Session Two:

Looking Ahead: The Tribulation Transition

Matthew 24:3 (NLT) Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, “Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?”

The Seven Stages of the Eternal Kingdom:

1. A Seven Year period of Great Tribulation-
2. A Resurrection and Rapture of Believers-
3. The Return of Jesus our Christ to Earth-
4. The One Thousand Year Reign of Christ-
5. The Last Rebellion-
6. The Renovation of Heaven and Earth-

A Revelation of Jesus- Revelation 1:1 (NLT) This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John,

The book today has primarily three differing views of interpretation by Christians.

- **The Preterist View** - They believe the events place themselves in the past and are an insight to the fall of Jerusalem and secondly the Roman Empire. The imagery is described to be a hidden code John wrote in order to conceal the message from Rome. They do not believe in a literal seven year tribulation or rapture.

- **Historical View** - They believe that it is the record from the first century church to the return of Christ. That Revelations is unfolding in every century and not a designated period of time of seven years or rapture into heaven church.

- **Futurist View** - They believe that from chapter four unto the end of the book deals with a future events of a seven year tribulation, and rapture of the church, culminating into a return of Christ who will rule for 1,000 years after which the kingdom of God and God Himself will come to earth.

Partial Preterist- The Fall of Jerusalem- Matthew 24:2 (NLT) But he responded, “Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!”
The Things to Come- Revelation 4:1 (NLT) Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this.”

Tribulation Triggers: Mark 13:32–33 (KJV) But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. 33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Israel as a Nation- Isaiah 11:11 (NLT) In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to bring back the remnant of his people—those who remain in Assyria and northern Egypt; in southern Egypt, Ethiopia, and Elam; in Babylonia, Hamath, and all the distant coastlands.

Great Falling Away- 2 Thessalonians 2:3 (KJV) Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

How Long is the Tribulation? Daniel 9:24–25 (NLT) “A period of seventy sets of seven has been decreed for your people and your holy city to finish their rebellion, to put an end to their sin, to atone for their guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to confirm the prophetic vision, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. 25 Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.

3.5 Years of Hell on Earth- Revelation 11:2–3 (NLT) But do not measure the outer courtyard, for it has been turned over to the nations. They will trample the holy city for 42 months. 2 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will be clothed in burlap and will prophesy during those 1,260 days.”

Revelation 13:5 (NLT) Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do whatever he wanted for forty-two months.

The Great Tribulation- Matthew 24:21 (KJV) For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

1. The Start- Matthew 24:6–8 (NLT) And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately. 7 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. 8 But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.

A. Seven Seals- Revelation 5:5 (NLT) But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, “Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David’s
throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

**B. Seven Trumpets- Revelation 8:6 (NLT)** Then the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to blow their mighty blasts.

**2. The Battle in Heaven- Revelation 12:7 (NLT)** Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels.

**Revelation 12:10–12 (NLT)** Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, “It has come at last—salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die. 12 Therefore, rejoice, O heavens! And you who live in the heavens, rejoice! But terror will come on the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time.”

**A. The Dragon- Revelation 12:9 (NLT)** This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

**B. The Beast- Revelation 13:1–2 (NLT)** Then I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God. 2 This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! And the dragon gave the beast his own power and throne and great authority.

**Raised from the Dead- Revelation 13:3–4 (NLT)** I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast. 4 They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. “Who is as great as the beast?” they exclaimed. “Who is able to fight against him?”

**He makes war with the Saints- Revelation 13:5–8 (NLT)** Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do whatever he wanted for forty-two months. 6 And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering his name and his dwelling—that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 And the beast was allowed to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And he was given authority to rule
over every tribe and people and language and nation. And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered before the world was made.

C. The False Prophet- Revelation 13:11–13 (NLT) Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, but he spoke with the voice of a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And he required all the earth and its people to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching.

The Mark of the Beast- Revelation 13:16–18 (NLT) He required everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name. Wisdom is needed here. Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.

Revelation 14:9–10 (NLT) Then a third angel followed them, shouting, “Anyone who worships the beast and his statue or who accepts his mark on the forehead or on the hand must drink the wine of God’s anger. It has been poured full strength into God’s cup of wrath. And they will be tormented with fire and burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb.

3. Evangelism Explosion- Revelation 14:12 (NLT) This means that God’s holy people must endure persecution patiently, obeying his commands and maintaining their faith in Jesus.

The Gospel Released- Revelation 14:6–7 (NLT) And I saw another angel flying through the sky, carrying the eternal Good News to proclaim to the people who belong to this world—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. “Fear God,” he shouted. “Give glory to him. For the time has come when he will sit as judge. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all the springs of water.”

Revelation 14:14 (NLT) Then I saw a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was someone like the Son of Man. He had a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

Close:
Luke 23:31 (NLT) For if these things are done when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Luke 21:36 (NLT) Keep alert all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.”