

“SIGNS OF THE TIME - DETERIORATION OR RESTORATION? Part V” (Matt. 13)

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INTRO: Are bad things happening a sign of the times – a sign of Christ’s soon return (Isa. 9:7; Eph. 5:27; Acts 3:20-21)?

QUESTIONS:

1. Where does the N.T. say the trib. is 7 years? Nowhere!
2. What does the Bible say about tribulation? People are likely to face times of tribulation regardless of when, where and how one lives (Jn. 16:33; Acts 14:22; etc.).
3. Does the Bible talk about a future tribulation? See Matt. 24:9, 21, 29; Mk. 13:19, 24; Rev. 1:9; 7:13-17.

MARK 13 – The Olivet Discourse (also Matt. 24; Luke 21)

1. **The Context:** Jesus’ prophesy of the Jerusalem temple’s destruction [not His second coming] (vv. 1-2).
2. **The Two-Part Question** (vv. 3-4):
 - A. When will the temple be destroyed?
 - B. What will be the sign that it is about to be destroyed?
3. **The Signs** preceding the temple’s destruction [not the signs preceding Jesus’ second coming] (vv. 5-13).
 - A. Jesus warned of deception (v. 5).
 - B. If most had it wrong for Jesus’ 1st coming, might many also have it wrong for His 2nd coming?
 - C. Jesus was addressing His disciples: **“when you ...”**
 - D. All these signs occurred in the New Testament!
4. **Leave Judea** [this isn’t the rapture] (vv. 14-18; Lk. 21:20).
5. **The temple destruction tribulation** (vv. 19, 24; Matt. 24:9, 21; see Matt. 23:38).
“Desolate” [Greek] – deserted, wilderness, solitary, lonesome, waste.
6. **All** of these things would happen before that generation passed away (Mark 13:29-30; Matt. 24:34; Lk. 21:32).
7. John was already in **“the”** tribulation (Rev. 1:9; 7:14-15)!
8. The book of Revelation’s timeframe – to show the things which must **shortly** take place (Rev. 1:1, 3-4; 22:6-7).

CONCLUSION: Expect kingdom progress with tribulations, but not a future 7-year tribulation.