

Hope in Tribulation **Revelation 7:9-17, Romans 8:18-25**

Even in discussing end times and tribulation, the Bible highlighted hope

God will redeem people even during the darkest times

The Gospel Doesn't Change

Even during the Tribulation, the way to be saved is **faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior**

**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God
Ephesians 2:8 NKJV**

Jesus is still the only way:

**Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except
through Me John 14:6 NKJV**

Since the Church has been raptured, who shares the Gospel during the Tribulation?

God raises up an intense evangelism force

144,000 Jewish witnesses, sealed and protected for a specific mission, **Revelation 7:4-8, 14:1-5**

Two prophetic witnesses in Jerusalem — with fire-breathing, miracle-working, resurrection-capping ministries, **Revelation 11:3-12**

An angel preaching the "everlasting gospel" — literally flying through the sky, telling people to repent and worship God **Revelation 14:6-7**

The Holy Spirit is *Never* Removed from the Earth

Let's kill the myth right away. **The Holy Spirit is not absent during the Tribulation**

Why? Because people are still being saved — and no one comes to Christ apart from the Spirit's conviction and regeneration **John 3:5–8; Titus 3:5**

The Spirit still draws hearts, brings conviction, and transforms lives

No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit 1 Corinthians 12:3 NKJV

What *is* removed? His restraining work

This is where **2 Thessalonians 2:6-7** comes into play

And you know what restrains him now from being revealed; it is so that he will be revealed at his own appointed time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness rebellion against divine authority and the coming reign of lawlessness is already at work; [but it is restrained] only until he who now restrains it is taken out of the way. ⁸ Then the lawless one the Antichrist will be revealed and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of His mouth and bring him to an end by the appearance of His coming 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 AMP

The "**He who restrains**" is widely understood to be **the Holy Spirit**, working through **the Church**

When the Church is raptured **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**, **the Spirit's *unique restraining influence through the Church* is lifted**

This doesn't mean the Spirit disappears, just that He no longer holds back evil in the same way

In other words, **no one is saved or sustained without the Spirit, even in the end times**

No universal indwelling like today

In the **Church Age**, believers are sealed permanently with the Holy Spirit upon salvation **Ephesians 1:13-14**

During the Tribulation, this **indwelling/sealing dynamic may not function the same way**

It's more like how it did in the Old Testament, when the Spirit came upon individuals for specific purposes (like David, Elijah, etc.).

So, despite the extreme chaos, no one can say, "**I never heard**"

What Must They Do to Be Saved?

Same as now — repent and believe in Jesus

These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb Revelation 7:14 NKJV

But here's the difference: faith will likely cost them **everything** — even their lives

The Antichrist's regime will demand worship and enforce it with death **Revelation 13:15-17**

Refusing the mark of the beast = ruin and execution

Many Will Be Martyred for Their Faith

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death Revelation 12:11 NKJV

People who turn to Christ during the Tribulation are called **tribulation saints**. Many are seen in heaven as martyred believers Revelation 6:9-11, 7:9-14

They'll stand firm in Christ, even when it costs them their heads — literally Revelation 20:4

Bottom Line Application

Salvation in the Tribulation will still come through **faith in Jesus Christ**, but it will demand **extreme courage** and likely end in **martyrdom**. That's why today is the day of salvation:

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation 2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV

No one wants to wait for the Tribulation to say yes to Jesus.

Salvation Now vs. Tribulation Salvation

Category	Now (Church Age)	During the Tribulation
Way of Salvation	Faith in Jesus Christ	Still faith in Jesus Christ
Gospel Preachers	Church, missionaries, pastors, believers	144,000 sealed Jews, 2 Witnesses, Angel, Scripture
Holy Spirit's Role	Indwells all believers permanently (Ephesians 1:13-14)	Convicts and empowers, but no universal indwelling like now
Risk of Persecution	Varies by location	Global, very high Revelation 13:15-17
Mark of the Beast	Not present	Must be rejected to follow Christ Revelation 14:9-11
Earth Conditions	Mostly stable	Cataclysmic judgment, war, famine, terror Revelation 6–18
Church Presence	Yes, Bride of Christ on Earth	No, Church raptured Revelation 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
Cost of Faith	Possibly social rejection or persecution	Likely martyrdom Revelation 6:9-11; 20:4
Availability of Bible/Teaching	Widely available	Restricted, dangerous, possibly outlawed
Holy Spirit Restraint of Evil	Present (2 Thessalonians 2:7)	Removed/reduced, evil increases dramatically
Opportunity for Salvation	Freely available, grace-filled invitations	Still available, but under severe pressure

Why This Matters Now

And if anyone was not found written in the Book of Life, he was cast into the lake of fire
Revelation 20:15 NKJV

Waiting until the Tribulation to “get serious” about Jesus is like waiting until after the plane crashes to read the safety manual. Please don’t do it!

The scene now shifts from heaven in Chapter Five to unprecedented trouble on earth in Chapter Six

Everything from **chapter 6 through chapter 18** describes the Tribulation

That is almost **two-thirds** of the book of Revelation

Chapter five describes the sealed scroll, which is as yet unbroken Revelation 5:1

The Rapture has already occurred

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, 'Come and see Revelation 6:1 NKJV

And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer Revelation 6:2 NKJV

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