

The Time of Tribulation

MATTHEW 24:15-22

This is God's universal purpose for all Christian suffering: more contentment in God and less satisfaction in the world.

-John Piper

I. Reading from Daniel

II. Responding to Danger

Into the Bible:

1. In Daniel chapters 7 and following there are a long series of prophecies given to him related to the rise and fall of empires and the conflict between nations. But these just set the table for the final catastrophe at the end of all things—the Abomination of Desolation. What do Psalm 2:1-6, Psalm 46:7-9, John 18:36, and Daniel 7:14 tell us about the relationship between the kingdoms of this world and God’s eternal kingdom?

2. Since God’s sovereignty over earthly affairs is never in question (II Chronicles 20:6, Daniel 4:35), the hardships foretold by Christ in Matthew 24 are not accidental. Why do they come to pass? (Psalm 37:12-15, II Peter 2:9)

Application:

3. Although we all desire to live in peace and security, the lives and deaths of the Church's martyrs down through history and up to the present day prove that even God's own are not immune to persecution and hardship. What comfort can we find even in the most dangerous and stressful days we might face? (Psalm 46:2, Isaiah 54:10, II Corinthians 4:8-9, Romans 8:1)

For Families:

4. Talk with your children about how Christians can face really hard things in life.