

What the Future Holds- Biblical Prophecy

Lesson 4—The Tribulation

The period between the Rapture and Christ's return is generally known as the Tribulation, which is a part of the Day of Lord, where the Lord will judge His enemies in preparation for the establishment of His kingdom on earth.

- I. **It's uniqueness:** The Bible designates the Tribulation as a unique time in human history (Matthew 24:21) in which, following the Rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), God will pour out his wrath on the earth at the same time the antichrist implements his unrighteous rule.

- II. **It's purpose:** The Bible records at least three purposes for the Tribulation.
 - A. The Tribulation will prepare Israel, and the rest of the world, for the Messiah.
 - B. The Tribulation will serve as a means to break Gentile domination over Israel, ending the "times of the Gentiles"—*Luke 21:24*.
 - C. The Tribulation will be the time when God pours out His wrath on the unbelieving nations.

- III. **It's structure:** Daniel 9:24–27 provides the structure for the Tribulation period.

Daniel 9:27—"He" refers to the "antichrist"—see 9:26

"Firm" covenant refers to the antichrist's treaty with Israel which begins the seven years of tribulation.

"One week"- refers to the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy

"Middle of the week"—after 3 ½ years, the antichrist will set himself up as God in the temple of Jerusalem—*Matthew 24:15*

the "A complete destruction"—the antichrist will ultimately be cast into Lake of Fire"—*Revelation 19:20*

- IV. **It's chronology:** The Olivet Discourse provides the basic chronology of the Tribulation, and other Scriptures fill in the details—*Matthew 24–25*.
 - A. The Tribulation begins with the signing of treaty between the antichrist and the nation of Israel guaranteeing Israel's safety—*Daniel 9:27*.
 - B. Israel will be living in her and worshipping in her temple with a false sense of security—*2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 11:1–2; Ezekiel 38:8*.
 - C. The ancient city of Babylon will be rebuilt and become the center for the global economic network which will control much of the world's resources—*Revelation 17:1–15*.
 - D. God will have 2 witnesses in Jerusalem who will proclaim the gospel of the kingdom—*Revelation 11:3–6*.

- E. During the tribulation the Lord will save and preserve 144,000 completed Jews to proclaim the gospel throughout the world—*Revelation 7:1–8*.
- F. The first series of judgments will be the seal judgments that will go throughout the tribulation—*Revelation 6:1–17*.
- G. The second set of judgments will be the trumpet judgments which will start just before the middle part of the tribulation and continue until the end of the tribulation—*Revelation 8:6–9:19; 11:15–19*.
- H. The third series of judgments will be the bowl judgments which will begin during the last half of the tribulation and continue to the end of the tribulation period—*Revelation 16:1–21*.
- I. During the tribulation there will be northern and southern kingdoms who will invade Israel prior to the middle of the tribulation—*Ezekiel 38:1–13; Daniel 11:40*.
- J. God will supernaturally destroy most of the Northern forces—*Ezekiel 38:17–39:8*.
- K. The antichrist and his forces will defeat the Southern forces—*Daniel 11:40*.
- L. The antichrist will break his treaty with Israel in the middle of the tribulation and put many of the nation of Israel to death—*Daniel 9:27; 11:41*.
- M. The antichrist will set up himself as God in Israel's temple ("abomination of desolation"), setting up an image of himself to be worshipped—*Matthew 24:15–22; Revelation 13:14–15*.
- N. The false prophet will promote the worship of the antichrist and establish the mark of the beast which will be required in order to buy or sell—*Revelation 13:11–18*.
- O. There will eventually be an economic global collapse caused by men and by God—*Revelation 17:16–17*.
- P. Eventually the armies of the North, the East, and the South will war against the antichrist's armies at the battle of Armageddon, in the valley of Megiddo—*Zechariah 14:3–4; Revelation 19:11–21; Matthew 24:27–30*.
- Q. Christ will defeat all the armies of the earth—*Revelation 19:17–21*.
- R. Every living Israelite will believe on the Messiah—*Zechariah 13:8; Romans 11:26*.
- S. The antichrist and the false prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire—*Revelation 19:20*.