

The Purpose of the Future Seven-year Tribulation Period

God in His sovereignty doesn't do anything without a _____.

Since there are two powerful kingdoms waging war against each other, there are two sets of purposes for the future tribulation period.

Satan's Purposes for the Tribulation Period

1. Destroy all _____ for God
 - a. Most _____ will be killed (Rev. 6:9–11)
 - b. God's _____ will be killed (Rev. 11:3, 7, 10)
2. Establish a permanent, visible, political, physical kingdom rule on Earth
 - a. Primarily through his human representative, the _____.
 - b. He will rule the whole earth (Rev. 13:3, 7)
 - c. He will control all religious worship (Rev. 13:8, 15)
 - d. He will control all commerce in the world (Rev. 13:16)
 - e. Rev. 16:10 – there will be a visible, political, physical, kingdom of Satan during the tribulation period
3. Mobilize all the armies of the world around _____.
 - a. Demonic influence over the world rulers to gather together (Rev. 16:13–14, 16)
 - b. Gathering in Israel → Har-Megadon
 - c. They assemble to wage war against the Lord Jesus in His _____ (Rev. 19:11, 17, 19)
4. Annihilate the nation of Israel (Daniel teaches us ...)
 - a. The kingdom cannot come until after the Second Coming
 - i. Coming of the Son of Man in the clouds
 - ii. In conjunction with the destruction of the little horn
 - iii. Then ... the kingdom
 - b. The Second Coming will not occur until the nation of Israel _____ (Zech. 12:9–14; 13:1)
 - c. If Satan can destroy the nation of Israel, before it can repent, God will have lost.

God's Purposes for the Tribulation Period

1. _____ of many people
 - a. There will be more people saved in the tribulation period than any other time in human history (Rev. 7:9)
 - b. From every nation, tribe, people, tongue (Rev. 7:13–14)
 - c. How? _____ (Rev. 11), the _____ and _____ proclaiming the gospel from heaven (Rev. 14)
 - d. Material "left behind" ... Bibles, videos, tracts, journals.
2. Crushing of Satan's kingdom and the removal of his rule from planet Earth
 - a. All the judgments against the world and the kingdom of the beast (Rev. 16:10)
 - b. Final removal of Satan's kingdom (Rev. 19:20–21)
 - c. Removal of Satan himself into the abyss (Rev. 20:1–3)
3. Gathering of the armies of the world to Israel for _____.
 - a. God will gather the nations to surround Jerusalem (Joel 3:2–3, 9–17)
 - b. God will judge those nations (Dan. 7:22, 26)
 - c. Culminates in the Second Coming of Christ (Zechariah 12:2–7)
4. Repentance of Israel at the Second Coming
 - a. Two thirds of the Jewish nation will be killed during the last half of the tribulation (Zech. 13:8)
 - b. Once God gathers the nations against Jerusalem, there will be no human hope for the Jew, the remaining Jews will call on the name of the Lord in _____ (Zech 13:9, 12:9–10)
 - c. The end of God's indignation against the nation of Israel, she will be in right relationship with Him ... finally.

Application and Summary:

1. It puts into perspective world events in Israel today. You cannot properly understand what is happening in Israel without understanding the warfare behind the scenes in the spiritual realm ... and we have very little information on that war. We know its ongoing, we know world leaders are under the influence of Satan and his minions, and we know that their influence is counter to the purposes of God and of Christ. Though we can see that this kingdom making inroads into our way of life and country ... and it seems to be more and more each generation ... His purposes will ultimately prevail.
2. Since God has revealed these truths in scripture, He obviously wants us to know them ... they are important for us to understand.
3. These purposes of God for the tribulation period, though we will have no part in any of it, should be a great comfort to those of us who are going through “tribulations” of our own. The Lord Jesus will set everything right ... someday.

Home Group Questions:

Since we typically spend very little time in the minor prophets ... surveil the content of Joel 3 and Zechariah 12–14.

1. How do we know the context of these passages pertain to the tribulation and the Second Coming?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Consider Zech 14:2–7 ... How does this compare to the description of the Second Coming in Dan. 7 and Matt. 24?
 - a. What are the similarities?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
 - b. What are the differences?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
3. Do you have any opinion on why so few people are interested in Biblical eschatology today?
4. Do you have any unanswered questions concerning the contents of this sermon? Please forward to me!

Shameless plug ... we will be studying the eschatology of Matthew 24–25, Mark 13, and Luke 21 starting in the spring. All the knowledge of future events that we ascertained from a study of Daniel will be brought into the context of the gospels.

Consider joining us!