

I. The Birth Pangs Begin (vs. 4 - 8)

- A. False <u>Messiahs</u> (5) "I am the <u>Christ</u>" (Christos = messiah)
- B. Wars (6) "...such things must happen"
- C. Famines and earthquakes (7) human and natural disasters
- D. All these are the beginning of birth pangs (8) intensity is growing over time

II. The Beginning of Persecution (vs. 9 - 14) "Then"

- A. <u>Death</u> and <u>hatred</u> (9) "handed over"
- B. <u>Division</u> of the <u>church</u> (10) "turn away"
- C. <u>Deception</u> of many people (11) "false prophets"
- D <u>Denial</u> (12) "the love of <u>most</u> will grow cold" apostasy
- E. <u>Declaration</u> (13,14) "<u>preached</u> to the whole world"

III. The Bold Evil Sign (15 - 20) "So when"

- A. <u>Desecration</u> of the <u>Holy</u> of Holies (15)
- B. <u>Daniel</u> 9:27; 11:31,36; 12:11; Rev. 13:14,15

IV. The Beginning of Distress (21 - 25) "For then"

- A. <u>Distress</u> (21) like never before ("The Day of the Lord")
- B. <u>Days</u> are shortened (22) grace
- C. <u>Deception</u> of the <u>Elect</u> (24) "...great signs and miracles" (I Tim. 4:1)

V. The Birth of the Maranatha Moment! (26 - 31) "after"

- A. Decisive moment (26,27) visible and obvious to all (Acts 1:11)
- B. <u>Dark</u> moment (29) <u>heavenly</u> bodies change (Rev. 6:12-14)
- C. Dangerous moment (30 31)
 - 1. Sign in the sky
 - 2. See and mourn
 - 3. Power and glory
 - 3. Angels with the trumpet call
 - 4. Rev. 19:11 21; 20:10