# Welcome To Open Bible Hour

#### Thank you for joining us on this Lord's Day!

Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-depth study of the gospel of Matthew.

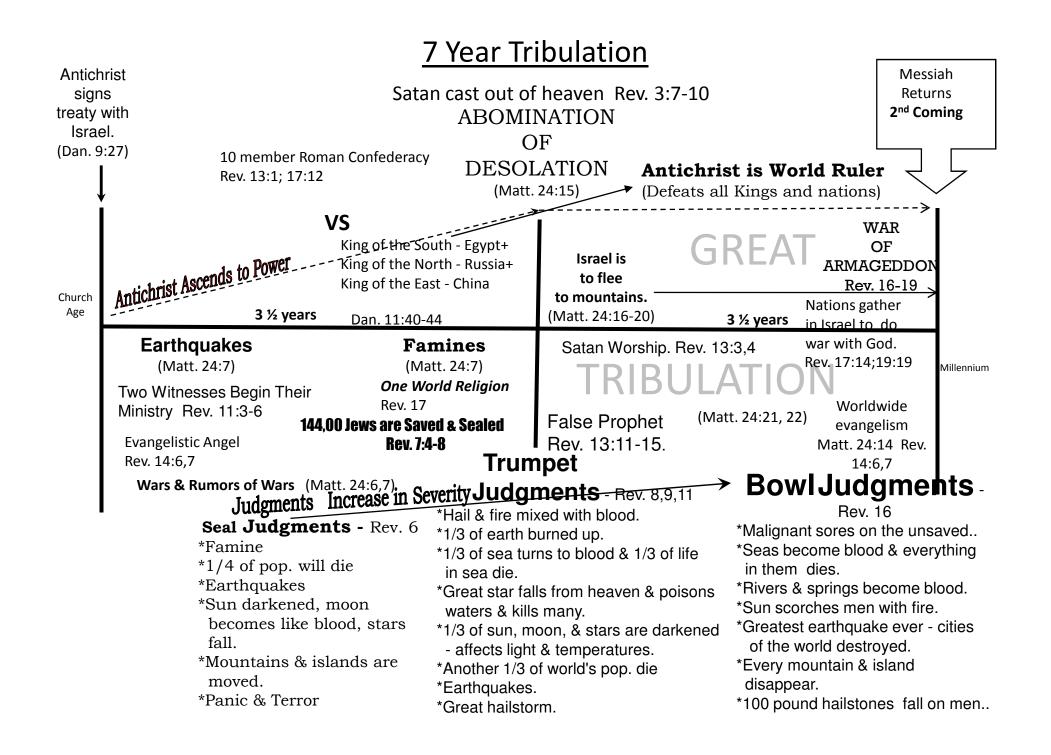
Please move to the center of the rows so that those who come after you can find seating at the end of the rows.

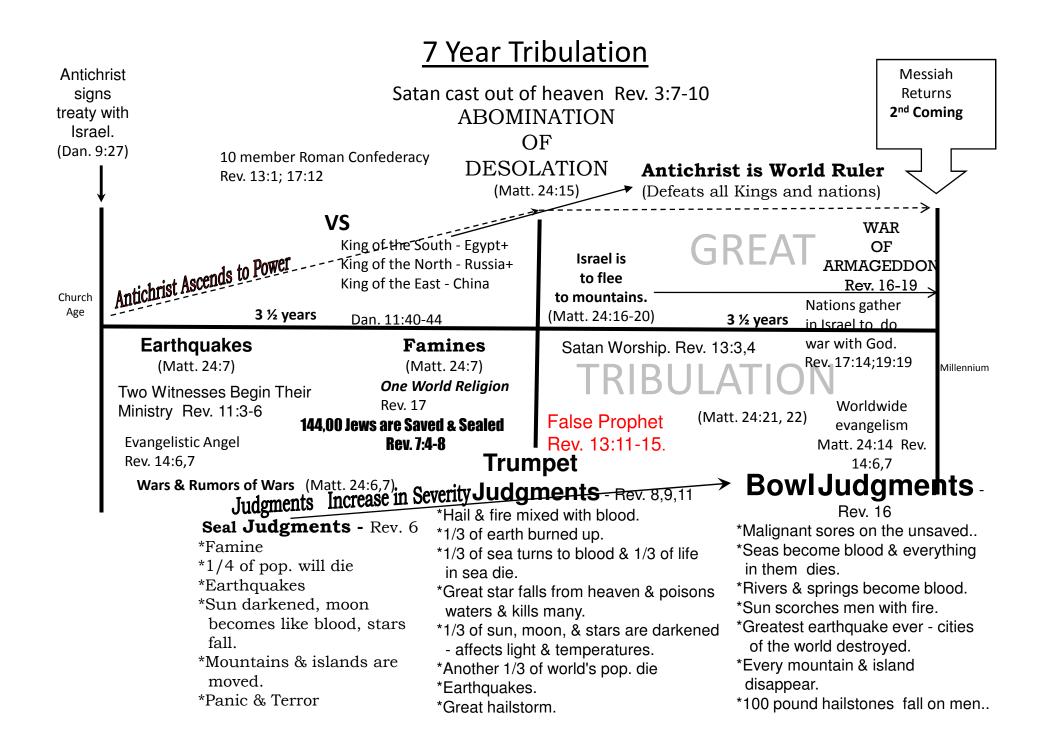
If you have a prayer request, for which you would like us to pray, please fill out a prayer sheet at the back table and give to Lyle.

 "The transformation of the bloodstained wooden cross of Calvary to the diamond-studded gold cross of a cathedral may well signify man's attempt to remove the offense of the cross." - Carl F.H. Henry

#### FALSE PROPHETS, FALSE SIGNS, FALSE WONDERS

Text: Matt. 24:23-24



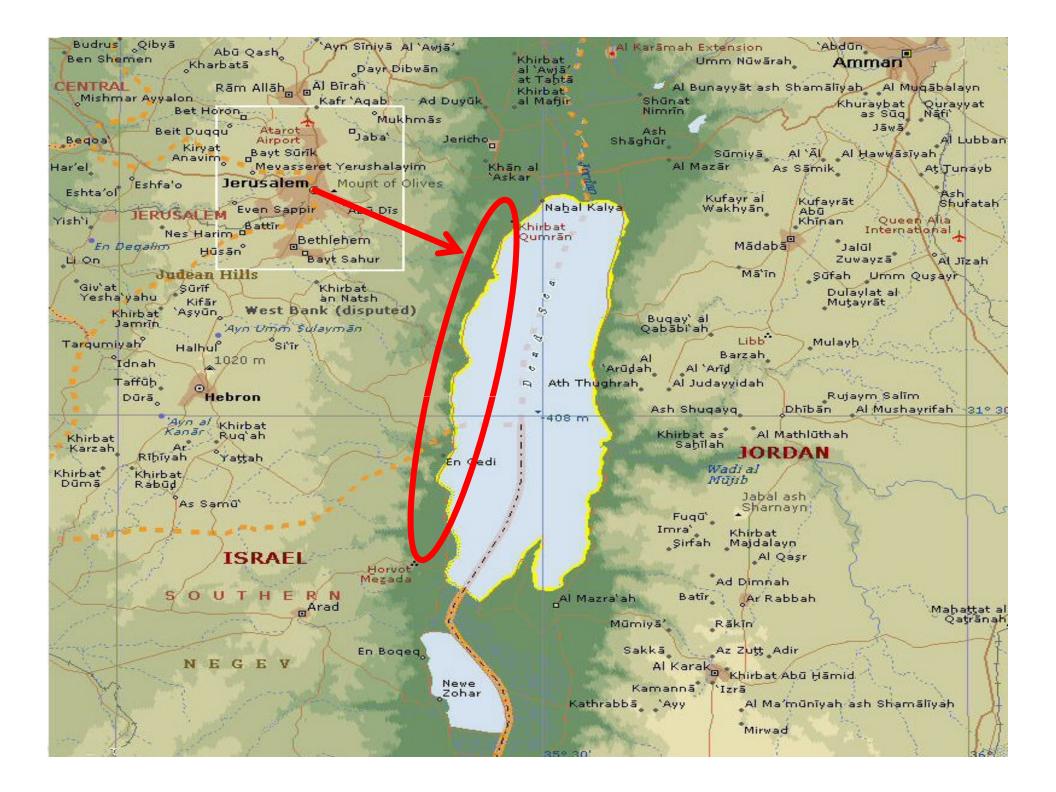


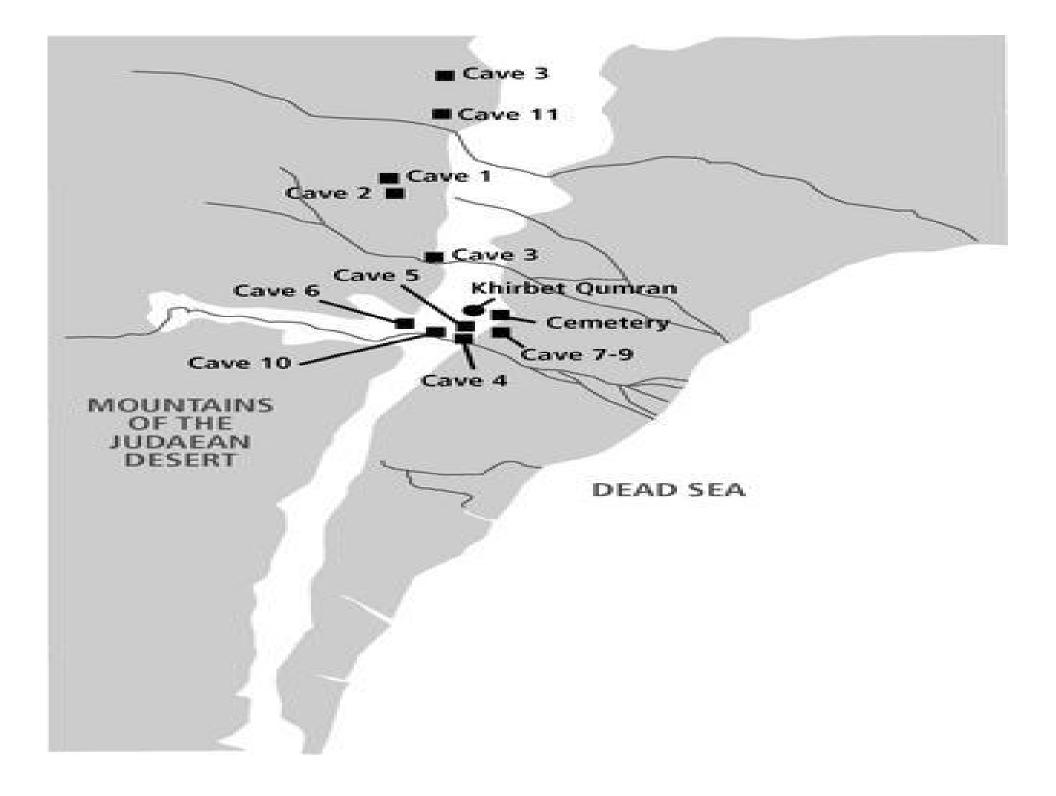
# Matt 24:23-24

- 23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him.
- 24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

### Matt 24:23-24

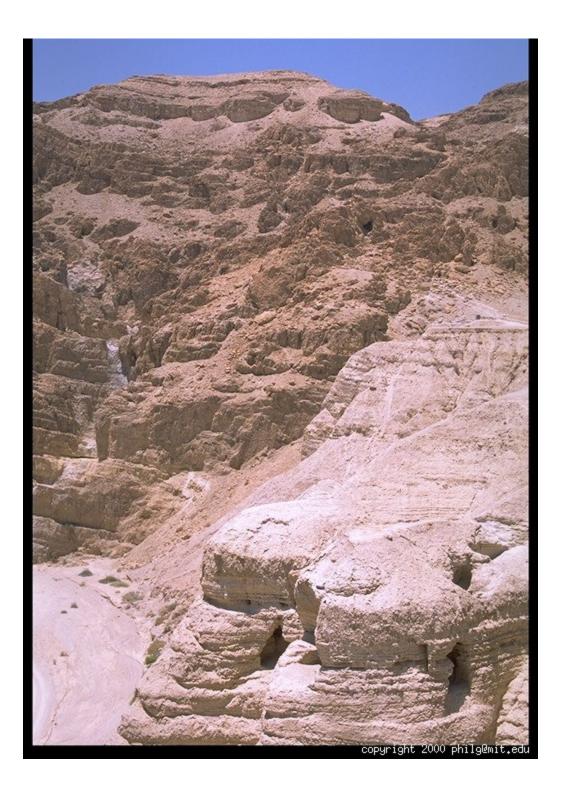
- 23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him.
- 24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.















# Matt 24:23-24

- 23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him.
- 24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

### Deut 13:1-5

- 1 "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder,
- 2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,'
- 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
- 4 "You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.
- 5 "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you.

### 7 Principles for Discerning Signs & Wonders

Deut. 13:1-5

**Sign** – that which points to a greater reality.

*Wonder* – a miraculous act that becomes a sign.

#### 1. Signs and wonders are not wrong in and of themselves. Acts 2:22

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know —

#### 2 Cor 12:12

12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

#### Heb 2:3-4

- 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,
- 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

So how does one tell if it is false?

# 2. Not by whether it comes true or not. Deut 13:2

and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you,

\*There are 2 sources of spiritual experiences in the world – God and Satan.

\*Because something is supernatural, does not mean it comes from God.

#### Num 20:8-12

- 8 "Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron assemble the congregation and speak to the rock before their eyes, that it may yield its water. You shall thus bring forth water for them out of the rock and let the congregation and their beasts drink."
- 9 So Moses took the rod from before the Lord, just as He had commanded him;
- 10 and Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them, "Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?"
- 11 Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank.
- 12 But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

# 1 Cor 12:1-3

- 12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.
- 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led.
- 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

# 3. Rather it is always by the message that accompanies the sign or wonder:

- It entices us to do something unbiblical.
- It may seem good, even righteous.
- It may be an idolatrous form of God.
- It calls for your attention.

#### 2 Cor 11:13-15

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

# 4. How you respond to that which is false is a test of your loyalty to God. Deut 13:3

- 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
- 5. Your ability to discern signs and wonders rests on 1 criteria alone – *Your knowledge of the Word of God*.

### **Deut 13:4**

4 "You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.

# 6. Leading believers astray with false signs and wonders was so serious in the O.T. that death was the punishment.

#### Deut 13:5

"But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk.

# 7. The ones carrying out the execution were believers themselves.

#### **Deut 13:5**

5 . . . So you shall purge the evil from among you.

# 2 Thess 2:8-12

- 8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;
- 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,
- 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.
- 11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,
- 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

# **Rev 13:11-15**

- 11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.
- 12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.
- 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.
- 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.
- 15 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

# What are the great signs and wonders performed by the false prophet?

1. The miraculous healing of a fatal head wound to the Antichrist.

### **Rev 13:3**

3 I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast;

#### **Rev 17:8**

8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

# **Rev 13:11-15**

- 11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.
- 12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.
- 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.
- 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.
- 15 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

# What are the great signs and wonders performed by the false prophet?

1. The miraculous healing of a fatal head wound to the Antichrist.

#### **Rev 13:3**

3 I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast;

#### **Rev 17:8**

- 8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.
- 2. Calling down fire out of heaven to the earth.

# **Rev 13:11-15**

- 11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.
- 12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.
- 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.
- 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.
- 15 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

# What are the great signs and wonders performed by the false prophet?

1. The miraculous healing of a fatal head wound to the Antichrist.

#### **Rev 13:3**

3 I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast;

#### **Rev 17:8**

- 8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.
- 2. Calling down fire out of heaven to the earth.
- 3. Giving breath and voice to the image of the Beast.

# **Rev 13:11-15**

- 11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon.
- 12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.
- 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.
- 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.
- 15 And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

Matt 16:4

"An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah." And He left them and went away.

NASU

John 4:48-49

48 So Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe."

NASU

John 6:2-3

2 A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick.

NASU John 12:37

37 But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him.

NASU Acts 2:22

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know — NASU