definitions of these words at face value, but I assure you they are correct. So go home and be, well, not now, but after we're done here, go home and be a good Berean Christian. Study up on these things for yourself so that you can prove that I'm right. That's what you're supposed to do. Be a berean Christian. All right, first, nation will rise against nation. Nation is the Greek word ethnos from where we get our English word ethnicity. [00:38:12][67.6]

[00:38:15] Did you hear what I just said? That's big, that's really big. [00:38:20][5.3]

[00:38:20] This does not merely refer to country against country. This is speaking about nationalities or races against races. [00:38:31][10.9]

[00:38:33] This is speaking about racial war. You can prove that for yourself with a little bit of study.

[00:38:39][6.2]

[00:38:41] Nationality will rise against nationality. That would be the better way to translate that. There are about five or six Bible translations floating out there that do that. They do that very thing, they translate this as either ethnicity will rise up against ethnicity or nationality will rise up against nationality. That is the truth of what is being stated here. [00:39:08][27.2]

[00:39:08] So if you were hoping that the racial tensions were going to go away in our near future, if you thought 2021 might be our year to solve the differences between the races and the ethnicities, you are wrong.

[00:39:24][15.6]

[00:39:26] We may get some reprieve. I don't know, but what's coming in this division between race and ethnicity is going to be far worse than just some displays and riots over the issue. Next, kingdom against kingdom, this is the Greek word *basileia*, it means rule, right? The the place of Roman rule at this time was called the *basilica*. So so this is a good translation kingdom against Kingdom. This is the country versus country part. This is the nation versus nation part, as we would see it. The first is a fight, a division between ethnicities. The second is a division between countries, kingdoms, places of rule. Now, with that, that can look like this, that can look like country versus country, rule versus rule or that can look like this. Allied forces versus allied forces, because this allied force is under one rule and that allied force is under one rule. [00:40:39][72.9]

[00:40:39] So this also could be speaking about global wars. It covers all of those wars between actual physical nations. [00:40:47][8.0]

[00:40:49] Next, earthquakes in various locations. The Greek word *seizmos* from where we get our English word *seismograph*, which is what we use to measure earthquakes. Good translation right here. Earthquakes in various locations just popping up all over the place where you wouldn't expect them to be. Next, famines, the Greek word, *limos*, which means scarcity of food. [00:41:18][29.2]

[00:41:19] Again, another good translation. And finally, Jesus saved perhaps the most pertinent to us in this day and age for last. He says there will be pestilences. The Greek word, is *loimos* the definition? [00:41:39][19.5]

[00:41:40] Are you ready for this? I don't think you are. Let me give it to you anyway, the definition of pestilence is this: diseases with an uncertain affinity. Diseases with an uncertain affinity. [00:41:59][18.6]

[00:41:59] Now, if you go look up those words, you come up with a more clear picture of what this means. I'm going to put this in easier words for you to understand. Here is the definition of the word pestilence. The word *loimos* means incurable diseases that continuously morph. Incurable diseases that continuously morph. Intriguing, isn't it? That's what covid-19 is. We haven't solved covid-19. We haven't cured covid-19. And we're told it is already beginning to mutate and morph into the next thing. This is what Jesus predicted for these pre tribulation signs. OK, so now we're going to come back to these signs, lord willing. But here's what we desperately need to do at this point. We desperately need to read Matthew Chapter 24, first 8, because it comes right after this same list of signs that Luke has given to us, Matthew in his account. Matthew, chapter 24 verse 8 inserts this verse right here at the end of what we just read. He concludes these signs with verse 8. And if we didn't have Matthew chapter 24, verse 8, there is no way, no way that we could understand the prophetic signs that Jesus has listed out for us. There's no way we could fully understand what he was getting at, because these signs, as we read in Matthew Chapter 24, Mark 13, and Luke, 21, are nothing new to us. They're not, these things have always been in the world, there have always been racial tensions, there have always been wars between countries and even world wars. There have always been earthquakes, famines and pestilence. So how are we to see these signs in light of what Jesus is saying in order to get the right understanding of them and understand them correctly as they relate to prophetic end times events, specifically the signal that the tribulation period is about to begin. So let's read this, Matthew chapter 24 verse 8, Jesus said all these signs that we just spoke about, all these are the beginning of sorrows. Now, some of you Anchored folks know this, but do please do keep in mind I am not afraid to repeat myself, whether it's because my memory is bad and I forgot I told you or whether it's because we've come to it and the text and I need to talk about it. It's the second one today, it's not a bad memory. [00:45:13][193.5]

[00:45:14] I'm going to share this with you again because we're here in the text and I cannot pass this important of a point up without making sure that we have it clear. [00:45:22][8.6]

[00:45:23] I've shared it before, but the word sorrows here is the Greek word odean. It means birth pains, birth pangs, the throes of birth. [00:45:40][17.1]

[00:45:41] It means the travail of birth. Let me give that to you in 2021 English. We're speaking about labor contractions, Jesus said all these are the beginning of birth, labor contractions. Let me read this to you from Matthew chapter 24, verse 8 in the English standard version, the ESV. Here's what it says, all these are but the beginning of birth pains. [00:46:13][31.8]

[00:46:14] Yes. Excellent translation. Thank you, ESV translators. [00:46:18][4.1]

[00:46:20] It's not just the beginning of sadness that has nothing to do with it. It is the beginning of birth pains that is the key to unlocking how these End-Time signs are to be monitored by us. [00:46:33][13.4]

[00:46:34] That is the key to understanding. So when you understand how birth pains work, labor pains, contractions, and when you understand that, then you understand how these signs are to work. They are to work the same way. How does birth contractions work? Now, I have to go by what I've been told here, and what I've read. I have no personal experience on this one. Often it begins with Braxton Hicks contractions, a.k.a. forced labor. Those contractions start and that first time mother who has no clue what she's getting into and never did read that book, what to expect when you're expecting. OK, let's be honest. Everyone's read that book, probably a bunch of guys, too. So they have those Braxton Hicks contractions. They're new to birth and they think to themselves, OK, this is it. I'm going into labor. And hey, good news. This isn't too bad. I think I can manage this. Rookies. But then those contractions stop. You made the trip to the hospital for nothing, you know, go home, the baby isn't coming. It was false labor. Then comes the early labor contractions. That's the real deal. And those are more intense, so I'm told. They're a little tougher to handle, but they're still manageable, so I'm told, you can still go about living. The woman can take a shower, walk around, do some things around the house. You can still sort of live life around those early labor contractions. And eventually, you know, they go away for a little while, you get a nice long break in between those contractions. That early stage of labor is the longest stage, so it's the setup. What's happening, we're told medically, is during the early labor stage, the baby is moving into position and getting into the birth canal. Things are setting up. That's what's happening. Think prophetically as we're talking here. So eventually the process moves into what is called active labor. Maybe just mentioning that word sent a quiver through spines this morning, active labor. This is where the ball gets rolling down the hill and there's no way to stop it. Those contractions just get worse and worse and worse. [00:49:30][176.5]

[00:49:31] And the break in between them gets shorter and shorter and shorter until you feel like there's no break at all. [00:49:38][6.9]

[00:49:38] It's just one long contraction. And then the baby is ultimately birthed with that one last push with excruciating pain, so I'm told, and so I believe. [00:49:51][13.2]

[00:49:55] And there it is, finally, there's a baby and all is right with the world again, mommy is happy. [00:50:01][6.4]

[00:50:02] She's a little out of it, but mommy is happy and the daddy, he's forgiven finally of what he did to the woman. You know, all is right with the world. The baby was born, wonderful. This church, this is how we are supposed to understand these tribulation or any time signs that Jesus gave to us in these three parallel passages. [00:50:26][23.9]

[00:50:28] So I realize we're getting very late here, let me finish this up as fast as I can. [00:50:35][6.4]

[00:50:36] So if there's a bit of tension between ethnicities, normal, unfortunate, uncalled for, but normal human behavior if Palestinians are launching missiles into Israel, I really hate to say it, but, normal. That's just always going to happen. No problem, the IDF will take care of it. They're brilliant. They're good at what they do. [00:51:01][24.8]

[00:51:03] There's an earthquake in Alaska that is nothing new, that is completely normal. They had two hundred and twenty thousand earthquakes in the last five years alone. Normal. [00:51:13][9.4]

[00:51:18] Get a bad flu, it's not a sign, it's not an end of the world sign unless it takes your life. It's the flu, it's normal, it happens. You'll miss a few days or a few days of work and back to work you'll go. These are normal things. But, if there's a peaceful racial protest in a town square because of increased racial tensions within a nation, it could be Braxton Hicks if Russia goes after Ukraine, might be Braxton Hicks. [00:51:54][36.2]

[00:51:55] There's a 4.2 tremor in Pennsylvania, an unexpected place. It's unusual. [00:51:59][4.4]

[00:52:01] Could be Braxton Hicks. There's a famine in a country, could be Braxton Hicks. [00:52:10][8.5]

[00:52:10] Couple famines in a couple countries could be Braxton Hicks. Local famines have always been with us on this planet. [00:52:17][6.5]

[00:52:18] But when there are entire city blocks burning to the ground over racial tensions, I think we've moved beyond the false labor and I think we have entered the early labor stage. [00:52:31][13.8]

[00:52:33] If China is expanding its naval base in a power grab, if Russia and Iran are dropping out of the nuclear treaties, I think we're looking at the beginning of early labor. [00:52:46][13.1]

[00:52:50] If earthquakes bigger than 5.5 on the Richter scale begin popping up in unexpected places and all over the place, I think we begin to look at that as the early stages of labor. And food shortages and toilet paper shortages start happening not just in local regions, but on a global scale. I think we've entered early stages of labor. [00:53:23][32.8]

[00:53:26] And if an incurable, substantial pestilence like covid-19 crashes, the world scene will not go away and then begins to morph into new strains, then we may have the early labor stage. [00:53:42][16.2]

[00:53:43] And I believe that we have call me, crazy, call me a wanna-be prophet, but I sensed something very deep in my spirit within those first three months of covid-19, I sensed something very deep in my spirit. [00:54:00][16.6]

[00:54:00] I sensed, I felt, really believed on a spirit level that I can't explain that we have begun these early stages of labor that will ultimately bring us into, not us as the church, but bring the world into the tribulation period and ultimately give birth again to the son of God on this Earth as king and ruler. [00:54:30][29.9]

[00:54:33] So if you ask me what do I expect to see in 2021 and the years following, this is the first I'd point you to. This is the stuff that I expect to see more of. [00:54:48][14.3]

[00:54:49] It is inevitable you can expect that all of these listed out signs are going to increase in intensity, just like labor pains do as birth nears, you can expect all of these signs to happen with more frequency and less break in between them as we near the time of the tribulation period. [00:55:14][24.8]

[00:55:21] 2021 and beyond. [00:55:22][0.5]

[00:55:27] They're going to be filled with racial wars. Deadly and costly military wars, massive earthquakes all over the place, frightening global shortages. I think we've begun to see a foretaste of that. And even more infectious diseases and more deadly strains of what we've already been infected with, with no answer, with no help from Big Pharma, nothing that they can do. This, I believe, with all my heart, is where we're headed. I believe I'm absolutely 100 percent correct on this. Worship team, would you come up? How bad do things get before the tribulation? I don't know. What are we waiting on as the church? Nothing. We're waiting on the rapture. Nothing else has to happen. I do feel that we are seeing these early stages of labor, these pre tribulation signs, and I don't know how much of it we're going to see. [00:56:41][74.4]

[00:56:41] We may see all of it right up until the official beginning of the tribulation period. Or we may be raptured out of here quick. I don't know how long we're going to be here. [00:56:52][10.9]

[00:56:55] I do know this active labor can begin at any time. [00:57:01][6.7]

[00:57:04] Those same signs that Jesus gave us, those signs that began that begin just before the tribulation period will continue on. They will intensify. They will happen with greater frequency, less breaks in between all the way to the very end of the tribulation. We'll talk about this more next week. [00:57:23][19.0]

[00:57:30] But why aren't we worried? Why aren't we frightened? Because we believe in Christ and he has promised us in fitting with everything that we have seen him from the Old Testament, that before his wrath is poured out, the church is going to be pulled up. [00:57:49][19.0]

[00:57:51] We're not going to have to endure these things. So this isn't going to be our most frightening hour, this is going to be our finest hour when the world is freaking out and losing their peace. [00:58:05][13.9]

[00:58:07] The church is going to be calm with the peace of Christ in them, knowing that we've only got a little bit to go through, just a little bit, and then the Lord takes us home. [00:58:22][14.9]

[00:58:24] I'm ready for the rapture today. I'm ready for the tribulation to begin. [00:58:28][3.8]

[00:58:29] I'm not disconcerted by the things I see in the world. I know what it means. I'm ready. Are you ready today? Are you ready to go in the Rapture? [00:58:39][10.9]

[00:58:40] If you're not, can I encourage you to be so make that decision today. Pray in your heart that the Lord would save you. [00:58:51][10.9]

[00:58:51] Would you stand with me and let's pray. Thank you for the extra time today. This is always the risk you run as a church when you expect me to preach and teach on Bible prophecy. Just remember that when we go into revelation you wanted this. [00:59:10][19.2]

[00:59:12] You're going to get it in the church said amen because you know it. Let's pray. [00:59:12][0.0]