

## Preparation for Foreboding Tribulations

~Mark 13:14–23~

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17

In keeping with prophetic convention, the near event – the destruction of the temple – served as a type (picture or foreshadowing) of the worldwide divine judgment that will come upon the earth at Christ's return.

...Followers of Jesus will experience increasing persecution and tribulation leading up to the final day of judgment, but they must remain vigilant and persistent in faith. (Kostenberger and Taylor, *The Final Days of Jesus*, 43-44)

Mark 13:37

### Three preparatory expectations for the coming tribulation(s):

#### **1. The treacherous abomination of Antichrist (v. 14a)**

Daniel 11:31–32

1 John 2:18

1 John 2:22

1 John 4:3

2 John 7

The upshot of all this is that Jesus' reference to the abomination of desolation in Daniel calls up a complex typology of prophecy and fulfillment stretching all the way from Nebuchadnezzar to the eschatological antichrist. There is no warrant for supposing that the abomination of desolation is a narrow prediction which is fulfilled solely by the eschatological antichrist. There is good reason to believe that the various historical desolations of Jerusalem and the temple, including those of Nebuchadnezzar, Antiochus Epiphanes, the Roman conquest (63 B.C.), Gaius Caligula (which was planned but not accomplished in A.D. 40-41), the zealots (A.D. 68), the Romans in A.D. 70 and 135, all provide anticipatory fulfillments which lead up to the ultimate desolation of the eschatological antichrist. The futurist approach correctly stresses the consummation of the prophecy but does not recognize the anticipatory background. All this argues for some sort of "double reference," "near-far" approach if the prophecy is to be handled holistically. (David Turner, *The Structure and Sequence*, pp. 11–12)

#### **2. The impending urgency of the people (vv. 14b–19)**

Hosea 13:16

John 17:24

The Great Tribulation as described in Revelation:

- a great earthquake will devastate the earth (Rev. 6:12–17);
- hail and fire will consume a third of earth's vegetation (8:6–7);
- a third of the ocean will be turned to blood (8:8–9);
- a third of freshwater will be poisoned (8:10–11);
- a third of the sun, moon, and stars will be darkened (8:12); countless demons will be released from bondage to terrorize mankind (9:1–12);
- a third of earth's population will be killed (9:13–21);

- another great earthquake will kill seven thousand people (11:13);
- incurable sores will cause people great pain (16:2);
- the entire sea will turn to blood and all sea creatures will die (16:3);
- the rivers will turn to blood (16:4);
- the earth will experience extreme heat (16:8–9);
- darkness will engulf the world (16:10–11);
- the Euphrates River will dry up (16:12);
- and a final, global earthquake will cause massive changes to earth's appearance (16:17–21).

2 Timothy 3:12

### **3. The sovereign mercy of God (vv. 20–23)**

Daniel 7:25

Rev 12:14

2 Thessalonians 2:8–9

Jesus' eschatological discourse encompasses both a now-past event, the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70, and a future event, the appearing of Jesus to judge the world. In keeping with the prophetic genre of this discourse, its promises are presented not so much in terms of predictive specificity as in terms of ethical implication. (David Turner, *Matthew Among*, p. 715)