

WHY THE RAPTURE DID NOT,
(AND COULD NOT)
HAPPEN ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

What is Jacob's Trouble?

- Jacob's Trouble is a time of "great distress" "great trouble" or "great tribulation" that will befall Israel (as well as those who are joined to Israel spiritually) just before the return of Jesus, and the redemption of all things.
- Jacob's Trouble is the Lord's final chastisement of His people, through which He will bring them to the end of themselves, and to Himself finally and forever.
- This time of trouble is described by the prophets and Jesus as the final "birth pains" that will precede global redemption and the restoration of all things.

The relevant texts which introduce Jacob's Trouble most clearly:

Now these are the words which the LORD spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah: “For thus says the LORD, ‘I have heard a sound of terror, of dread, and there is no peace. ‘Ask now, and see if a male can give birth. Why do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in childbirth? And why have all faces turned pale? ‘Alas! for that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the time of **Jacob’s distress**, But he will be saved from it.

—**Jeremiah 30:1-7**

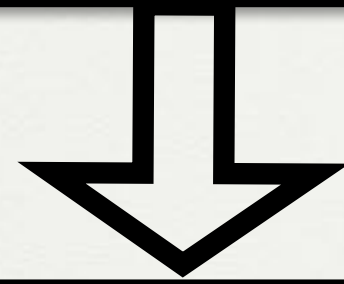
“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be **a time of distress** such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

—**Daniel 12:1-2**

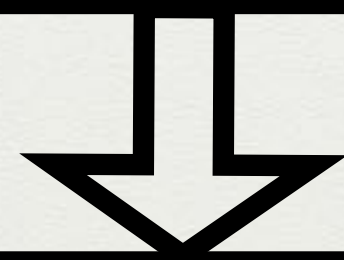
“Therefore when you see the **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains ... But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. For then there will be **a great tribulation**, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

—**Matthew 24:15-22**

For then there will be **a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.** (Matthew 24:21)



*“Now at that time ... there will be a time of **distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time...everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued** (Daniel 12:1)*



*‘Alas! for that day is great, **there is none like it;** and **it is the time of Jacob’s distress, but he will be saved from it.** (Jeremiah 30:7)*



The Gospel of Luke also describes those days and adds some
horrible details:

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be **great distress** upon the land and wrath to this people; and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

—**Luke 21:20-24**

- In Isaiah 26, we see Israel lamenting the fact that despite their suffering, it did not bring about the resurrection and global redemption.
- Then the Lord assures them that the time will indeed come.

As the pregnant woman approaches the time to give birth, she writhes and cries out in her labor pains, so were we before You, O LORD. We were pregnant, we writhed in labor, we gave birth, as it seems, only to wind. We could not accomplish deliverance for the earth, nor were inhabitants of the world born. Your dead will live; their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, and the earth will give birth to the departed spirits. Come, my people, enter into your rooms and close your doors behind you; hide for a little while until indignation runs its course.

—**Isaiah 26:17-20**

Gabriel the angel, in the Book of Daniel also speaks of the resurrection happening after the time of this great tribulation:

“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. **(1st: Tribulation)** And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. **(2nd: Resurrection)** Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

—**Daniel 12:1-2**

Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river. And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long will it be until the end of these wonders?” I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.

—**Daniel 12:5-7**

Moses also, in the prophetic Song of Moses spoke of this
time:

For the LORD will vindicate His people, and will have compassion
on His servants, when He sees that their strength is gone, and there
is none remaining, bond or free.

—**Deuteronomy 32:36**

- So, to the Old-Testament-literate Jewish mind, a period of tremendous Jewish suffering (likened to labor pains) would bring in global redemption and the resurrection of the dead.
- To the Old-Testament-literate mind, the motif of “birth pains” would be clearly understood as referring specifically to this final period of Jewish suffering.
- The resurrection of the dead will not occur until the birth pains come first.

National
Suffering



Birth Pains



Birth



Global
Redemption
Resurrection

- Revelation 12 portrays a birth that occurs before the time of Jacob's Trouble, before the great tribulation.
- This Male Child that is born before Jacob's Trouble cannot be the rapture / resurrection of the dead, because the rapture / resurrection of the dead happens after the woman goes through the great tribulation.

The baby born before the great tribulation can only be Jesus, “the first born from the dead.”:

Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

—**Revelation 1:5**

There is only one “first resurrection” unto life:

And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

—**Revelation 20:4-5**

- Another critical prophecy in Isaiah 66:7-9 clearly speaks of Jesus, the male child of Revelation 12 being born before the birth pains.
- But, then it goes on to describe the actual resurrection of the death and the birth of Israel's "sons" (plural) as a separate and subsequent event that does occur *after* the birth pains, in accordance with all that the other Scriptures have spoken.

“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she gave birth to a boy (**Jesus**). “Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons (**resurrection of the dead / rapture**). Shall I bring to the point of birth and not give delivery?” says the LORD. “Or shall I who gives delivery shut the womb?” says your God.

—**Isaiah 66:7-9**