



The Tribulation, Part Two

WEEK 5 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message of *Is This The End?*, we will discuss the last three and a half years of the Tribulation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The book of Revelation clearly shows us there are two choices we will ultimately choose to identify with—The Antichrist or Christ. There's a battle for YOUR identity and allegiance. Satan is destabilizing the whole world to confuse, shake, and disillusion people. Once the world is destabilized, people will grab the only thing they can see as stable and reliable—the world's system and its future leader—the Antichrist! Yet, Jesus is not willing to let people fall into Satan's grasp without giving them every opportunity to repent and turn to Him.

- What can we do to keep our identity rooted in Jesus?

The Storyline on the Earth:

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4: *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.* The Abomination of Desolation happens when the first Beast (the Antichrist) goes into the Temple in Jerusalem right at the middle of the Tribulation. He enters the Holy of Holies and sits on the Mercy Seat, which depicts God's heavenly Throne, and the Antichrist claims himself to be God Almighty. The Antichrist then breaks his covenant and launches a new onslaught against the Jews, martyring 144,000 Jews in the second half of the Tribulation.

- How can we grow in our discernment so that we are able to clearly recognize deception?

The Antichrist wants to control every aspect of human life—including global economics. During the last half of the Tribulation, the Antichrist requires every person to be marked in some way in order to buy-and-sell (**Rev 13:16-18**). When the Antichrist commits the Abomination of Desolation—declaring himself as God in the Temple—Christ begins to unleash a torrent of judgments like the Earth has never seen. These Trumpet and Bowl judgments happen throughout the last 3½ years of the Tribulation, with the Bowl Judgments happening rapidly at the end of the Tribulation (**Rev 8, 9, 16**).

Why does God send these various judgments? To get people to repent! To turn to Him. **Revelation 16:11** says: ***They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.*** In the book of Revelation, during the Tribulation, it's recorded four times that the people of earth refuse to repent (**Rev 9:20,21, Rev 16:9,11**). God wants them to repent and for none to perish, but they will not turn to Him.

Today, Jesus appeals to us to repent through His love, grace, and mercy toward us. Those who don't respond to Jesus' love enter the Tribulation. In the Tribulation, Jesus appeals to people to repent through His wrath, instead of His love. People who wouldn't repent on account of His love, Jesus sends His wrath. But, His goal is always repentance—to turn from sin, to turn from the world, and to turn to Him.

- How does God show His love, grace, and mercy today?

Now, the three kings who were formerly closely aligned with the Antichrist—the Kings of the North, South, and East—are influenced by three demons released during the 6th Bowl Judgment to march on Jerusalem and come against the Antichrist. The devil turns on himself. He can't help but divide! These kings with their armies meet in the Jezreel Valley in preparation to march together against the Antichrist—who is ruling in Jerusalem (The Battle of Armageddon). Jesus Christ returns and destroys the three kings, their armies, as well as the Antichrist (the fourth king) and his army! The returning King, Jesus, is going to come riding down from Heaven on a white horse, proclaiming His victory (**Revelation 19:11-16**).

When Jesus came to earth the first time, He came in meekness and humility, as a servant, the Son of a carpenter. When He comes again, He's not coming as a suffering servant; He's coming as the conquering King and Judge. John says Jesus will rule with an "iron scepter"—meaning His commands are immediately followed, and His judgments are immediately carried out. This is the Second Coming and Return of Christ. He sets up in Jerusalem a 1000-year Kingdom of peace and justice called—The Millennial Kingdom.

- What did you learn from this message?
- How can you apply this message to your life?

LIFE CHALLENGE

We can find elements of our identity in several categories: our nationality, ethnicity, gender, and religion. However, there is a far more important identity for us to claim—our identity in Christ. Do you belong to Jesus? Have you aligned yourself with Christ? Are you pledging your allegiance to the world's system or the Kingdom of God? As believers, let's do the works of Christ. Let's commit ourselves to live godly lives in keeping with our citizenship in the Kingdom of God.

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER