

YT Video-From Delta to Thlipsis

By Yirmeyah Tan, Shabbat, 7 August 2021

Text [KJV unless otherwise indicated]

Mat 24:5 *For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*

Mat 24:6 *And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

Mat 24:7 *For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places.*

Mat 24:8 *All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

Mat 24:9 **Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.**

Mat 24:10 *And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.*

Mat 24:11 *And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many.*

Mat 24:12 *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

Mat 24:13 *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

I. **Birth Pangs Intensify Into Tribulation**

- a. **We are experiencing the beginning of birth pangs [sorrows] like ethnic conflicts, wars, rumours of wars, famines, earthquakes and pestilences, especially COVID-19 which is evolving into more serious variants like Delta and Delta+ which are much more infectious and appear to target younger people more severely.**
- b. **The next sorrow is persecution, affliction or tribulation [“thlipsis” in Greek.]**
- c. **“Tribulation (2347) (thlipsis from thlibo = to crush, press together, squash, hem in, compress, squeeze in turn derived from thláo = to break) originally expressed sheer, physical pressure on a man. Thlipsis is a strong term which does not refer to minor inconveniences, but to real hardships.”- <https://www.preceptaustin.org/tribulation-thlipsis-greek-word-study>**
- d. **The 5th Seal in the Book of Revelation is about persecution of Christians unto death:**

Rev 6:9 **And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:**

Rev 6:10 *And they cried with a loud voice, saying, how long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*

Rev 6:11 *And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*

II. **Why do Christians Suffer?**

The most problematic issue that pastors face in counselling is about suffering. Christians get sick, suffer losses, suffer tragedies, suffer false accusations, suffer persecution, suffer divorces, loss of jobs, loss of homes....

Why oh Lord? Didn't Yeshua promise the abundant life? Don't the prosperity and faith teachers teach prosperity and good health as the norms of Christian life? Why then do Christians fare poorly compared to non-Christians?

III. Suffering on Account of Own Sins

Deu 28:15 *But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:*

Deu 28:16 Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.

Deu 28:17 Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.

Deu 28:18 Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Deu 28:19 Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

Deu 28:20 The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.

Deu 28:21 The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it.

1Pe 4:15 *But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.*

IV. Suffering on Account of Forefathers' Sins

Exo 20:4 *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:*

Exo 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me;

Exo 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

- a. **Iniquity of the fathers have consequences unto the fourth generation and gets compounded by further unrepented sins of subsequent generations**
- b. **Examples: cancer, strokes, heart attacks, mental illness...**
- c. **Adam & Eve: their sin caused all mankind to suffer death and eternal damnation**

1Co 15:20 *But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.*

1Co 15:21 *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.*

1Co 15:22 *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Rom 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

Rom 5:17 *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*

Rom 5:18 **Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.**

Rom 5:19 *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

- d. **Despite our forefathers' sins, each person will only face eternal death on account of his own sins:**

Eze 18:20 *The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.*

V. Suffering Because of Other People's Sins

We live in a sinful world where wicked people kill, steal and destroy. Look at the hundreds of millions of people who died in the 2nd World War caused by Hitler. Look at America: hardly a day goes by without some shooting incident in which bystanders get killed or injured.

VI. Didn't Yeshua Take all Our Curses upon Himself?

Gal 3:13 **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:** *for it is written, cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree:*

Gal 3:14 *That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

- a. **Violation of every commandment of YAHWEH results in a curse of sickness, distress**
- b. **Violation of one commandment is enough to result in eternal damnation, as in Adam's sin and our own.**
- c. **Yeshua redeemed us from eternal damnation. Although there is healing because He took our infirmities on Himself, there is no promise of healing in every case of sickness. His own ministry shows both selective, individual healing as well as healing all who came to Him. Likewise, the Apostles did not heal everyone but rather selectively as the Holy Spirit directed.**

- d. Therefore, the curses of Deu 28:15-68 apply, and we must depend on the mercy of YAHWEH in each case of need. We cannot be presumptuous like the faith-and-prosperity teachers, because of whom many have died of COVID-19.

VII. Suffering: To Glorify God's Works

a. Blind from birth

*Joh 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was **blind from his birth**.*

Joh 9:2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

*Joh 9:3 Jesus answered, neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but **that the works of God should be made manifest in him.***

b. Helen Keller: deaf & blind from age 2

Quotes:

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.”

“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”

c. Mongoloid children

Psa 139:13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

*Psa 139:14 I will praise thee; for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.***

Psa 139:15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Psa 139:16 Thine eyes did see my substance yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

“Normal” babies are born with 46 chromosomes, a mongoloid child has 47, otherwise known as “trisomy 21”

“Although trisomy 21 causes intellectual and physical challenges, it is also true that with appropriate support and treatment, many people with Down syndrome lead happy and productive lives. My wife and I often joke that the hardest part of raising a child with Down syndrome is having to deal with people that do not have Down syndrome. Raising Natalia has helped me understand the danger of reducing a person's potential to her genetic profile. Although it has been unquestionably a lonely road for our family, Natalia's humor and perseverance through adversity have brought us joy and a sense of purpose.... in the course of loving and caring for my daughter, I have come to realize that the image of God does not need to be thought of as an “inventory” or a “checklist” of desirable human traits. Despite her evident challenges, God's image is displayed all over Natalia's life, not by means of her specific skills or talents, but by virtue of the one who endowed her with

such capabilities. Her contagious belly laugh and her dancing abilities are a reflection of her purpose rather than a justification of her worth. I have come to understand God's image upon individuals with and without congenital impairments as a "divine seal" that denotes our intrinsic worth despite the presence or absence of any given feature." -Samuel L. Caraballo "Down Syndrome and the Image of God"- <https://biologos.org/articles/down-syndrome-and-the-image-of-god>

d. Scanning of fetuses has resulted in abortions of mongoloid babies

VIII. Partakers of Christ's Sufferings

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

1Pe 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

*1Pe 4:14 **If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.***

Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

*Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; **heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.***

*Php 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and **the fellowship of his sufferings**, being made conformable unto his death;*

Php 3:11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

- a. Having the Holy Spirit attracts persecution
- b. Suffering qualifies us to be joint heirs with Christ and to be glorified with Him
- c. Paul sought the fellowship of His sufferings
- d. Paul saw his need to suffer as a member of His Body:

*Col 1:24 Who now **rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:***

e. The Head suffers, so does the Body

*Joh 15:18 If the world hates you, ye know that **it hated me before it hated you.***

Joh 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

*Joh 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, **the servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.***

IX. Development of Patience & Character

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Rom 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Rom 5:3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that **tribulation worketh patience;**

Rom 5:4 **And patience, experience; and experience, hope:**

Rom 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Note the Greek word “dokimē” which the KJV translates as “experience” is better translated as “character” as Paul says:

Gal 4:19 My little children, of whom **I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,**

Helen Keller:

“Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.”

The **chastening by YAHWEH** produces sonship:

Heb 12:6 **For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Heb 12:8 **But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.**

X. The Great Tribulation

Mat 24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places.

Mat 24:8 **All these are the beginning of sorrows.**

Mat 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be **afflicted** and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Note: sorrows = “odin” or birth pangs and “afflicted” = “thlipsis” or tribulation/persecution.

Mat 24:21 For then shall be **great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Rev 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, these are they which came out of **great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- a. The Tribulation period of the end-times appears to refer to the last 7 years: Daniel's 70th Week, also known as the time of Jacob's trouble

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Dan 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Jer 30:5 For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.

Jer 30:6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?

Jer 30:7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

- b. In Mat 24:17 Yeshua referred to the Tribulation when the birth pangs get intensified.
- c. The Great Tribulation period refers to the second half of Daniel's 70th Week. Yeshua used the term "megas thlipsis" to refer to the period immediately following the abomination of desolation in the Holy Place [the desecration of the Altar by the AntiChrist]

Luk 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

Luk 21:35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Luk 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

- d. Pray to escape the Great Tribulation [last 3.5 years]. What about the Tribulation itself [the first 3.5 years]?

XI. Expect to Suffer Tribulation

Php 1:28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

Php 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

- a. Called to suffer

- b. Suffering for Christ is a token evidence of salvation
- c. Those causing the suffering of Christians because of our faith in Christ are manifesting their impending perdition
- d. Yeshua warned of tribulation:

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

- e. Suffering for Christ is necessary for entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven:

Act 14:21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

Act 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Mat 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

G2346: thlibō

thlee'-bo

Akin to the base of G5147; to crowd (literally or figuratively): - afflict, narrow, throng, suffer tribulation, trouble.

- f. Mt 7:14 is better rendered as “Because narrow is the gate and the way that leads to life is beset by affliction/tribulation, and few are they that find it.”
- g. Trial of faith that leads to the salvation of the soul:

1Pe 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

1Pe 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1Pe 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

1Pe 1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

- h. Loss of faith when persecution arises:

Mar 4:16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground: who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

Mar 4:17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.