

The Triumph of Man, Part I

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 24:15-22.
- B. Jesus is concerned in this text with the end of the age.
- C. The distinctive characteristic of this age is confusion.

II. The Lord indicates that at time of emergency action is coming, which has never been seen before.

- A. This is a time of superlative distress.
- B. There will be staggering suffering.

III. The literal sign of the end of the age is the desolation standing in the Holy Place.

- A. This is a reference to the book of Daniel.
- B. The Lord makes clear that the prophesy therein is historically valid.
- C. The reader would have understood that this looked ahead to the coming of a man.
- D. This person would magnify himself to the place of God, gain a place of authority, and make war against the saints. (II Thessalonians, Revelation 13)
- E. The temple would be rebuilt and the desolation will stand in the Holy Place again.
- F. This event will come in the middle of the seven-year tribulation.

IV. The sign of the desolation will be a literal sign, but it will also be symbolic.

- A. This is symbolic of man making himself God.
- B. In the place where God was supposed to be enthroned--the human spirit--man has enthroned himself.
- C. The threat of secular humanism demonstrates this.
- D. The delusion is that man can live independent of God.
- E. The major problem of our day is desolation and futility.
- F. The solution is to drink the Living Water, Jesus Christ.
- G. Man's pride always stands in the way.

Application questions:

1. Describe the desolation of the last days.

2. How have people in the church tended to put themselves in God's place? How have you?

3. How does one "drink of the Living Water, Jesus Christ" to remedy the problem of pride in his life? Explain.
