**The First Baptist Church of Columbus**

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***Sermon Notes Outline for video posted November 29, 2020***

**T I T L E: THE TRIBULATION**

**T E X T: Jeremiah 30:5-7; Joel 2:1-2; Matthew 24:21; Revelation 3:10-11**

1. **THE NATURE OF THE TRIBULATION**

 **A. Unprecedented in terms of suffering, hardship, turmoil, even**

 **death.**

 *Note the descriptive phrases in these verses.*

Dr. Harold Willmington — According to the Bible there is coming a calamity unlike any which this weary world has ever seen. And although this future period will be relatively short, it will nevertheless destroy more of this Earth’s population than all previous disasters combined. The estimated toll of human life lost ranges from 750 million to one billion. An additional 340 million would be seriously injured, and 33 percent of those are incapacitated because of radiation, chemical, or biological warfare.

Dr. Dwight Pentecost highlights the Tribulation in his commentary entitled Things to Come. He notes ten descriptive words that characterize the period. The words are wrath, judgment, indignation, trial, trouble, destruction, darkness, desolation, overturning, and punishment. Quote from Pentecost: “No passage can be found to alleviate to any degree whatsoever the severity of this time that shall come upon the earth.”

**B. Universal — Rev. 3:10.... one reason it is unprecedented is because it will affect the entire world.... much more significant than the current pandemic**.

1. **PRESENT-DAY INDICATORS THAT COULD EASILY SERVE AS PRECURSORS TO THE TRIBULATION I.E. FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY SPECIFIC ALLY THE TRIBULATION**

The presence of these contemporary indicators can be reasonably interpreted to mean that the beginning of the tribulation is relatively near which would also mean that the rapture of the church could be much closer than what we may realize.

1. **One World Government — One theologian said that it does not take long —less than 30 years— for a block of power to develop that could influence the world.**

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe. Its members have a combined area of 4,233,255.3 km (1,634,469.0 sq mi) and an estimated total population of about 447 million.

The EU has developed an internal single market through a standardized system of laws that apply in all member states in those matters, and only those matters, where members have agreed to act as one. EU policies aim to ensure the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital within the internal market; enact legislation in justice and home affairs; and maintain common policies on trade, agriculture, fisheries, and regional development. Passport controls have been abolished for travel within the Schengen Area. A monetary union was established in 1999, coming into full force in 2002, and is composed of 19 EU member states which use the euro currency. The EU has often been described as a sui generis political entity (without precedent or comparison).

1. **Global Economic Control — Within the nineteenth century, closely-knit networks of local economies were transformed into national economies.**

 Today economies are being transformed into global ones. Initially, America led the way toward a global economy modeled on American capitalism, but today the New Europe is leading the way to a system that is often viewed as capable of setting the economic standards for the world.

Such ideas as “Buy American” are becoming less of a reality all the time. Robert Reich again notes that “when an American buys a Pontiac from General Motors, he or she engages unwittingly in an international transaction. For example, of $20,000 paid to GM, approximately $5600 goes to South Korea for routine labor; $3500 goes to Japan for advance components; $1500 to West Germany for styling and design engineering; $800 to Taiwan, Singapore, and Japan for small electronic components; $500 to Britain for advertising and marketing services; and about $100 to Ireland and Barbados for data processing; the balance of $8000 goes to manufacturers in Detroit, bankers and lawyers in Washington and General Motors stockholders. And you thought you were buying American.

Whirlpool is even a more complex situation. It recently (1990's) cut its American workforce by 10 percent, shifted production to Mexico, bought Dutch owned Phillips Appliances which employs 43,500 people in forty-five countries. It is an American company because it has American headquarters, or because the majority of its stockholders are American? Or is it an international company that happens to be headquartered in America?

 **C. Wide-Spread Apostasy — especially during the tribulation.**

 **...an ultimate apostasy of rebellion...**

2 Thessalonians 2:2–4 ---- 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

1 Timothy 4:1–2 ---- 1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,

2 Timothy 3:2–4 ---- 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2 Corinthians 11:13 ---- 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

Galatians 1:7 ---- which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

2 Peter 2:1–2 ---- 1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;

1. **PURPOSE OF THE TRIBULATION**

 **A. Retribution on the unbelieving world in punishment for sin.**

Psalm 2:5–6 ---- 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, 6 “But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”

Ecclesiastes 8:11 ---- Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.

 **B. Prepare Israel for their messiah.**