

OVERVIEW OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Session 9 of Intro to Biblical Prophecy Series (1/10/21)

I. BEGINNING OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

- A. The Great Tribulation will be exactly 3 ½ years long. God has emphasized this length of time to display His precision and power over the time frame. Jesus said that the time frame would be shortened because it would be so intense. The book of Revelation is mostly about this 3 ½ years. God's precision in timing will be a declaration of His ultimate control of events.
- B. This time frame is initiated by the enthronement of the Antichrist in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. This is the clearest and most significant timing indicator in the end-time storyline.
- C. The purpose of the Tribulation is to: judge Israel and bring forth a holy remnant, purify the Church and awaken longing for Jesus, create an optimal context for global revival, and deliver the oppressed.
- D. The Tribulation is caused by four things: God's judgments, Satan's rage, man's sin (fullness of sin), and the earth's groanings.

II. OVERVIEW OF MAIN PEOPLE

A. Negative People:

- 1. Antichrist – God and Satan will give this man authority to oppress the earth. He will lead the most powerful and evil empire and military the earth has ever seen (Revelation 13:2).
- 2. False Prophet – He will be able to do signs and wonders, and He will command the nations to give their allegiance to the Antichrist (Revelation 13:11-17).
- 3. Image of the Beast – A demonic statue will be built in Jerusalem that will breathe and talk and issue legal decrees (Revelation 13:14-15).

B. Positive People

- 1. The Church – Christians will go through the Tribulation. The Church will operate in greater power than Jesus did on the earth. We will function like Moses and Aaron in Egypt in that we will prophesy God's heart to unbelievers and release God's judgments through prayer (Revelation 5:8, 6:10, 8:1-5, 12:7, 15:1-7, 22:17).
- 2. Two Witnesses – They will preach and prophesy in Jerusalem for 3 ½ years. They will release any plagues or droughts that they want to. Anyone who wants to kill them will die by fire that comes from their mouths (Revelation 11:3-13).

3. Protected Jewish Remnant – At least 144,000 unsaved Jews will be supernaturally protected during the Tribulation. Every surviving Jew will get radically saved at Jesus' coming (Revelation 7:1-8, 9:4, 12:6, 12:14, 14:1-3).

III. OVERVIEW OF MAIN EVENTS

- A. Demonic kingdom cast down – The Church will dethrone Satan and the demonic kingdom through global worship, prayer, and righteousness. Satan will be limited to the earth and be enraged because of it (Revelation 12:7-13).
- B. Antichrist Empowered and Enthroned – Satan will give His authority to this man once he's limited to the earthly realm. The Antichrist will declare Himself to be God and many will look to him as God (Revelation 13:2).
- C. Antichrist demands global worship and financial loyalty – He will demand global worship at the threat of death. He will limit access to his economy to those that declare their loyalty to him (.).
- D. Global Outpouring of the Holy Spirit – The fullness of the Acts 2 (Joel 2) outpouring will happen on a global scale. There will be a global upper room experience that will release more power than the Exodus and the book of Acts.
- E. 21 Judgments – There are 7 Seal Judgments, 7 Trumpet Judgments, and 7 Bowl Judgments. These will happen in sequential order and will be released by the praying church in heaven and the praying church on earth. Jesus will return at the 7th trumpet and then release the 7 bowl judgments as He marches to Jerusalem.
- F. Seal Judgments – Revelation 6 (result of man's sin)
 1. Antichrist conquers nations with intimidation and threats
 2. Antichrist conquers through war – world war
 3. Global famine and food rations
 4. ¼ of the earth die because of war, hunger, disease, and wild animals
 5. Prayer movement increases
 6. Earthquake, open heavens, cosmic shaking (sun/moon darkened, meteors, mountains/islands move, and kings will hide in caves from fear
 7. Prayer movement increases
- G. Trumpet Judgments – Revelation 8-9 (God's direct judgments and exposing of the demons that are worshipped)
 1. 1/3 of trees and all grass burned up
 2. 1/3 of the sea turned to blood, 1/3 of sea animals killed, 1/3 of ships destroyed
 3. 1/3 of fresh water sources poisoned
 4. 1/3 of the sun/moon/stars darkened
 5. Demonic Locust torment unbelievers for 5 months (no death).
 6. 1/3 of humans die by demons
 7. Jesus' initial descent to the earth with the armies of heaven