

The Spiritual Realm - Lesson 20: The Great Tribulation

1. What is the tribulation?

- The Tribulation is the final seven-year period of human history before the return of Jesus Christ.
- It is divided into two halves of three and a half years each (or 42 months, or 1,260 days — these measurements are used interchangeably throughout Scripture).

Daniel 9:27 *And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.*

Jeremiah 30:7-9 *Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; **it is a time of distress for Jacob**; yet he shall be saved out of it. 8 “And it shall come to pass in that day, declares the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off your neck, and I will burst your bonds, and foreigners shall no more make a servant of him. 9 But they shall serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.*

Daniel 12:1 *At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And **there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time.** But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.*

Isaiah 13:9-16 *Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. 11 **I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.** 12 I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir. 13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the Lord of hosts in the day of his fierce anger. 14 And like a hunted gazelle, or like sheep with none to gather them, each will turn to his own people, and each will flee to his own land. 15 Whoever is found will be thrust through, and whoever is caught will fall by the sword. 16 Their infants will be dashed in pieces before their eyes; their houses will be plundered and their wives ravished.*

Matthew 24:15-22 *So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, 18 and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. 19 And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! 20 Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. 21 For then **there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.** 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*

2. Who are the main characters in the tribulation.

The Antichrist

2 Thessalonians 2:4 *Who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.*

Daniel 7:8 *I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.*

Revelation 13:1 *And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.*

1 John 2:18 *Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.*

Israel - Daniel's prophecy of 490 years is for Israel. They have 7 years left

Daniel 12:1 *At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time **your people shall be delivered**, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.*

The Church - The Church is looking forward to the Day of the Lord - not dreading it

II Corinthians 1:13-14 *For we are not writing to you anything other than what you read and understand and I hope you will fully understand— 14 just as you did partially understand us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.*

II Thessalonians 5:9-11 *For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*

3. What is the purpose for the tribulation.

Discipline of Israel

Zechariah 13:8-9 *In the whole land, declares the Lord, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive. 9 And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'*

Salvation of Israel

Romans 11:25-27 *Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; 27 "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins."*

Judgment on the unbelieving world

Isaiah 13:11 *I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.*

Revelation 6:10 *They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"*

4. When will the tribulation start and how long will it last?

It will start with a covenant and last 7 years

Daniel 9:27 And he shall **make a strong covenant** with many for **one week**, and for **half of the week** he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.

The tribulation is broken into 2 halves of 3 1/2 years

Daniel 7:25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a **time, times, and half a time**.

Daniel 12:7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a **time, times, and half a time**, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.

Revelation 11:2-3 but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for **forty-two months**. 3 And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for **1,260 days**, clothed in sackcloth.

Revelation 12:6 and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for **1,260 days**.

Revelation 12:14 But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a **time, and times, and half a time**.

Revelation 13:5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for **forty-two months**.

Revelation 6:1-2 Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

A white horse: This is the Antichrist deceiving the nations and Israel with peace and world unification.

The Return of the King

Revelation 19:11-14 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

Worldly tribulation and persecution now in the life of the Christian.

What: Tribulation will be a part of our lives on earth because of sin and the curse. The tribulation and persecution is not from God but because we follow God.

Why: We are living in Satan's dominion until Christ returns. Christians will never receive God's wrath. Jesus took God's wrath for us on the cross.

Who: Christians who have given their hearts and lives to God.

When: While on earth in this cursed world in this sinful fleshly bodies.