

## Exit Church

There are clear and compelling reasons for holding to the pre-tribulational position, the teaching that all believers will be raptured or taken to heaven by our Lord before the seven years of tribulation begins.

### Three Key Scriptural Facts About the Tribulation Period:

1. **It Will Be a \_\_\_\_\_ (Unique) Period in All of Human History.**
  - a. *“For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now – and never to be equaled again.” Matthew 24:21 “How awful that day will be! None will be like it.” Jeremiah 30:7 “There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of the nations until then.” Daniel 12:1 “A day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness...such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come.” Joel 2:2*
  - b. From wicked Roman emperors in the first century to Hitler, Stalin, and Mao in the last century, there have been some dark characters and dark days in human history. But all of these hellish periods will pale in comparison to the last seven years before Armageddon. The suffering then will involve the whole earth, something that hasn't happened since Noah's flood.
  
2. **It Will Consist of Seven Years of God's \_\_\_\_\_ (Wrath) Poured Out on Earth.**
  - a. The Lamb, Jesus Christ, opens each of the seven seals that begin the Tribulation period. *“I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals...when the Lamb opened the second seal.” Revelation 6:1,3*
  - b. *“Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountain. They called to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?’”*
  - c. *“They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.” Revelation 6:8* During the first set of judgments, the seal judgments, fully one-fourth of the population of the earth will be killed, at least 1 ½ billion people, or a population five times the entire population of the United States.
  
3. **The Church Will Be Protected and \_\_\_\_\_ (Removed) Before the Period of Tribulation Begins.**
  - a. *“Wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.” I Thessalonians 1:10* The Greek word for “rescues” means “to deliver from something by a forcible act.”
  - b. *“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” I Thessalonians 5:9* God's wrath is not part of the destiny of the believer – we are protected from that.
  - c. *“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those*

*who live upon the earth.” Revelation 3:10* The Greek word for “from” means “out of”. Believers will be kept “out of” the period of tribulation.

- d. God’s wrath is mentioned ten times in the book of Revelation (6:16, 6:17, 11:18, 14:10, 14:19, 15:1, 15:7, 16:1, 16:19, and 19:15), spanning the entire period of seven years of tribulation. Believers will be raptured – taken by our Lord to heaven – before this period begins.
- e. Noah’s age has many comparisons to today. *“The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the Lord said, ‘I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth...but Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.’” Genesis 6:5-8*

**Do you want to find favor in the eyes of the Lord? Like Noah, you can be saved out of the terrible judgment that is coming upon the earth.**

*“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” I Thessalonians 4:16-17*