

MATTHEW chapter 14, part 2 -- When, then, immediately after...

Compilation and edition of prophetic commentaries by Gaetan

In the first part of our study of Matthew chapter 24, we explained that when Jesus was asked **when** would the temple be destroyed, his answer covered two main events: first the Roman destruction of the temple and city of Jerusalem which occurred almost 40 years later in 70 AD and then His second coming in the time of the end. We also saw that Jesus was pretty specific in verses 15, 21, 29 to 31 in giving us guideline for our understanding of the timing of the events just before His Return. We will now go through verses 15 and 21 with more details.



MAT.24:15 **When** ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand :)

MAT.24:21 **For then** shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Those are the Words of Jesus on the subject of the very end, pointing us back to the book of Daniel and telling us to read what was there, particularly *Daniel 11:31*, perhaps *Daniel 9:27* is second and *Daniel 12:11* could be third.

We cannot get away from the importance that Jesus Himself put on these things, His directing us to the book of Daniel and to where the subject of the “*abomination of desolation*” is covered. It’s just stunning. This is almost exactly what is written in the book of Daniel.

DAN.11:31 ...then they *shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.*

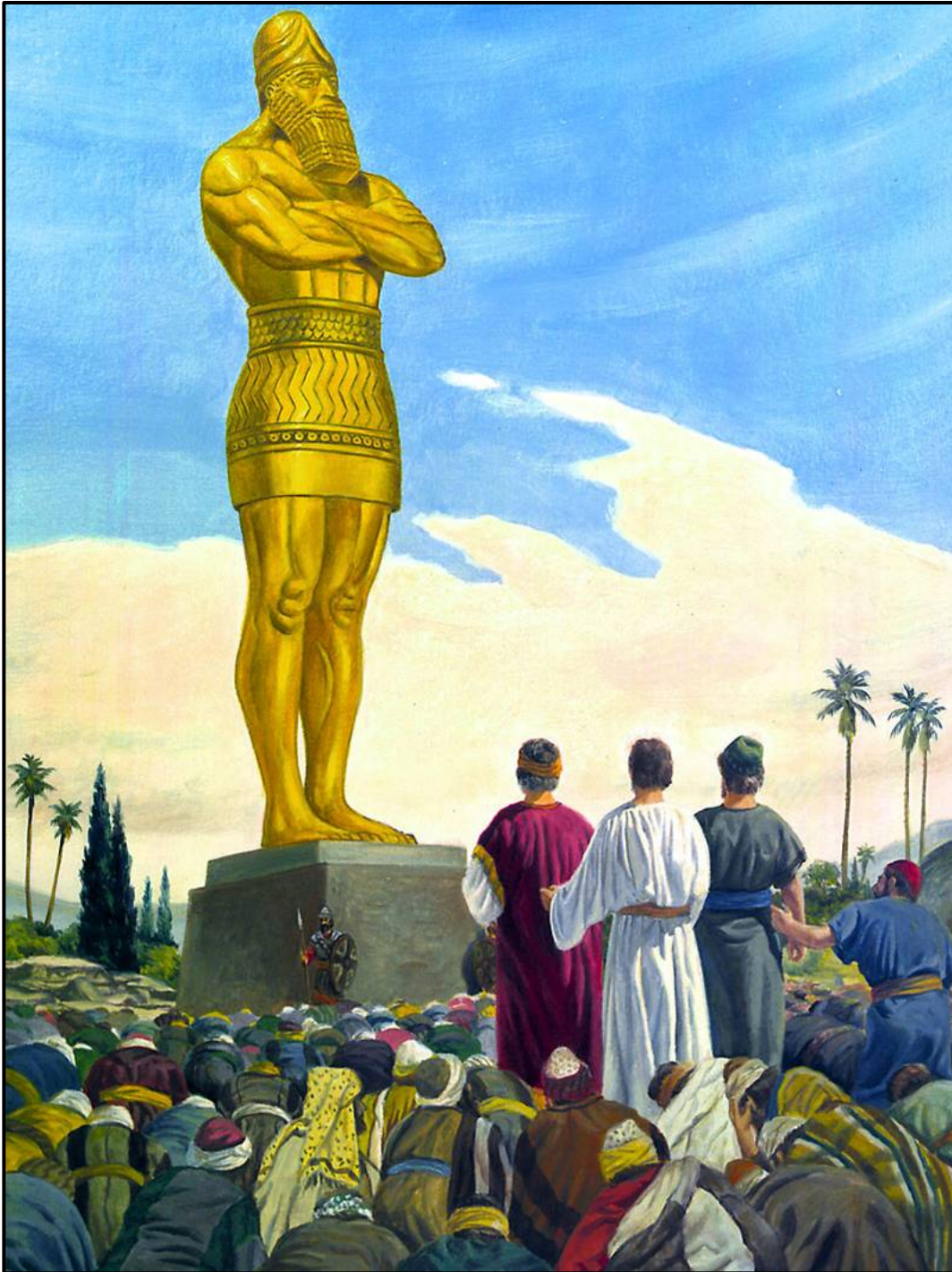
DAN.9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week **he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate**, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

DAN.12:11 And from the time that **the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up...**

Certainly, some are wondering, “*What is ‘the abomination of desolation’?*”

And the easiest answer is, “*we don’t know for sure.*” But here is a little speculation. In the Old Testament, “*abomination*” and “*image*” were words used to describe idols as you can read in *II Kings 23:13* and other places. In the book of Revelation where it talks about the future Antichrist, chapter 13, it also talks about “*the image of the beast*” which also seems to be something man-made and again the word “*image*” is one that was used to refer to idols.





Eleven verses in Daniel chapter 3 refer to the golden idol Nebuchadnezzar had built as an **“image”**. So, this **“image of the beast”** in Revelation seems to be the same thing as **“the abomination that makes desolate”** in Daniel, of which Jesus spoke of here in Matthew 24.

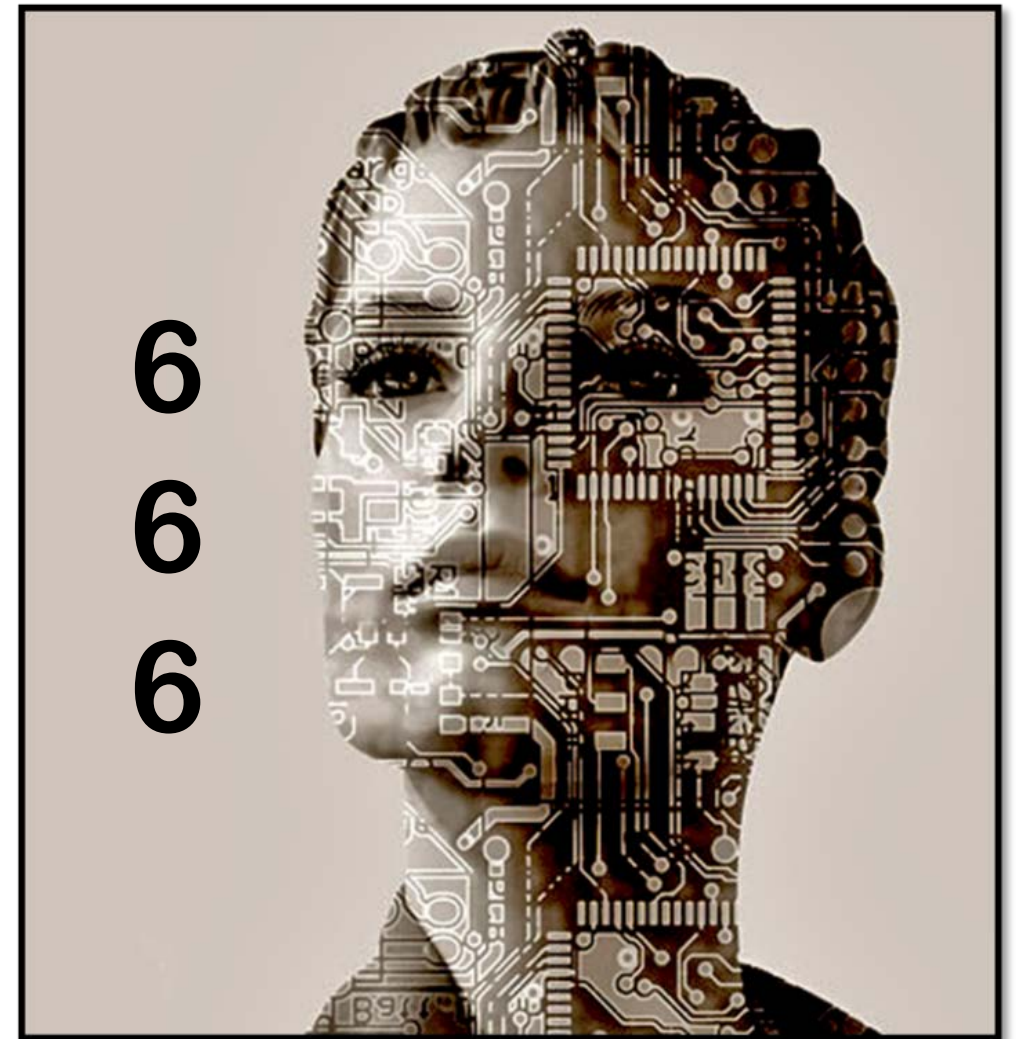
REV.13:14-15 ...telling those who dwell on the earth **to make an image to the beast** who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted **power to give breath to the image of the beast**, that **the image of the beast** should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

With Bible prophecy, it is generally wise to leave ourselves open and stay away from being too rigid in our interpretation. Nonetheless some things are pretty specific in the Word of God! **When** does the tribulation begin? Jesus Himself tells us, well, He tells us to read and understand what the prophet Daniel predicted in his book. Now we've learned from the books of Daniel and Revelation and many other places in the Bible that the Abomination of Desolation is going to be some sort of Image, an idol of the Antichrist, which will force the World to worship him.

And Jesus says here that "**when** ye see" this idol, this Image standing in the holy place--the holiest place on Earth to the World's three greatest religions, Christianity, Judaism and Islam, Mount Moriah, Jerusalem--**when** you see the Antichrist Image raised up and standing there, then what's going to happen? "**For then shall be great tribulation, whoso reads, let him understand**", you'd better understand. That's the exact pinpoint of when the Tribulation begins!

Will we know **when** that happens? It is quite possible that we'll know! We'll probably be watching the erection of that Image on television or internet and hearing the Antichrist's proclamation--given by the False Prophet, his propaganda chief--for everybody to fall down and worship him and receive his Mark in their hand or forehead or be killed! Jesus Himself said **then** begins the great tribulation!

This image is also connected in some way to a future worldwide economic system and "**the mark of the beast**" which many feels has something to do with advanced computer or even bio-technology. At this time, there's no completely clear answer to what this is. Our guess is that it will be some kind of technologically advanced creation of man which will play an integral part in the final New World Order economic system, possibly in the form of a RFID chip implant or new technology?



REV.13:16-17 *He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*



Now how long does the great tribulation last?

We are told repeatedly throughout the books of Daniel and Revelation that the Tribulation period during which the Antichrist is fully possessed by Satan, wages repeated wars, and most specifically, persecutes the believers in God, is three and a half years. It is said so often that it almost begins to sound like a broken record. Jesus really wants us to understand this point. Here are those scriptures:

*He [the antichrist] shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for **a time and times and half a time.** (Daniel 7:25)*

*And he shall confirm the covenant with many **for one week (7 years):** and **in the midst of the week** (or 3 ½ years) he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation... (DAN.9:27)*

"How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?" Then I heard the man clothed in linen...and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished. (Daniel 12:6-7)

The court which is outside the temple ... has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. (Revelation 11:2)

And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. (Rev.11:3)

Then the woman (who represents the body of believers) fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. (Rev.12:6)

But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. (Rev.12:14)

And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. (Revelation 13:5)

1260 days...42 months...3 ½ years

The length of the Great Tribulation

3½ years or 1260 days

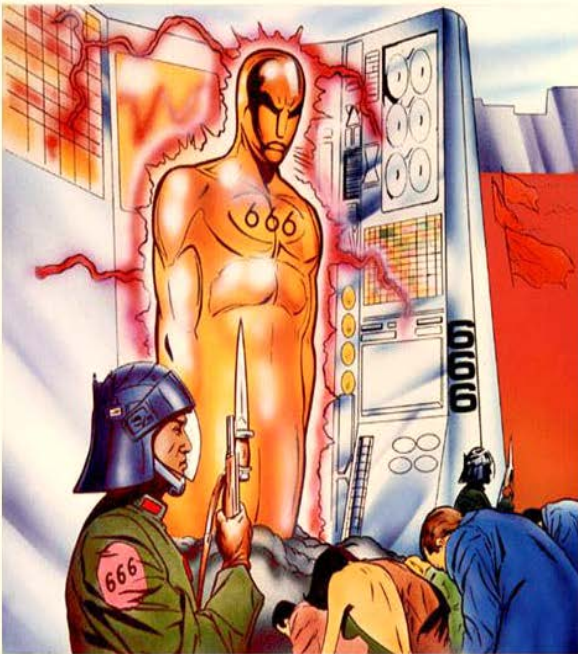
The Antichrist Causes the Sacrifice to cease. Dan.9:27; Dan.8:11-12; 2 Thes.2:3-4

He sets up the Abomination of desolation & the Mark of the Beast. Dan.11:31, Mt.24:15, Rev13:14-18

Great Tribulation begins. Mat.24:21-22; Dan.12:1; Rev.8:6

Jesus returns and the Rapture!

Mt.24:29-31,
2 Thes.2:1
Rev.11:15,
Dan.7:13-14
1Thes.4:16-17
1 Cor.15:51-52



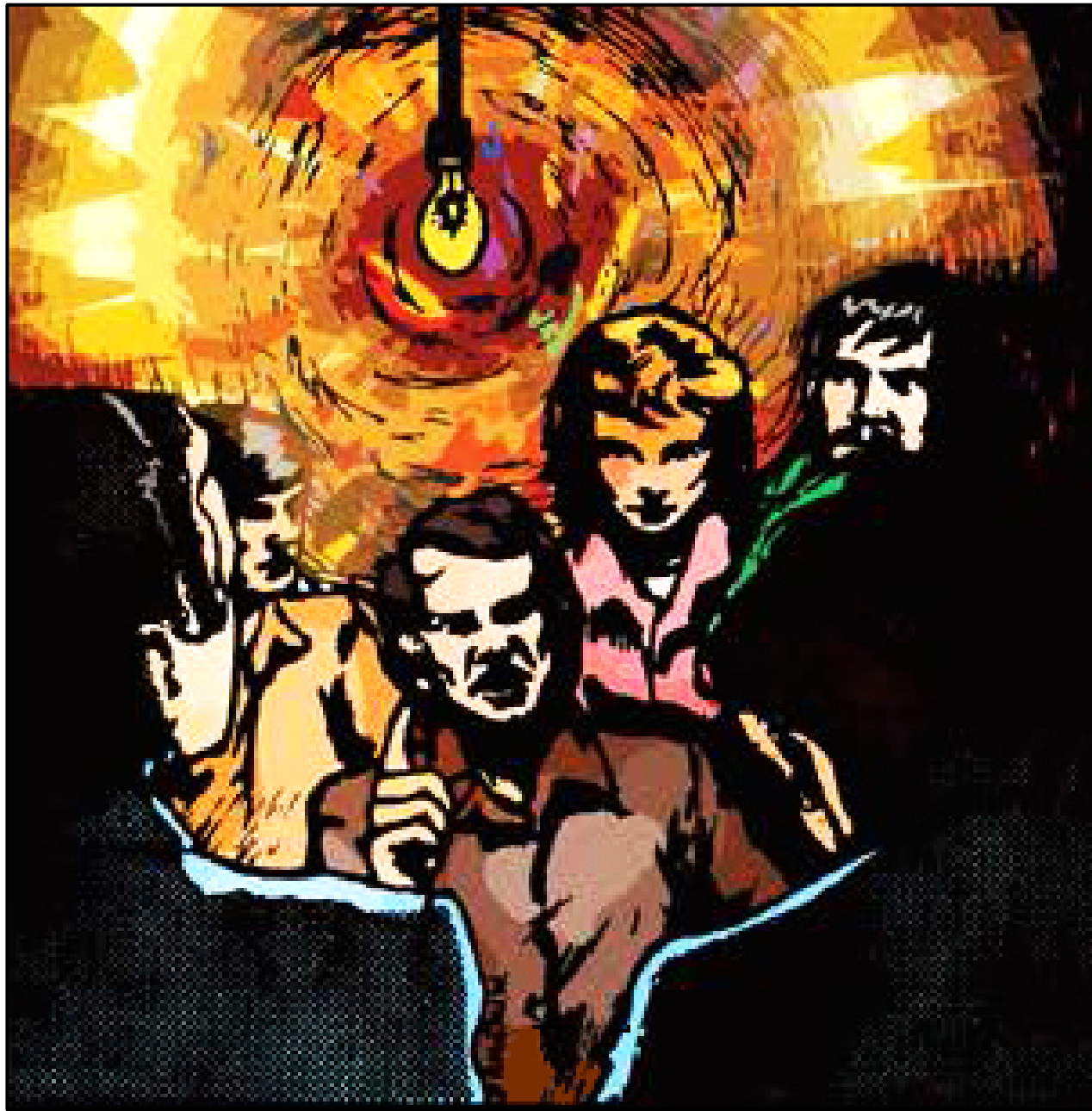
All of this is referring to the precise length of the Tribulation. So, we know that that tribulation period will last three-and-a-half years, 42 months, or to be exactly accurate, 1260 days. It begins with the *"Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet,"* the Image of the Beast set up in the Holy Land, in Jerusalem in the holiest place of the World's three greatest religions, Mount Moriah, where there's already a Temple of Islam, where there will probably be again a Temple of Israel. Jesus said so, Daniel said so! John in Revelation said so! These things we know, there's no theory, there's no doubt about them! They are concrete solid block beliefs that we can be sure of because the Bible says so, it's very clear, and not just once but many times.

God has given us the exact time, even the numbers of days, the precise way in which to measure from the moment that horrible Tribulation begins! **When** that happens, we should be able to know the day, or pretty close to it, that Jesus Christ returns to rapture His Saints!

You might say, "*Oh, Jesus Himself said no man knows of that day nor the hour, not even the Angels know!*" You would be right-- they didn't know then and we still don't know at this time! But **when** the "*Abomination of Desolation*" is set up in the "*Holy Place*" **then**, if we are right on the three-and-a-half year's period, **then** they will surely know and so will we! Think of that!

The book of Revelation tells us that prior to Jesus' return, the Antichrist will be doing his damndest to wipe out all who refuse to worship him and refuse to take his Mark. At the same time, it makes clear that God will in turn be unleashing terrible plagues and judgments upon the Antichrist and his forces. So, although it will be a time of great trouble for believers, it will also be a time of even greater trouble for their persecutors. Since the Bible spells out in so many verses how long this period of "*great tribulation*" will last, then on the day that the coming world leader sets up his image and demands the world's worship, we should know exactly how long it will be till Jesus returns.





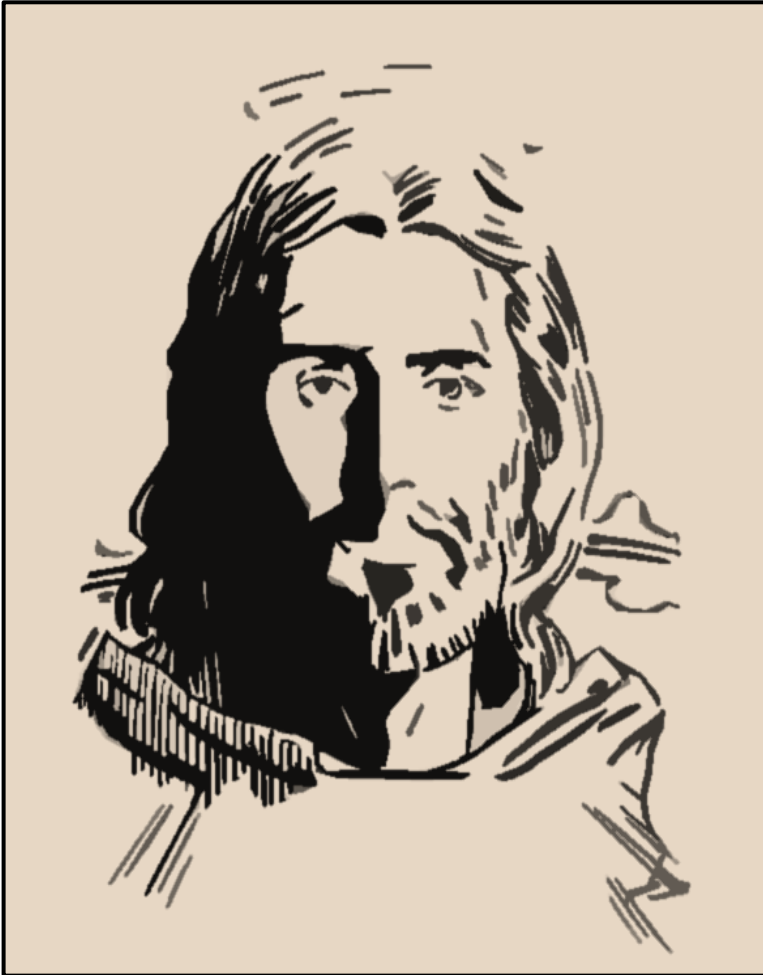
Why do you suppose the Lord revealed the length of the Tribulation so specifically and so exactly in His Word? --Because it's going to be such a terrible time that we're going to be counting the days! That's one thing that will help keep us going, to know that it is not going to last much longer! The fact that we're able to count the days is going to encourage us tremendously! *"Just one more day, one more day, one more day!"*

If you were lost on a desert island and didn't know whether or **when** you were ever going to get rescued, it would be pretty hard to endure. But if you knew exactly what day, or at least mighty close to it, that you were going to be rescued, you'd fight to live and survive until that day! Well, those last days of the Antichrist's reign during the Great Tribulation are going to be so rough, the Lord wanted us to know the exact times so that we wouldn't give up and for our own encouragement! So

we would know exactly how much longer we would have to suffer. He says, *"...for your redemption draws nigh!" (Lk.21:28.)* What a wonderful encouragement!

MAT.24:29 immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken...

In part 3 of this series on Matthew chapter 24, we will explain what occur after this time of tribulation, all about the rapture and the Second coming of our Lord.



Be ready for these events. You can receive Jesus at this very moment. It is a free gift of God. (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)

Please pray this simple prayer:

"Dear Jesus, I want to know You personally. Please forgive all my sins. I accept that You are the Son of God and that You died for me. I invite You into my heart and life. Thank you for your gift of eternal life and please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Help me to read and understand Your Word. Amen"

Designed, produced and edited by Gaetan from multiple sources.

You're always welcome to write for any additional info at: writegaetan@yahoo.com