

Bible Prophecy

The Tribulation

What is the Tribulation?

- “The Tribulation will come after the rapture of the church and will be the greatest period of suffering the world has ever known. The Bible has more to say about these even years than any other prophetic time period. During this period, the Antichrist will emerge, persecution of new believers will ensue, and the great battle of Armageddon and the second coming of Christ will transpire.” – *The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy*, eds. LaHaye and Hindson.
- “The word ‘tribulation’ is derived from the Latin *tribulum*, which was an agricultural tool used for separating the husks from the corn. As found in the Bible, the theological implications would include such concepts as a pressing together, an affliction, a burdening with anguish and trouble, a binding with oppression.” – *Willmington’s Guide to the Bible*

Purpose of the Tribulation

- Punishing mankind for its sin and rebellion against God – Isaiah 13:9-11
- Purging Israel so they will receive Christ as Messiah and King – Ezekiel 20:33-44
- Preparing surviving humanity to enter the Millennial Kingdom – Matthew 25:32-34

Characteristics of the Period

- It will last seven years – Daniel 9:27
 - This can be subdivided into two three-and-a-half year periods – Daniel 9:27, Revelation 11:2-3
 - The second half appears to be much more severe, so much so that some refer only to the last half as the “Great Tribulation”.
- It will feature Satan’s greatest counterfeits:
 - The False Trinity – Satan (Revelation 12:12), the Antichrist (Revelation 13:1-10), the False Prophet (Revelation 11-18)
 - The False Church – (Revelation 17:1-6)
- It will be a time of judgment such as the world has never seen – Matthew 24:21-22
- Some Jews and Gentiles will still accept Christ during this time – Revelation 7

A Brief Outline of the Tribulation

- Preparation
 - Organization of the One World Church of Revelation 17
 - Appearance of Antichrist and False Prophet
 - Establishment of a Revived Roman Empire – Daniel 2:41-44
- First Half
 - The Antichrist makes a seven-year covenant with Israel – Daniel 9:27
 - The first six Seal judgments – Revelation 6
 - False Peace – 6:1-2
 - War – 6:3-4
 - Famine – 6:5-6
 - Death (1/4 of earth) – 6:7-8
 - Martyrs – 6:9-11
 - Catastrophic Cataclysm – 6:12-17
- Second Half
 - Antichrist takes over
 - Defeats opponents in war – Ezekiel 38, Daniel 11:40-44
 - Kills the Two Witnesses – Revelation 11:7
 - Fall of False Church – Revelation 17:16
 - Killed and resurrected (maybe fake?) – Revelation 13:3-4
 - Mark of the Beast – Revelation 13:16-18
 - Israel is targeted – Daniel 12:1, Zechariah 13:8
 - The seventh Seal / first six Trumpets – Revelation 8-9
 - Fiery hail – 8:7
 - 1/3 of sea destroyed – 8:8
 - Wormwood falls, waters poisoned – 8:10-11
 - Skies darkened – 8:12
 - Demonic locusts – 9:1-11
 - War, 1/3 of population killed – 9:15-21
 - The seventh Trumpet / the seven Vials or Bowls – Revelation 11:15; 16:1-21
 - Sores – 16:2
 - Sea becomes blood – 16:3
 - Fresh water becomes blood – 16:4-5
 - Scorching sun – 16:8,9
 - Painful darkness – 16:10-11
 - Euphrates dries up, armies prepare – 16:12-14
 - Catastrophic Cataclysm – 16:17-21
 - Fall of economic and political Babylon – Revelation 18