

Center for Global Ministries

Bible Doctrines

Liberty University

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Eschatology – Tribulation Period

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The Tribulation

All the events of the
Seven Years of the
“Great Tribulation”



The Signs of the Rapture



- No one knows the date, but there is a fixed date
- The disciples asked for indications of His return and Jesus taught them Matt 24

The Rapture without signs

Jews as a nation

Movement toward a world government

Powerful enemies surrounding Israel

Plagues/diseases capable of destroying 30% of pop.

Unified world religion

Common economy

Many cismic activity: earthquakes, tsunamis

Visual/technical communication In order to witness events

Tragedies are a part of History



- **Epidemics**

1340-1350 more than 25 million died in the Black Plague

1545 in Cuba 250,000 died from Typhus

1827 in Europe 900,000 died from Cholera

1851 in England 51,000 died from tuberculosis

- **Volcanic activities**

1902 Mt. Pelee erupted in western India with 30,000 deaths

- **Earthquakes**

1556 830,000 died in China from an earthquake

2004 400,000+ died in a tsunami in Sumatra

- **Droughts**

1877 more than 1 million died from hunger in N. China

- **Flooding**

1887 more than 900,000 died in a flood in China

- **Hurricanes, typhoons, tsunamis**

1970 more than 500,000 died in Pakistan; 2004 400,000 in Indonesia

Various Names for the Tribulation



- Day of the Lord (Isa 2:12)
- Day of the Vengeance of God (Isa 34:8; 63:1-6)
- The Time of Job's Troubles (Jer 30:7)
- The Seventieth Week of Daniel (Dan 9:24-27)
- The Time of the End (Dan 12:9)
- The Great Day of His Wrath (Rev 6:17)
- The Hour of His Judgment (Rev 14:7)
- The End of the World (Mt 13:40,49)
- The Indignation (Isa 26:20; 34:2)
- The Desolation of Abomination (Dan 9:27)
- The Time of Troubles as never before (Dan 12:1)

The Nature of the Tribulation



- **Isaiah 13:6** Wail, for the LORD's **day of judgment** is near; it comes with all the **destructive power of the sovereign judge**. 7 For this reason all hands go numb, every human heart loses its courage.
- **Isaiah 13:10** Indeed the stars in the sky and their constellations no longer shine; the sun is darkened as soon as it rises, and the moon does not shine. 11 I will punish the world for its evil, and wicked people for their sin. I will put an end to the pride of the insolent, I will bring down the arrogance of tyrants.

The Nature of the Tribulation



- **Isaiah 2:19** They will go into caves in the rocky cliffs and into holes in the ground, trying to escape the dreadful judgment of the LORD and his royal splendor, when he rises up to terrify the earth.
- **Isaiah 34:2** For the LORD is angry at all the nations and furious with all their armies. He will annihilate them and slaughter them. 3 Their slain will be unburied, their corpses will stink; the hills will soak up their blood. 4 All the stars in the sky will fade away, the sky will roll up like a scroll; all its stars will wither, like a leaf withers and falls from a vine or a fig withers and falls from a tree.

The Purposes of the Tribulation

Why is it so terrible?



- In order to harvest what has been sown throughout the ages by God, Satan and mankind (Matt 13:24-30)
- In order to prove the falsehood of the claims of Satan (Isa 14:12-14)
- In order to prepare a multitude of martyrs for heaven (Rev 7:9, 14)
- In order to punish the Gentiles (Rev 19:15)
- In order to purify Israel (Ezek 20:37-38; Zach 13:8, 9)

The Duration of the Tribulation

The 70 Weeks of Daniel's prophecy, written in Babylon 550 BC



- To who does it refer? Israel
- What do the “Seventy Weeks” refer to?
 - Literally the translation is “seventy sevens”
 - One “week” considered seven years (Lev 25:3, 4, 8-10; Gen 29:27, 28)
 - God says that He will intervene in Israel after a 490 years period
- When does the period of 490 years begin?
 - The Decree to reconstruct the walls of Jerusalem
 - Nehemiah said that the Decree came in the 20th year of Cyrus or the 14th of March, 445 BC -- The clock started ticking!

Duración de la tribulación²



- **What are the 4 Distinct Periods of Prophecy?**

- 1) 7- (sevens) or 49 years, from 445 BC to 396 BC, they constructed the streets and walls of Jerusalem (Dan 2-6). Fulfilled exactly.
 - 2) 62 -(sevens) or 434 years, from 396 BC. until 30 BC. (Total of 69 weeks)
 - The Messiah was “cut off” at the end of the period (Mt. 27, Mr 15, Lk 23, Jn 19).
 - The Final Week (70th Week) is divided in two equal periods
 - 3) Beginning of the 70th Week or the first 3 ½-year period.
 - The Antichrist makes a Covenant or Pact with Israel
 - 4) Middle of the 70th Week or after 3 ½ years.
 - The Antichrist breaks his pact with Israel and begins his persecution
 - At the end of the 70th Week the Messiah comes to establish the millennium
- **Are the prophecies of the Seventy-Sevens continuous?**
 - After the 69 periods of Sevens (Weeks) God made a parenthesis or gap
 - Eventually the last Week (70th) will be fulfilled
 - **Are there GAPS in the Plan of the biblical prophecy?**
Isa 9:6,7; Zacarías 9:9,10; Isa 61:1,2

The Chronology of the Tribulation

(3 Main Divisions)



- The formal organization of the Super Church, the Whore (Rev 17)
- The appearance of the Antichrist
Dan 7:25
Dan 11:36
2 Thess 2:3, 4, 9
- The appearance of the False Prophet
Rev 13:11
Rev 16:13, 19:20; 20:10
- The conversion of the 144,000
- The revival of the Ancient Roman Empire

- 1) **Military Aspect:** NATO was formed in April, 1949
- 2) **Economic Aspect:** Common Market was formed June, 1971 with 10 nations
- 3) **Religious Aspect:** The task of the False Prophet and the Whore Church
- 4) **Political Aspect:** The circumstances demand a Dictator for stability
- 5) **Israeli Aspect:** Israel is reestablished, The Temple is built and sacrifices

First Period of the Tribulation



- **The first 4 Seals**

- 1) First Seal: rider on a white horse: promises peace
- 2) Second Seal: rider on a red horse: shedding of blood
- 3) Third Seal: rider on a grey horse: destruction of the economy
- 4) Fourth Seal: rider on a pale horse: killed through plagues

- **Massive return of the Jews to Israel**

1882 — 25,000	1931 — 175,000	1979 — 3,000,000
1900 — 50,000	1948 — 650,000	1995 — 6,000,000
1922 — 84,000	1952 — 1,421,000	

- **Reconstruct the Temple in Jerusalem**

(Dan 9:27; 12:11) (Mat 24:15) (2 Thess 2:4) (Rev 11:3-13)

- **Ministry of the 2 Witnesses (Rev 11:3-13)**

Many believe that they are Elijah and Moses

The Middle of the Tribulation

(A brief indetermined Period)



- The Invasion of Gog and Magog (Ezek 38,39)
 - a. *The identity of the invaders*
Ezek 38:6, 15; 39:2 “from the remotest parts of the north”. Russia is directly north of Israel
 - b. *Joseph, First Century, identified Magog* (grandson of Noah) that immigrated to the north of Jerusalem.
 - c. *Linguistic Proof: “Gog” is “Prince of Rosh”* (Russia?)
 - d. *The Allies in the invasion: 5 nations*

Perssia — Iran	Libia — Arab Africa
Ethiope — black Africa	Gomer — Germany
	Togarma — S. Russia or Turkey
 - e. *Reasons for the invasion*
 - 1) Take the riches of Palestine (Ezek 38:11,12)
 - 2) Control the Middle East
 - 3) Challenge the authority of the Antichrist (Dan 11:40-44)

The Second Half of the Tribulation

(A brief period in the middle of the Tribulation)



- The Invasion of Gog y Magog (continued)
 - f. The destruction of the invaders*
 - **A defeat caused by God Himself**
 - Earthquake (Ezek 38:19, 20)
 - Rebellion of troops (Ezek 38:21, " ...every man's sword will be against his brother.")
 - Plague among troops (Ezek 38:22)
 - Flood, hail and fire (Ezek 38:22; 39:6)
 - **The result of the invasion**
 - 83% of the soldiers are destroyed (Ezek 39:2)
 - Cadavers are eaten (Ezek 39:4, 17, 18-20)
 - 7 years to bury all the dead (Ezek 39:14-15)
 - 7 years to bury the armies of war (Ezek 39:9,10)
- Martyr of the 2 Witnesses (Rev. 11:7)
- Martyr of the 144,000 Jewish evangelist (Rev 14:1-5)

The Second Half of the Tribulation

(A brief undetermined period)



- Throwing the Beast from Heaven (Rev 12:3-15)

- a. His Identity

- Great Red Dragon (Rev 12:3)
 - Old Serpent (Rev 12:9)
 - The Devil (Rev 12:9)
 - Satan (Rev 12:9)

- b. **The Beast was, is now or will be one of the following:**

- in heaven, as the Anointed Cherub (past) (Ezek 28:14)
 - in heaven, as the principle enemy of God (present) (Job 1,2)
 - on Earth, as the guide of the Antichrist (future) (Rev 12:12)
 - In the *bottomless pit* (during the Millennium) (Rev 20:8,9)
 - on Earth, loosed for a final rebellion (end of the millennium) (Rev 12:8-9)
 - in the Lake of Fire (eternal future) (Rev 20:10)

- c. **The activities of the Beast**

- Deceive all the unconverted (Rev 12:9)
 - Accuser of all the dead believers (Rev 12:10)
 - Persecutes the nation of Israel (Rev 12:13)

- The Destruction of the False Church (Rev 17:16)

The False Prophet

(Rev 13:11)



- His Identity: A religious leader (Rev 16:13)
- His activities: will intent to immitate Christ (as the 3^o person of the evil trinity)
 - a. False Prophet will glorify the Antichrist (Rev 13:11, 14)
 - b. False Prophet will seduce everyone in error (Rev 13:11, 14)
 - c. He will make fire fall from heaven (Rev 13:13)
 - d. Instead of life, he will give death (Rev 13:15)
 - e. The seal to all those that adore the image of the beast (Rev 13:16, 17)
- His mark (Rev 13:16-18)
 - a. His number: 666
 - b. Numerology: each Greek letter signifies a number, the sum is 666
 - c. Symbolic Number: the number 7 is the perfect number, the number 6 is less thus represents man

The Antichrist



- His personal characteristics

- a. A genius intellectual (Dan 8:23)
- b. A genius orator (Dan 11:36)
- c. A genius politic (Rev 17:11,12)
- d. A commercial genius (Rev 13:16,17)
- e. A military genius (Rev 6:2; 13:4)
- f. A religious genius (Rev 13:8; 2 Ts 2:4)

- His identity (Rev 13:1)

- a. Comes from the “sea”, a symbol of the Gentiles
- b. Experiments a resurrection (Rev 13:3; 17:8)

- His ascension to power

- a. By the power of Satan (Rev 13:4; 2 Thess 2:3, 9-12)
- b. Permitted by the Spirit to do whatever he wants (Job 1-2; 2 Thess 2:6-7)
- c. By the formation of the 10 nations
- d. By the cooperation of the False Religion (Rev 17)
- e. By a program of false peace in the Middle East (Dan 8:25)
- f. By a master plan of deceit and deception (Matt 24:24; 2 Th 2:9; Rev 13:14)

The Antichrist



- His activities
 - a. Begins to control the Eastern block of power (Rev 17:12)
 - b. Will make a treaty of 7 years with Israel, but breaks it in 3 ½ years (Dan 9:27)
 - c. Will gain complete control over the Middle East after the failure of the invasion by Russia (Ezek 38,39)
 - d. Will intend to destroy Israel (Rev 12)
 - e. Will destroy the religious system in order to reign without impediment (Rev 17:16,17)
 - f. Will establish himself as God (Dan 11:36, 37; 2 Thes 2:4-11; Rev 13:5)
 - g. Will reign over all the nations (Psa 2; Dan 11:36; Ecc 13:16)
 - h. Will be destroyed by the Lord in the Battle of Armageddon (Rev 19)
 - i. Will be the first creature cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev 19:20)

Second Period of 3 1/2 years: The manifestation of the Antichrist



- The headquarters becomes Jerusalem
- The Antichrist is assassinated (Rev 13:3, 14) while millions are looking.
- In the funeral he is resurrected
- He is worshipped as God.
- False Prophet makes a statue that speaks and puts it in the Temple (Matt 24:15; Dan 9:27; 12:11; 2 Thess 2:4)
- New law that obligates the worship of the image or one cannot buy or sell (Rev 13:16, 17)
- The obligatory mark of the beast is 666 (Rev 13:18)

Second Half of the 3 ½ Years: The Global Persecution of Israel



- **Satan will attack israel when he falls: Revelation 13:13** *He performed momentous signs, even making fire come down from heaven in front of people 14 and, by the signs he was permitted to perform on behalf of the beast, he deceived those who live on the earth. He told those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast who had been wounded by the sword, but still lived.*
- **At least 1/3 will survive:**
Zechariah 13:9 Then I will bring the remaining **third** into the fire; I will refine them like silver is refined and will test them like gold is tested. They will call on my name and I will answer; I will say, 'These are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

Second Half of the 3 ½ Years: the Seven Trumpets



- Break the 7th Seal (Rev 8,9,11:15-19):
Seven Trumpets of Judgment

Trumpet 1: Hail and Fire —30% of green vegetation is destroyed

Trumpet 2: 30% of the sea converts to blood —30% of the fish die.

Trumpet 3: Great star falls— 30% of the waters destroyed and many die

Trumpet 4: 30% of the sun, moon and stars are obscured

Trumpet 5: The Pit of the Abiss is opened— torment for 5 months—
“Wow” #1.

Trumpet 6: Loosing of the 4 angels— kill 30% in 3 plagues

Trumpet 7: The End — Christ establishes His reign with lightning,
thundering, earthquakes and hail

Second Half of the 3 ½ Years: Seven Cups of His Wrath



- 1st Cup— Malignant ulcers on everyone
- 2nd Cup— the sea convertst to blood
- 3rd Cup— Rivers and Springs convert to blood
- 4th Cup— Excessive heat from the sun (ozone?)
- 5th Cup— Darkness
- 6th Cup— spirit of demons with signs in oder to motivate participation in Armaggeddon
- 7th Cup— Earthquakes, hail

Second Half of the 3 ½ Years: the Battle of Armageddon



- The Day of the Wrath of God (Psa 2:1-5,9)
- A massacre of enormous proportion (Isa 34:1-6)
- The Day of Vengeance (Isa 63:3,4,6)
- The nations will unite in Jezreel (Joel 3:2, 9-16)
- All the nations come against Israel (Zech 14:2, 3, 12)
- Blood of the killing up to the horse's bit (Rev 14:14-20)