**Title:** Trouble in River City (Matt. 24:15-31) – The Tribulation.

1. Trouble starts at the Temple. (Matthew 24:15-20)

***John 2:14-15*** – Jesus *created* trouble at the house of worship by tossing the tables of the money-changers.

***Daniel 9:27*** – The Antichrist will establish a treaty with Israel, promising protection to them.

Seal Judgments

***Rev. 6:1-2*** (Seal #1) – The Antichrist, or at least what he promises/represents, is pictured by the rider on the white horse.

***Rev. 6:3-4*** (Seal #2) – The rider on the red horse represents the war that breaks out as the Antichrist works to establish his control over the world.

***Rev. 6:5-6*** (Seal #3) – The rider on the black horse represents the famine that war inevitably brings.

***Rev. 6:7-8*** (Seal #4) – The rider on the pale, ashen, gangrenous colored horse represents the death that will occur because of war, famine, disease and wild animals.

***Rev. 6:9-11*** (Seal #5) – Many of those who die at the directive of the Antichrist will be martyred Christians.

***Rev. 6:12-14*** (Seal #6) – Cataclysmic events begin to happen in the heavens and on earth.

***Rev. 8:1*** (Seal #7) – Silence in Heaven for 30 minutes.

Abomination of Desolation

“**Abomination**” – anything greatly disliked or abhorred

“**Desolation**” – devastation, ruin, dreariness, barrenness

God considers the following to be abominations:

***Prov. 12:22*** – lying lips

***Prov. 20:23*** – taking advantage of others through dishonesty

***Lev. 18:22*** – homosexuality

***2 Kings 16:3*** – idolatry and practices associated with idolatry

***Daniel 9:27, 11:31 and 12:11*** – The three places in Daniel where the Abomination of Desolation is mentioned.

***2 Kings 10:27*** – The Jews purposefully defiled Baal’s temple by converting it into a latrine.

***Ezek. 8:6-18*** – The Jews defiled their temple.

***2 Thes. 2:3-4*** – Paul says the “man of lawlessness” will position himself in the Temple and proclaim himself to be God.

***Rev. 13:7*** – The Antichrist will declare war on Christians.

***Rev. 13:14-15*** – The Antichrist will set up a statue of himself in the Temple and require people to worship it.

***Matthew 24:16-20*** – Jesus warns the Jews who see the Abomination of Desolation to immediately run.

***Rev. 12:14*** – God will protect the Jews from the Antichrist’s wrath.

***Gen. 19:16*** – When warned of coming judgment, Lot hesitated.

***Luke 17:33*** – Attempting to maintain your life and its comforts will lead to destruction.

*“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”* – Jim Elliott.

***Matt. 5:29-30*** – Whatever Jesus tells you to leave behind, even if is something as precious as parts of your body, leave it behind.

***2 Tim. 2:22*** – Paul tells Timothy to flee the desires of youth.

1. Trouble spreads to the whole world. (Matthew 24:21-22)

***Rev. 7:13-14*** – John didn’t understand everything he was seeing.

***Dan. 8:15*** – Daniel didn’t understand everything he was seeing.

*Three remaining sets of judgments* – Trumpet Judgments, Thunder Judgments, Bowl/Vial Judgments.

*Physical effects of the Judgments*:

1. Reduced light
2. Reduced food supply
3. Reduced water supply
4. Increased pain
5. Increased death

*Spiritual effects of the Judgments:*

***Rev. 6:16*** – People call out to the rocks to fall on them and hide them from God’s wrath.

***Rev. 9:20-21; 16:9-11*** – People refuse to repent and continue in their evil practices even though they know the source of their troubles is God.

***Rom. 1:25*** – People worship the Creation instead of the Creator.

***Luke 23:30*** – Jesus prophesied man’s refusal of His offer.

1. Trouble sparks interest in *a* not *the* savior. (Matthew 24:23-26)

***Rev. 11:7*** – The Antichrist kills God’s two witnesses at the mid-point of the Tribulation.

***Rev. 13:16-18*** – The False Prophet requires all people to get a mark that identifies them as worshippers of the Antichrist.

***John 1:19-23, 29*** – People of Jesus’ day questioned John about his role.

***Rev. 7*** – 144,000 Jewish evangelists will go out into the world.

***Rev. 11*** – Two witnesses will work to thwart the Antichrist’s message.

***Rev. 14:6*** – An angel will come to declare the Gospel to humanity.

***John 3:16-17; 2 Peter 3:9-10*** – God’s great desire is to save people not condemn them.

***Rev. 7:9-10*** – Jesus will save so many during the Tribulation that John describes the throne room of God as being surrounded by people from “every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues.”

1. Trouble stops when Jesus arrives. (Matthew 24:27-31)

***Matt. 24:27*** – Jesus compares His return one day to a flash of lightning.

***Luke 17:24*** – Everyone will easily see Jesus’ return.

***Acts 1:11; 1 Thes. 4:16-17*** – Only Christians will see Jesus’ first return.

***Matt. 24:30*** – Everyone will see the Second Coming at the end of the Tribulation.

***Heb. 11:6*** – Faith enables us to accept that Jesus is coming.

***Matt. 24:28; Rev. 19:17-18*** – The vultures will gather to feast on those who refused to express faith in Jesus Christ as their Messiah.

***Gen. 1:15; John 1:2*** – Jesus created the sun and moon to give light.

***Gen. 1:16*** – “Greater” light and “lesser” light.

***John 8:12*** – Jesus is the greatest Light.

***Rev. 22:23*** – All other lights compared to Jesus are inconsequential.

***Matt. 24:31*** – Jesus sends His angels to gather His children.

***Matt. 28:20*** – Jesus promised His continual presence. Now that presence will be physical.