

- F. Why then did Jesus give these warnings in Matthew 24?
1. Historical and future perspective. God's concern for the "elect" (_____ believers).
 2. Throughout the Old Testament God always thoroughly warned both the godly and the ungodly of His coming judgments. God's Justice and God's Mercy!

G. Concluding thoughts - **Keeping things in perspective:**

1. _____ of "False Christs" and "False Antichrists": Matthew 24:23-25
2. _____ and _____ the many *changing* "End Times" teachings that continue to morph and make adjustments to accommodate _____ predictions: Matthew 24:26
3. _____ that the "Day of the Lord", the Second Coming of Christ, will not be hidden events...they will be _____ and _____ to all: Matthew 24:27-28
4. _____ that Jesus Christ's Return will be a powerful and glorious event as He returns on the clouds of heaven with great glory, in the same way He ascended into heaven: Matthew 24:29-30; Acts 1:9-11



IS THE END NEAR?

Msg. 4: The Great Tribulation

- I. Review: Matthew 24:1-14
- II. The "**Great Tribulation**" and "**The Antichrist**"
 - A. Why Is This Study Important?
 1. There are so many interpretations and approaches to this study one can easily become confused, fearful, or deceived.
 2. A misunderstanding of the "Great Tribulation" and "The Antichrist" will affect the way we _____ our lives today and how we _____ our faith in the world.
 3. The Thessalonian church was exhorted and comforted by Paul by reminding them of two key events: II Thessalonians 2:1-4
 - a. The _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ (The "Day of the Lord")
 - b. Our _____ together to Him (The "Rapture")
 - B. What is the "Great Tribulation"?
 1. The "Great Tribulation" is a period of ____ years (the final week of Daniel 9:27) which will be marked by the rise of the Antichrist, the "Abomination of Desolation", the judgments (7 Seals, Trumpets, Bowls), the "Battle of Armageddon", and the Second Coming of Christ (Revelation #6-19).
 2. Jesus said this period would stand apart from any previous time of persecution: Matthew 24:21

- 3 The “Great Tribulation” is the final period (7 years) in which God pours out His _____ against an ungodly world. Throughout Scripture it is known as **“The Day Of The Lord”**: Daniel 9:27; Malachi 4:5; Deuteronomy 4:30; Daniel 12:1; Zephaniah 1:15; Jeremiah 30:7; Isaiah 34:8; 35:4; 61:2; 63:4

C. When will the “Great Tribulation” take place?

1. The “Abomination of Desolation” – as spoken by Daniel the prophet (Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11) is the key to identifying when the “Great Tribulation” will take place.
 - a. It will be marked by a time of _____ – first 3.5 years – the “confirming of the covenant” between the Antichrist and Israel.
 - b. The “_____ of God” – final 3.5 years will begin when the Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel, stops the daily sacrifice, and sets himself up as God in the Temple, calling men to worship him. This is the “Abomination of Desolation”.
2. Therefore, the “Great Tribulation” will begin at the _____ of the Antichrist.

D. Who Is “The Antichrist”?

1. Attempts to identify him throughout history...
2. The Bible teaches us that the “spirit of antichrist” is already at work in the world: I John 2:18-22; 4:3; II John 7
3. Revelation 12-13 introduces us to the unholy trinity: _____ (who opposes the Father); the _____ (who opposes the Son);, and the _____ (who opposes the Holy Spirit)
4. The pivotal question in understanding the “Great Tribulation is – **“Can we identify who the FINAL Antichrist is?”**

E. When will “The Antichrist” be revealed?

1. The “Great Tribulation” (“Day of the Lord”) will not come until two key events take place: II Thessalonians 2:3-4
 - a. The “_____”:
Matthew 24:24; I Timothy 4:1-3
 - b. The “_____” is revealed.
2. When will the Antichrist’s identity be unveiled?
 - a. The “lawless one”, the Antichrist will be revealed when _____ is taken out of the way.
 - b. II Thessalonians 2:6-7; 8-10
3. Who is the “**HE**” of II Thessalonians 2:6-7?
 - a. The “**He**” that Paul refers to is the _____. It is “**He**” who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment: John 16:7-10
 - b. “**He**” is now present in the hearts and lives of all _____, the _____: John 14:15-18; Acts 2:1-4; 37-39; Eph. 2:19-22
 - c. “**He**” is working through the church to proclaim the manifold wisdom of God to the _____, to principalities and powers in heavenly places: Ephesians 3:10; 6:10-18
 - d. The _____ stands in spiritual warfare against the current darkness in the world. When the church is removed in the _____ - then **His indwelling presence** in the church will also be removed. Evil will then have free reign.
4. The Conclusion: The Antichrist will _____ (revealed) until the _____ of the church takes place.