

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE TRIBULATION

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

Though every man since Adam has been “born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward” (Job 5:7) there awaits a time of trouble such as the world has never seen. The Bible contains multiple prophecies using varied imageries to warn us of a coming time of trouble.

- Jeremiah 30:7 calls that time “the time of _____ trouble.”
- Daniel 12:1 says it will be “a time of trouble, such as never was.”
- Joel 2:1-2 tells us that it will be “a day of darkness and gloominess . . . there hath never been the like.”
- Zephaniah 1:14-15 describes “a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress.”
- Malachi 4:1 speaks of this time as “the great and dreadful day of the Lord.”
- Revelation 6:17 calls this time “the great day of _____.”
- Revelation 7:14 simply calls this time “the great _____.”

These, and many other Scriptures, help us to draw one inescapable conclusion: God has planned that the world should endure a time of awful _____. The world has yet to face this time of severe affliction. It will be our purpose today to allow God’s Word to answer several questions about the Tribulation. Let’s briefly consider: 1. How long will the tribulation last? 2. What will the tribulation be like? 3. Why will the tribulation occur? 4. Who will participate in the tribulation?

THE DURATION OF THE TRIBULATION

The Bible invariably recognizes the tribulation as a period of _____ (see above). “The measurement of this period is more precisely described than almost any other period in the Bible” (Herman Hoyt). The Lord allows us to count this time period in years, months and days. It is _____ years. It is _____ months. It is _____ days.

THE REVELATION OF THE TIME – Daniel 9:24-27. Here is prophecy of seventy “weeks of years.” (Literally “seventy sevens.”) Consider carefully what is happening during these “sevens.”

1. There is a command to rebuild Jerusalem that begins this prophetic calendar (v. 25). The calendar is seventy sevens or _____ years.
2. From the command to rebuild to Messiah is _____ weeks (7 plus 3 score and 2 = _____) or _____ years (v. 25).
3. Verse 26 speaks of the Messiah being “cut off.” This is the _____.
4. Verse 26 speaks of the city (Jerusalem) being destroyed.

5. Verse 27 tells of another prince (the Anti-Christ) signing a covenant for one week (7 years). Note: This covenant is violated after _____ years.

THE CONFIRMATION OF THE TIME - _____.
Daniel’s 70th week is divided in the Revelation as two equal periods of _____ days, _____ months or _____ years (Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5).

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE TRIBULATION

Revelation 6 through 19 records in graphic detail the time called the tribulation. These chapters describe _____ sets of judgments which will strike the world.

THE _____ JUDGMENTS – Revelation 6.

By the end of this series of judgments, _____ of the world’s population has died (6:8).

THE _____ JUDGMENTS – Revelation 8-9.

By the end of this series of judgments another _____ of the world’s population is dead and _____ of all of the world’s water is polluted.

THE _____ JUDGMENTS – Revelation 16.

THE DESIGN OF THE TRIBULATION

God does not allow such catastrophe to strike the world without showing us why. The Bible reveals at least three purposes for these judgments:

1. To _____ evil-doers (II Thes. 1:6-7; Is. 26:21).
2. To _____ salvation to many (Rev. 7:9-17).
3. To _____ Israel for her Messiah (Zech. 12:9; Matt. 24:29-30).

THE DELIVERANCE FROM THE TRIBULATION

Those that are saved, born-again believers in Christ will _____ endure the tribulation! Such a promise is given . . .

_____ - I Thes. 5:9; Rev. 3:10.

_____ - I Thes. 4:5; Rev. 4:19. (Note: The church is pictured in heaven during the tribulation (Rev. 4:4; 19:7-8, 14).

_____ - If our judgment was taken on the cross, how can we be judged again? (II Cor. 5:21; Rom. 8:38-39; Col. 3:3; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 1:6).

_____ - The O.T. pictures of Noah, Elisha, Israel at the Red Sea and Lot all remind us of God’s ability to protect His own.