



Living in the End Times Session 8 – What is the Tribulation?

I. Review/Introduction to Session 8

A. Previous Sessions

1. Five sessions on the signs preceding the coming of Jesus.
2. Two session on the rapture of the church.
 - a. The resurrection of the righteous dead.
 - b. The rapture/catching away of those who are still alive at the time of His return.

B. What will take place after the rapture occurs?

1. The saints will be enjoying a home coming in heaven.
2. The inhabitants of earth who were not taken in the rapture will enter the beginning stages of “the Tribulation”.

II. What is the Tribulation?

Matthew 24:21 (NKJV) – *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

Matthew 24:29 (NKJV) – *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*

Revelation 7:14 (NKJV) – ¹⁴*And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So, he said to me, “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.*

A. Tribulation definition – a pressing – pressure – oppression, affliction, distress, anguish, trouble



By adding the word GREAT as a descriptive term, Jesus wanted us to understand the severity, quantity, stature, extent of this pressure, affliction, oppression and trouble that was coming.

THE DEGREE OF THIS TRIBULATION WILL BE AS THE WORLD HAS NEVER KNOWN.

B. The Tribulation – Unrestrained Evil

David Jeremiah – The moment after the Rapture, the Spirit of God will remove any restraining influence on the earth so that things will be far worse than even today. The seven-year tribulation period will see the climax of worsening conditions, the anger of God against the wicked, and the signs of Christ's coming judgment. Believers alive at the Rapture will miss those seven horrible years.

C. Now that we are gone, the seven years of the Tribulation Period Begin.

III. What can you expect if you miss the Rapture?

A. John's Vision of the Tribulation

In Revelation Chapter 1 – John had a revelation of Jesus.

In Revelation Chapter 2-3 – John received revelation for the Church.

In Revelation Chapter 4 – John saw the Rapture of the Church and things that will begin to take place in heaven.

In Revelation Chapter 5 – John experienced the triumphant Lamb and worship in heaven.

In Revelation 6 – John receives revelation about what will happen on earth during the Tribulation.

1. The Antichrist and his Conquering Power

Revelation 6:1-2 (NKJV) – ¹Now 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." ²And 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.



- a. One could think this is Jesus returning on the white horse.
Revelation 19:11 (NKJV) – *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.*
- b. This rider of the White Horse in Chapter 6 is the counterfeit Christ. The Antichrist!
- c. He is the IMITATOR riding the white horse.
- d. He is the devil's messiah.
- e. The whole world will be in awe of him.
- f. He is the great deceiver.

Jesus spoke of lying signs and wonders

Daniel 8:23-25 (NKJV) – ²³*“And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes. ²⁴His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. ²⁵“Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means*

- g. He goes out conquering and to conquer.
He will be the ruler this world has looked for and he will conquer them with what appears to be the solution for world-wide peace that no other leader has been able to accomplish throughout world history.
- h. This Antichrist will seem to be the solution to all the worlds problems.

2. Conflict and War

Revelation 6:3-4 (NKJV) – ³*When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.” ⁴Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat*



on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

- a. The Antichrist's false sense of peace will be short lived.
- b. The spirit of hatred and violence will ensue.
- c. The wars of history will not compare to the wars that will be fought during the tribulation which will most likely include the most devastating weapons of mass destruction known to man, nuclear weapons.

3. Massive Famine and Scarcity

Revelation 6:5-6 (NKJV) – ⁵*When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."*

- a. Famine and scarcity always follow war.
- b. There will be limited supplies, especially with food.
- c. The conditions of the earth because of war will limit the ability to produce adequate crops.
- d. Do not harm the oil or the wine
David Jeremiah – The oil and the wine represent things belonging to the wealthy. Those who are wealthy will not be nearly as affected by this famine and scarcity as the poor. The rich will become richer – the poor will become poorer.

4. Widespread Death upon the Earth

Revelation 6:7-8 (NKJV) – ⁷*When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁸So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power*



was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

a. **Progression – war = famine = death.**

b. **A fourth part of the earth**

Over 7 billion on earth presently.

We do not know how many will depart in the rapture.

The majority of people will not be rapture ready.

The # of people who will die as a result of the fourth seal will at least reach the millions.

5. **Martyrs for Christ**

Revelation 6:9-11 (NKJV) – ⁹When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

- a. People will be saved during the tribulation.
- b. People who rejected Christ will quickly receive him after the rapture occurs.
- c. People will still hear the gospel and respond in the tribulation.
- d. The cost of following Christ will be great – they will have to give their lives.
- e. Scripture denotes that they will be beheaded.
- f. The hatred for God and His church will be so intense that death will be the penalty for anyone who claims Christ as their savior.



6. Great Cosmic Disturbances

Revelation 6:12-17 (NKJV) – ¹²I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?

a. A great earthquake!

The book of revelation records several cosmic events that will bring mass destruction on the earth.

Revelation 16:18 (NKJV) – *And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.*

b. Stars will fall to earth – Asteroids

c. The heavens/sky will depart like a scroll.

Could be a nuclear blast.

d. The mountains and Islands will be moved out of their place.

e. **People will literally pray TO THE ROCKS fall on us.**

They are not praying to God – they are praying to nature.



IV. Conclusion

- A. **If nothing but those things covered in Revelation 6 were coming as part of the tribulation – It would be horrible – You would not want to be here!**
- B. **The Seals of Revelation 6 are only the beginning – It gets much worse!**
- C. **The mark of the beast is coming – You cannot buy nor sell.**
- D. **The Battle of Armageddon – *Blood will run as deep as a horse's bridle.***
- E. **Good News**
 - 1. We are still here – the Rapture hasn't occurred.
 - 2. Time has not run out, you can still be saved.
 - 3. The grace of God is still available.
 - 4. Jesus is the only way out – receive Him today!