

16 - Chastisement

- Scriptures:**
- Revelation 1-19
 - Matthew 24:3-51
 - Many of the Old Testament Prophets

- Focal point:**
- The Seven Years of Tribulation on the Earth

- Principal characters:**
- The Lamb of God (Jesus Christ)
 - The Antichrist
 - Those Left Behind on the Earth

- Primary events:**
- The Seal Judgments
 - The Trumpet Judgments
 - The Activities of the Antichrist
 - The Vial Judgments

1. After the church age is concluded at the rapture, there will be a time of God's wrath on the inhabitants of the earth. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9
 - The term "*the Day of the Lord*" is found 70 times in the Old Testament. It is used repeatedly in the Bible to describe the horrible end-time judgments that God will bring upon the earth. Isaiah 13:6-11; Zephaniah 1:14-18
 - This will be a time where God's wrath is poured out on a rebellious world. Israel and the nations have shown themselves rebellious towards God's love and grace.
 - The earth deserved this wrath after the crucifixion of Christ, but God, in His grace, has delayed it for nearly 2,000 years.
 - This time of wrath will last seven years. Daniel 9:27
 - The first 3 ½ years are called the beginning of sorrows. Matthew 24:8
 - The last 3 ½ years are called the great tribulation. Matthew 24:21
 - It is referred to as Daniel's 70th week.
 - Seventy weeks of years were said to be determined on Israel (490 years). Daniel 9:24
 - Sixty-nine weeks (483 years) were fulfilled, but one week (seven years) was left unfulfilled.
 - We call this seven-year period the tribulation.
2. The purpose of this seven years of wrath is two-fold.
 - To bring judgment upon the ungodly nations.
 - To chastise Israel for their sin and purge a believing remnant, preparing them for their future kingdom. It is called the "*time of Jacob's trouble*."
 - Both of these purposes can be clearly seen in Jeremiah 30:7-17. (cf. Zechariah 13:8-9; Isaiah 26:16-21) It appears 1/3 of Israel will survive.

3. In Revelation 5-19, we are taken through this time of wrath four times, each one concluding with the return of Christ to earth.
 - Revelation 6:1-8:1 - seven seal judgments
 - Revelation 8:2-11:19 - seven trumpet judgments
 - Revelation 12:1-14:20 - activities of the antichrist
 - Revelation 15:1-19:21 - seven vial judgments
4. There will be an unholy trinity that will institute a one-world government during this time. Revelation 16:13
 - The dragon (Satan). cf. Revelation 12:9
 - The beast (antichrist). cf. Revelation 13:1-10
 - The false prophet. cf. Revelation 13:11-18
5. This time of wrath will be an unprecedented time of wickedness, lawlessness, and horror, but there is some good news.
 - There will be 144,000 Jews that will be sealed by God and kept safe. Revelation 7:1-8
 - There will be a great multitude of believers from all nations that will be saved through this time of judgment. Revelation 7:9-17