

Year **7** Tribulation

What, When, How, & Who

Tribulation Timeline

Tribulation Begins

Mid-Point 3 ½

(GOD JUDGES HIS PEOPLE)

- Why Christians will go through first 3 ½ years of Tribulation
 - To Judge the Church
 - To separate true Christ followers from false ones
 - To prepare Christ followers for persecution as a witness for Christ
- One world leader over one world government – How will this happen?
- Revelation events that occur during first 3 ½ years – 7 seals/ 7 trumpets

Why Christians will Go Through 1st 3 ½ years

- To Judge the Church

“For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God.” 1 Peter 4:17

Why Christians will Go Through 1st 3 ½ years

- The first three chapters of Revelation are about the seven churches who are warned to endure persecution: Ephesus – left first love, Pergamum – allowed false teaching, Thyatira – practiced false teaching in the church, Sardis – produced dead works and lost influence in the world, Laodicea – lukewarm church filled with apathy and disobedience.

Why Christians will Go Through 1st 3 ½ years

- These could represent the state of the church today and why God will judge the church:
 - Like the church at Smyrna, the church will face suffering and persecution for her faith and witness. Like the church at Philadelphia, the church will not deny Christ and persecution will lead millions to Christ

Why Christians will Go Through 1st 3 ½ years

- At the 3 ½ mark, Satan will be allowed to make war with the saints. This does not mean he will not persecute Christians in the first 3 ½ years, it indicates that this one will be global and massive persecution (The Anti-Christ must purge the world of Christians because they will oppose Him)
- Revelation 6:9-11 and 7:9-14 indicate multitudes of Christians will be killed for their faith in Christ

Why Christians will Go Through 1st 3 ½ years

- Scriptures on persecution in the last days :
Matt 24:7-14, Mark 13:1-13, Luke 21:12-19, 2 Tim 3:1-7, Rev 2:10
- Two parables illustrate how Christ will separate people at the final judgment. The criterion for judgment is the evidence of our works on earth. Works cannot save a person but works identify a person as one who follows Christ or one who does not follow Christ. Each will be judged differently in eternity

Two Parables

PARABLE OF SHEEP AND GOATS (Mathew 25:31-46)

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left... Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels... And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.’”

PARABLE OF WHEAT AND WEEDS(Mathew 13:36-43)

“The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”

Bottom Line

We must look at our relationship with Christ, be prepared to face serious persecution as evidence of our faith in Christ and be ready to witness for Christ by sharing the Gospel.