

# Elementary Children's Church

## Lesson 38

### The End Times Part 2. The first half of the tribulation

1. We live in the most monumental moment of all history. The bride for Jesus Christ is but moments away from meeting Jesus Christ in the air. At that very moment will be the beginning of the tribulation. The tribulation is a 7 year period in which all Saints will be gathered up into heaven at their appointed times, and the earth and all those who have not accepted Jesus Christ as Savior will face the wrath and judgment of God. It is important to also note that **the last** 3 1/2 years of the 7 are known collectively as the Great Tribulation.

2. So what happens and what will it be like during the tribulation? After the Bride is taken, the Bible tells us that the world leaders will announce peace and safety, (**I Thessalonians 5:3**: "For when they shall say, **Peace** and **safety**; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."), a white horse appears with a bow but no arrows, signifying strength with peace (**Revelation 6:2**: "And I saw, and behold a **white horse**: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.") However, we are told that this is a false peace.

3. At this point Satan now knows he has but a little time before He will be destroyed by God, and is allowed to pour out the fullness of His evil. (**Revelation 12:2**: "Therefore rejoice, [ye] heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a **short time**.") The pinnacle of His evil is the preparation and introduction of the Anti-Christ. This man will present himself as the Christ, as God. God even allows the anti-christ to receive a wound unto death, but comes back to life, and this event causes the world to wonder after him. (**Revelation 13:3**: "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to **death**; and his deadly **wound** was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.")

4. God, shortly thereafter raptures up to heaven the innumerable multitude (**Revelation 7:9** "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands" ). This company represents the vast majority of Christians, those who have loved the Lord, yet were not in love with His appearing as the Bride, the first trumpet raptured company (the four living ones seen in **Revelation chapter 4**). The innumerable multitude is seen in heaven with tears in their eyes, (**Revelation 7:17** "For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.") They come out of much suffering, especially knowing they missed God's best.

5. Revelation chapter 12 speaks of the 144,000 Jews; 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes that God will protect from the devil who wants to destroy them. God raptures this company to himself, and we come now to the great tribulation, the great battle of Armageddon, the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation.