

Selected Scriptures

Big Idea: The Great Tribulation will be a time of suffering unequalled in history.

The Rapture and the Great Tribulation

There is very little debate as to the *events* concerning Christ's return. The disagreement surrounds the *timing* of these events. According to Daniel 9 the two events are separated by 7 years. This is the time allotted for the Tribulation. There are 3 views concerning the timing of the Rapture: Pre-tribulation, Mid-tribulation, and Post-tribulation.

Today: Great Tribulation

The Great Tribulation is a time of unprecedented judgment on earth. We like to think of Jesus as meek and mild, but the Book of Revelation clearly demonstrates that when Jesus returns to earth, He will return as "Judge" not "Savior".

1 and 2Thessalonians

The young church was convinced that they had missed the Rapture and that God's judgment (Great Tribulation) was upon them. Paul explains how he knows this is NOT the case. In 2Thessalonians 2:1-4, Paul says the Great Tribulation will not begin until the Antichrist assumes power. When he sets himself up as a world ruler and proclaims himself a god, that's when the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments begin to unfold. That means that the Rapture happens at the beginning of the Tribulation and the antichrist rises during the Tribulation.

Support for a Pre-Tribulation Rapture View

1. **There is consistency in all Rapture passages.** Multiple NT letters all exclude or omit the church from the Tribulation.
2. **"Jacob's trouble" and Daniel's 70th week pertain to Israel, not the church.** The OT terms and the OT symbolism relate to God's dealings with Israel. The Great Tribulation is primarily for Israel.
3. **The Church is promised deliverance from the coming wrath of God.** See 1Thess 1:10, 5:9, and Revelation 3:10.
4. **The church is absent from the rest of the Revelation.** Chs.6-19 do not mention the church even once.
5. **The Christ-follower's sin has already been judged.** Followers of Jesus Christ have had their sin covered by His sacrifice. The tribulation is all about judgment against sin. The church will not experience any of this judgment.

The Great Tribulation is coming for those who have denied or rejected Jesus Christ. Its difficulty and suffering will be unmatched since the beginning of time. I did not say that... Jesus did. Thank God, as a follower of Jesus Christ my sin has already been judged. His wrath against the sin of man is real. And so is His grace. That is reason alone to invite my neighbor to church.

Family Night – Read Hebrews 12:4-11

- **Preschool/ Elementary** – Ask, "Why is it important to obey Mommy and Daddy? How do Mommy and Daddy show you their love? How does time-out show that Mommy and Daddy love you as well?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "How is discipline a sign of God's love? Why does God have the right to judge humanity? Have you ever considered Jesus as a judge? Why, or why not?"

Prayer: "Father, thank You that Jesus was judged for my sin instead of me. You are a God of justice and mercy. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: This Wednesday, October 21 at 6:30.

Gravity: Gravity today in both services.

Today's Songs

Praise the Lord Phil Wickham

Goodness of God Elevation

Always Chris Tomlin

Baby Bottle Boomerang

Baby Bottles are due next Sunday, October 25th. All proceeds benefit Choices of the Heart Crisis Pregnancy Center. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Boo Bash

Our annual fall celebration is next Sunday, October 25th. Pancake Supper, Trunk or Treat, Costume Contest, and Fun and Games. Donations are due today. You can still sign up to bring a cake or your trunk! Come join the party!

Trunk or Treat

Help! We need 50 or more cars in the parking lot at 4:00 on October 25th. You don't have to decorate your trunk! We are asking everyone in the church to donate one bag of candy to help with the expense of this event.

The Chosen Adventure for Kids, Weds. in October.