

EZEKIEL 38-39

Message 4

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Reading: Matthew 24:15-25

INTRO: Our subject is the war of Ezekiel. This involves chapters 38-39. In Ezekiel 36-37 we have the regathering of Israel. We have seen and are seeing this prophecy being fulfilled. In 38-39 we have the war of chapters 38-39 which happens in the last days. In chapters 40-46 we have the millennial kingdom. So we see the chronological progression of these chapters.

We have covered some introductory matters and then briefly went through both chapters to get a view of them. My major objective is to show why I believe the battle of Ezekiel happens at the time of the battle of Armageddon. So we looked at the difficulties suggested if one takes that view. Later we want to seek to answer those difficulties.

We are presently looking at my personal view of the tribulation. We took an overview and looked at the prophecy of Daniel 2 where he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream and we saw the four world powers that have existed and how the revived Roman Empire will once again become a world power. And then we saw how the Lord Jesus Christ will hit that image of the world empires on the feet and bring mankind's government to an end.

We are presently going through a more detailed look at the tribulation, although it is not at all as detailed as the information in the Bible is. But from this I want to show where the battle of Ezekiel takes place in my view.

Now let me prepare you for something before we get to it in later messages. We might have a picture in our minds about the battle of Armageddon that will likely have to remove. We might have a view somewhat like I had. The tribulation is going along and coming to the end. Then all nations gather against Israel. Christ comes down and destroys them all and the battle of Armageddon is over. All of this happens in a day.

I think J. Dwight Pentecost is right when he says that Armageddon is not a battle but a campaign. Here is what he says, "It has been held commonly that the battle of Armageddon is an isolated event transpiring just prior to the second advent of Christ to earth. The extent of this great movement in which God deals with the 'kings of the earth and the whole world' (Rev.

16:14) will not be seen unless it is realized that the 'battle of that great day of God Almighty' (Rev. 16:14) is not an isolated battle, but rather a campaign that extends over the last half of the tribulation period. The Greek word *polemos*, translated 'battle' in Revelation 16:14, signifies a war or campaign, while *mache* signifies a battle, and sometimes even a single combat. This distinction is observed by Trench, and is followed by Thayer and Vincent (Pent. 340).

He thinks this campaign is ongoing over the last half of the tribulation. I think the campaign is shorter than that but it will take far more than a day. So here is the picture: Christ comes and then many things happen before the tribulation is over.

In the last message we were going through the tribulation. We started with the rapture. Then the antichrist is revealed and then the tribulation begins. It begins as a time of peace and shortly develops into a time of war. I suggested that Psalm 83 may happen in the beginning of the tribulation which is shown by the red horse of Revelation 6. We are presently looking at the Psalm 83 war, which I suggest may begin early in the tribulation. You may wish to draw this time-line out on the back of your bulletin outlines.

II. THE CONTEXT OF EZEKIEL 38-39

B. The Details

4. Psalm 83 Cont'd

We left off in the middle of the point on Psalm 83 in the previous message. Turn to this Psalm. We had read through the Psalm and now will begin in verse 1 and look at it a little more closely. **(Show points 1-4 of The Details of the Tribulation PP)**

We'll go back and look at Psalm 83 a little more closely. We begin in verse 1:

1 Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God!

2 For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head.

3 They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones.

Asaph calls the enemies of Israel the enemies of God and he says they have lifted up their head against God. That is how it is today. Verse 3 is a most interesting verse. Israel is here called the Lord's "sheltered ones." The big question here is, what is meant by these sheltered ones? Chuck Missler has said that the meaning of who these hidden ones are is very hard to determine. He thinks they might be those who have been raptured. That does not make any sense to me.

(Missler:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCGyaOuKSHO>)

Bill Salus says, "In Psalm 83:3, the Hebrew word for "hidden" in "hidden ones" is tsaphan... The first usage of tsaphan is in Exodus 2:2-3, alluding to the baby Moses being hidden by his mother from Pharaoh's edict of death in Egypt" (7642, Salus, Bill. PSALM 83, The Missing Prophecy Revealed."

Here is my suggestion: If this is a prophecy for the future, I see the best place for it to happen right here at the red horse in Revelation 6. If that is correct then Israel is sheltered by the peace agreement of the antichrist. Here is how this could play out. The antichrist has made strong peace agreement in Israel. The world is rejoicing that at long last they have peace. But these Arab nations mentioned in this Psalm either are or soon become very angry about this protection for Israel. That the white horse of Revelation 6 is followed by a red horse indicating war makes sense if they attack Israel at the beginning of the tribulation. Since the antichrist has made this agreement he keeps it and he defeats these nations.

Here is how this progresses in verse 4:

4 They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more."

5 For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You:

As soon as the antichrist signs the peace agreement, the Arab nations listed here have consulted together and they are unanimously agreed, and so they form a confederacy against Israel. The antichrist has signed a peace agreement with Israel, and he immediately goes to war against these nations and defeats them causing much bloodshed. I am recommending that this is what the red horse may picture.

If this should be what happens, when these nations are defeated they become part of Israel. All of a sudden Israel's size has expanded and it has now become a much greater powerhouse in the world.

Psalm 83 then names these nations beginning in verse 6-8:

6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;

7 Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;

8 Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot. Selah

Here is a suggested map of the ancient countries:

(PP map of Psalm 83 war.)

Now the nations mentioned are no longer precisely identifiable from their ancient names. Bill Salus, author of *Israelistine* and *Psalm 83: The Missing Prophecy Revealed*, gives their possible modern-day names as the following:

- **Tents of Edom:** Palestinians and Southern Jordanians
- **Ishmaelites:** Saudis (Ishmael is the father of the Arabs)
- **Moab:** Palestinians and Central Jordanians

- **Hagrites:** Egyptians (Hagar is the matriarch of Egypt)
- **Gebal (Byblos):** Hezbollah and Northern Lebanese
- **Ammon:** Palestinians and Northern Jordanians
- **Amalek:** Arabs of the Sinai area
- **Philistia:** Hamas of the Gaza Strip
- **Tyre:** Hezbollah and Southern Lebanese
- **Assyria:** Syrians and Northern Iraqi's

So I suggest that the reference to Israel as the sheltered ones in verse 3 could well speak of Israel, protected, or sheltered by the antichrist in the time of the tribulation. Of course, if it is viewed that this battle takes place before the tribulation, then "the sheltered ones" could not refer to the peace treaty.

Let me just insert here that from Isaiah 17:1 we learn that someday Damascus will be destroyed. It is one of the oldest cities in the world. Isaiah 17:1 says:

1 The burden against Damascus. "Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, And it will be a ruinous heap.

Many believe that this will happen before the tribulation as well. It would seem to me that this will happen during the Psalm 83 war since Damascus is in one of the countries included in that war.

Now, what is most interesting is that the countries mentioned in Psalm 83 surround Israel while the countries of the Ezekiel war are mostly quite far distant from Israel such as Russia, Turkey, Sudan and others.

(PP map of Ezekiel's war.)

If the Psalm 83 war happens during the time of the red horse, then Israel has become a super power by overtaking all this area.

We go on in Psalm 83:9 and following now. The Psalmist now prays:

9 Deal with them as with Midian, As with Sisera,
As with Jabin at the Brook Kishon,

10 Who perished at En Dor, Who became as refuse on
the earth.

11 Make their nobles like Oreb and like Zeeb, Yes,
all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,

12 Who said, "Let us take for ourselves The
pastures of God for a possession."

13 O my God, make them like the whirling dust,
Like the chaff before the wind!

14 As the fire burns the woods, And as the flame
sets the mountains on fire,

15 So pursue them with Your tempest, And frighten
them with Your storm.

16 Fill their faces with shame, That they may seek
Your name, O LORD.

17 Let them be confounded and dismayed forever;
Yes, let them be put to shame and perish,

18 That they may know that You, whose name alone
is the LORD, Are the Most High over all the earth.

If in fact the Psalm 83 war is prophetic of the future, I propose that this prayer will receive its final answer when this war takes place and I suggest this as a likely place for it to happen.

5. The evangelistic campaign #5

We are still at the beginning of the tribulation. One of the most outstanding things of all happens at the beginning of the tribulation. God sends two witnesses. We do not know who they are. There is speculation that they may be Moses and Elijah, or one of them might be Enoch. We do not know. But we can imagine, or maybe we can't, if Moses showed up and the Jews recognized him what would happen among the Jews! I suggest that temple worship will start

in Israel as soon as they can get it up and running. The materials are ready today. Judaism and temple worship, I expect, will attract millions.

But then with these two witnesses, influential Jews begin to recognize their error about Jesus Christ and they convert. I expect that when they convert they no longer worship at the temple and become solid followers of Jesus Christ. What will that do to traditional Judaism?

Go to Revelation 12. The two witnesses perform miracles, turn water into blood, and cause great fear to come on the people. Revelation 12:3-6 says:

3 "And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.

5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

It is hard to imagine what happens to traditional Judaism in light of this prophecy! A big part of Jews are going to convert and acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Messiah. What do you think will happen in Israel? But there is another prophecy that adds to what we have seen. For this we go to Revelation 7. In this chapter we have the account of what happens because of the two witnesses. Whoever these witnesses are, they have a tremendous influence on Jewish people. They might be Moses, or Elijah, or Enoch; we don't know. But they no doubt are the reason why we have hundreds of thousands of Jews who get saved.

In 7:1-8 we have 12,000 elite saved Jewish men from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. I will show later that they are evangelists.

We begin in verse 1:

1 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;

6 of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;

7 of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed;

8 of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.

Now you might ask, why do you say they are elite Jews? Go to Revelation 14. We begin in verse 1:

1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Without going through the different views let me just say I believe these 144,000 are the same as those of chapter 7. But in Revelation 14 they are on the Mount Zion in heaven. I believe they are all martyred for their faith and we'll see more of what happens in the middle of the tribulation later.

We go back to chapter 7 and we begin in verse 9:

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

16 "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;

17 "for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Who is this vast crowd of people too great to number? They are all those saved through these two witnesses and the 144,000. Here is what I propose will happen. The result of the two witnesses is so great and so effective that traditional Judaism and the antichrist become livid with anger by what is happening. Jews are leaving traditional Judaism and becoming Christians. They are leaving temple worship because they now recognize that this is not true worship.

I further propose that by the middle of the tribulation so concerned has traditional Judaism become, and the antichrist as well, who is against everything Christian, that they agree together to kill the two witness and to do away with all believing Jews. And this agreement, I recommend, may be what allows the antichrist to set himself up as God in the temple and this causes sacrifice and

offerings cease. This may sound preposterous. So we go to the middle of the tribulation.

Now let me just add that many believe there will be a lot of persecution in the first half of the tribulation. I do not find that. Please send me any information that would indicate that if you have any. I will show you what I do find.

6. Antichrist breaks his covenant? **#6**

a. The proposition

I make now a second almost unbelievable proposition. Let me first say that there is a very common view, as a matter of fact, I don't know that there is any opposition to this view. Turn to Daniel 9, you must see this. It is the view that in the middle of the tribulation the antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel. The time this is said to happen is right in the middle of the tribulation. For this we must go to Daniel 9:27. It says:

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

Here is the covenant the antichrist is able to make with Israel and the nations. It is made for one week or one seven, which we understand to be seven years. And it says that in the middle of the week, that is 3 ½ years into the tribulation, the antichrist causes sacrifice and offering to cease.

The seemingly universally agreed view among premillennialists is that the antichrist breaks his covenant with the Jews in the middle of the tribulation. That would mean the peace pact ends 3 ½ years early. Let me quote no lesser than John F. Walvoord. He says: "As Daniel 9:27 indicates, in the middle of the seven years he

will break the covenant, stop the sacrifices bring offered in the temple built in that period, and become the persecutor instead of the protector, fulfilling the promises of Israel's day of trouble (Jer. 30:5-7)."

I want to suggest something now that could get me branded as a heretic among premillennialists. It is, I think, universally taught among them that the antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel in the middle of the tribulation. I have searched every place I can think of searching and I cannot find that the antichrist ever breaks his covenant. I would be happy for any information I may have missed. I spoke with Pastor Daryl the other day. After I mentioned that I don't find that the antichrist breaks his peace pact he was interested and researched it and he said, "It's not there is it?"

I think the idea that the antichrist breaks his covenant comes from the words translated like this in the NKJV in Daniel 9:27:

...He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

The ESV says:

...he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering.

I believe the translation of the KJV and other literal translations that the antichrist "causes sacrifice and offering to cease" is correct because of the Hebrew verb.

I propose that the antichrist does not break his covenant. The only place I can find that might suggest he breaks his covenant is in Daniel 9:27. But it does not say that in so many words. It might still be true that he breaks his covenant, but this verse does not say so nor can I find any other verse that does. Usually when I check the internet on a subject I get hundreds and often many more

suggested sites. But I could find nothing of value to me on this question.

The antichrist causes sacrifice and offering to cease, but it says nothing about breaking his covenant. Though he is the cause of this, it may be the Jews themselves that bring it to an end. What caused me to question this is that I view the Ezekiel war as happening towards the end of the tribulation. One of the reasons many think it cannot happen towards the end of the tribulation is because the antichrist has broken his covenant and Israel is no longer at peace. Ezekiel says a number of times that Israel is dwelling securely when Gog comes against Israel. So the conclusion is that the war of Ezekiel can't happen after the middle of the tribulation because Israel is no longer secure. It is this question that caused me to study the subject more closely and I could not find that the antichrist breaks his covenant and I would be very happy for any insights on anything I might have missed.

Now note that it does not say what this covenant is that the antichrist makes. There are at least two things that must be in this agreement. It must assure Israel of peace and it must allow them to rebuild their temple and to do sacrifices and offerings there. 1 Thessalonians 5 says when they say peace and safety, then sudden destruction comes upon them. Ezekiel 38-39 talks about Israel dwelling in safety. Psalm 83 speaks of "my hidden ones."

Some point to the conjunction "but" in Daniel 9:27 when it says, "but in the middle of the week" as showing a clear contrast. That is, first he makes the covenant, BUT then he breaks it. The evidence that he breaks his covenant is shown by him bringing an end to sacrifice and offering. But the verse does not mention anything about the peace agreement being broken. Furthermore, the conjunction "but" can be translated as "and" just as accurately. The

KJV, Darby's version, and Young's Literal Version all translate it as "and." It would then read that he makes a strong covenant **and** in the middle of the week he causes sacrifice and offering to cease.

Like everything else the antichrist is and does, this covenant brings a false peace. God has promised Israel a covenant of peace. Listen to Isaiah 54:10:

*10 For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My **covenant of peace** be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.*

Then Ezekiel 34:25:

*25 "I will make a **covenant of peace** with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.*

Then Ezekiel 37:26:

*26 "Moreover I will make a **covenant of peace** with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore.*

God will make a covenant of peace with Israel and it will last.

b. Causes sacrifices and offerings to cease

Daniel 9:27 says that the antichrist causes sacrifices and offerings to cease. How does this happen? I want to suggest the possibility that Judaism is allowed to rebuild their temple and practice sacrifices and offerings again during the tribulation time. I believe that traditional Judaism loses momentum as true Christianity gains believers early in the tribulation. I see a great possibility that many Jews who were so enthused about rebuilding

the temple turn and become Christians through the two witnesses and through those who become the 144,000 early in the tribulation.

What I see happening is that believers become such a powerful force among the Jewish people that traditional Judaism and the antichrist both are incensed by them. They hate them. Remember John said in Revelation 7 there are so many they cannot be numbered. I suggest this possibility: The hatred of the antichrist and the traditional Jews against Christianity is so deep that he makes a deal with the traditional Jews that he will eliminate both the two witnesses and all Christians if they let him set himself up as god in the temple. When they agree to this, that is what causes the sacrifices and offerings to come to an end.

Now I ask, what greater abomination could possibly take place than the Jewish people themselves allowing the antichrist to set himself up in their temple as God? I ask, are the Jewish people beyond this? Study the prophets, and especially Jeremiah, and you will see what is possible among the Jews. Study Antiochus Epiphanes and what some Jews agreed to with this man. This happened during the 400 silent years and he is a picture of the antichrist.

So let me give some evidence that the Jews accept the antichrist as God. We go first to Revelation 12:

1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

We note that it says this is a sign. The woman speaks of Israel and the Child is Christ.

3 *And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.*

4 *His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.*

5 *She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.*

The fiery red dragon speaks of the devil. We find this later in verse 9. The time of verses 1-5 is when Christ came the first time. Take out the Church age and from the time Christ was crucified, which was the end of the 69th week, until the 70th week is a very short time.

Verse 6 then goes to the middle of the 70th week:

6 *Then the woman 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.*

It has been the view of many that when Jewish believers flee Jerusalem as instructed by Jesus in Matthew 24 that they go to Petra. This is in modern Jordan. My wife listened to a message that proposed that Psalm 83 takes place before the tribulation. And she said if Israel took this whole area mentioned in Psalm 83 the Jews would have access to Petra where many suggest they will flee. Our passage said that this place is prepared by God for these fleeing Jewish believers. It could be that this is area where the Jews will be kept safe by God. If Psalm 83 happens in the beginning of the tribulation, this still holds true and this is well possible.

(PP: Map of Psalm 83 war. Point out Petra. Pictures of Petra?)

Verse 7:

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Here we are at the midway point of the tribulation again and here Satan's access to heaven is forever removed. He is cast down to the earth along with any demons that are there. Now we note here that the devil deceives the whole world. Who is that? That is the world of the lost. That includes all unsaved Jews as well as the unsaved Gentiles. So if the traditional Jews are deceived by this smooth talking antichrist who has great swelling words, is it possible that these Jews might allow him to set himself up as God? I think it is. Read the OT. Read what the Jews did in Jeremiah's day. They worshipped about every kind of false God there was. They even burned their children to Moloch, in Jerusalem. Is it possible for them to accept the antichrist as God? I believe it is.

Go to 2 Thessalonians. In this chapter we are told about the antichrist and what he does. We begin in verse 7:

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

9 *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,*

10 *and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

11 *And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,*

12 *that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Notice his working is according to the working of Satan with what? It is with all power, signs, and lying wonders and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish that is the lost. That includes the Jews. Then notice that because they did not receive the love of the truth God sends them strong delusion and they believe THE lie. And what is THE lie? I think it may be the antichrist's claim that he is God!

So look at what verse 4 says about him:

4 *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.*

He sits in the temple of God showing, demonstrating, proving that he is God. We might see it as quite a stretch to think that the Jews might allow the antichrist to set himself up in their temple as god. That just does not seem possible. But read the prophets of the OT. Read Jeremiah and see what unbelieving Jews are capable of.

So the unsaved Jews buy into the lie of the devil as well as all the Gentiles. They are deceived. By the way, it is right here that the

number 666 is put in force. I believe the antichrist can set himself up in the temple because these Jews have no trouble giving up the temple in exchange for the promise to get rid of the two witnesses and the promise to rid the world of those despicable Christians.

CONCL: Once again we stop in the middle of a point. I don't like to leave it here because the proposition I have made is very big and the evidence I have given may not seem to be enough. So ponder this question this week: Is it possible that the Jews could be so deceived by the antichrist that they would accept him as God? In the next message I will give more evidence for this possibility.

My effort is to show you the context in which the war of Ezekiel takes place. So we are going through the tribulation very briefly to show what happens before this war takes place. So I have demonstrated the view that the rapture is the next event on God's prophetic calendar. Then the antichrist will be revealed and then the tribulation will begin. I have suggested that if Psalm 83 is prophetic of what is still future that it is pictured by the red horse of Revelation 6. If that is not what that horse pictures then I do not know of any particular battles mentioned that it might picture.

Then we have looked at the evangelistic campaign that begins at the beginning of the tribulation. From all I find, there does not seem to be much if any persecution of Christianity in Israel until the middle of the tribulation. We will see that later. But once the antichrist sets himself up as God in the temple, then, as the saying goes, all hell breaks loose. There will be indescribable persecution and the majority of Christians will die. The two witnesses will be killed. The 144,000 all die as I see it and multiplied millions of other Christians. They make up a vast group so large, it says they can't be numbered.