



## What is the Tribulation?

**Background** – This series is designed to give encouragement and hope about the end times and the return of Christ.

**Key Verse** - [Matthew 24:35](#)

**Core Passage:** [Matthew 24:15- 35](#)

**Take Away** - Jesus loves us and doesn't want us to fear His return. So keep watch.

**Sermon Guide:**

### I. What do you see when you read the words of Jesus concerning the end times?

- 1) A clear warning to be ready for the tribulation.  
[Matthew 24:15-20, Daniel 9:26-27, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4](#)
- 2) A clear and sudden return of Jesus.  
[Matthew 24:21-30, Daniel 12:1-2](#)
- 3) A clear rapture and gathering of believers.  
[Matthew 24:31, Revelation 7:9-12, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52](#)
- 4) A clear promise of security and eternal peace.  
[Matthew 24:32-35, Revelation 21:1-4](#)

### II. How can we apply God's Word to our lives?

- 1) Be ready and cautiously optimistic about the timing of Christ's return.
- 2) Rejoice in our future and present hope in Jesus.

### III. Family/Small Group Discussion

- 1) Pray – That the words of Jesus in Matthew 24 and Revelation will encourage and instruct our hearts.
- 2) Briefly review the sermon outline. Have people read aloud a few of the scriptures covered and explain why they are important and meaningful.
- 3) Discuss together:
  1. Many people find fortune telling, horoscopes, and predictions of the future fascinating. Why do you think this is?
  2. In what specific ways can studying Bible prophecy motivate us to live differently?
  3. [Matthew 24:15-22](#) describes a time of chaos and calamity. How does Jesus instruct His disciples to respond?
  4. In your own words, what is the lesson of the fig tree ([Matthew 24:32-33](#)) that the disciples are to heed?
  5. Read [Matthew 24:35](#). How is this statement both a source of comfort and a warning for you personally? When you consider the return of Christ, what feelings does it stir in you and why?