

when Jesus comesback

Part 3 - An Overview of the Tribulation Daniel 9; Revelation 6-19

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November 2, 2014

INTRODUCTION

The Bible describes major events that are tied to the Second Coming of Christ:

1. The world will grow progressively **worse**.
2. True Christ followers will be **raptured** away to heaven and experience our life evaluation and rewards called “The Judgment Seat of Christ.”
3. There will be **7 years** of tribulation in which the world will see the emergence of a great world leader the Bible calls the Antichrist.
4. At the end of the 7 years, Christ will return, defeat the Antichrist at the Battle of Armageddon and set up a **1000 year** reign on this earth called the Millennial Reign of Christ.
5. At the end of the thousand years, there will be the Great White Throne Judgment where **everyone** who does not know Christ will be judged.
6. There will be a New **Heaven** and a New **Earth** and time shall be no more.

I. HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE TRIBULATION IS 7 YEARS AND HOW DOES IT **START?**

A. The first place the Bible tells us that the Tribulation is 7 years is in a unique passage in **Daniel 9**.

B. *Daniel 9:27 “He (meaning the Antichrist) will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”*

C. Daniel’s prophecy says:

1. First, the Tribulation period will last 7 years.
2. Second, that there is a great world leader which will emerge out of the old Roman Empire and he will be the Antichrist.
3. Third, the Tribulation will begin with the signing of a **peace treaty** with Israel. It is a treaty that the Antichrist will violate halfway through the 7 years.

II. GENERALLY, WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE TRIBULATION?

A. The Tribulation will last 7 years. The Bible divides it into two parts, each 3 1/2 years. The first section is called the “The Wrath of the **Lamb**.” The second section is called “The Wrath of God,” or “The Great Tribulation.”

B. What will happen in the first half of the Tribulation Period?

1. Peace treaty with **Israel**.
2. First 6 seals, described in Revelation 6, are opened.
3. Immediately, the **Antichrist** takes center stage in world history.
4. 1/4th of the world’s population dies.
5. Many tribulation believers **are martyred**.

III. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE 7 YEARS OF TRIBULATION?

A. This is Satan's last desperate attempt to destroy the work of God through the introduction of Satan's own **messiah**, the Antichrist and his attempt to lead the entire world in rebellion against God.

B. This is God's final attempt to bring as many people to Himself as possible.

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

C. The Great Tribulation is the **final judgment** of God on the earth against the sin and wickedness on earth.

IV. WILL CHRISTIANS GO THROUGH THE TRIBULATION?

A. There are Godly and knowledgeable scholars who disagree about this. Many scholars (and Pastor Mark) believe the answer is **no**. There are other Godly and knowledgeable scholars who believe that Christians will go through the first half while others believe we will go through all of it.

B. First, Jesus said He would come when He was **not expected**. Jesus said that He would come as a **thief in the night**. He also said that no one knows the time nor the season in which He will return.

Luke 12:40 "You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

C. Second, we are told in the Bible to be looking for **Christ**.

D. Third, the **church** is not found anywhere in Revelation 6-18, the section in Revelation dedicated to explaining the Tribulation.

1. *Revelation 2:7 "He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**."*

2. *Revelation 13:9 "He who has an ear, let him hear."*

E. Fourth, Revelation **3:10** says that we will not have to go through the Tribulation.

Revelation 3:10 "Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth."

F. Fifth, the purpose of the Tribulation is to be a time of the outpouring of wrath on the **world** not the church.

V. THE FINAL QUESTION IS THIS, WHEN JESUS COMES BACK FOR HIS FOLLOWERS, WILL YOU GO WITH HIM OR WILL YOU BE LEFT BEHIND?

