

ESCHATOLOGY

-THE GREAT TRIBULATION



What is Great Tribulation ?

It is a major end-time prophetic event of concentrated calamity coming upon the world unlike anything that has come before or will come ever after.

■ Matthew 24:21

"For then there will be great tribulation, such has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be."

■ Jeremiah 30:7

"Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it."

■ Mark 13:19

"For in those days there will be tribulation, such has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be."

■ Daniel 12:1

"At that time.....there shall be a time of trouble."

Signs of the Tribulation

Matthew 24:29-31

"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. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven..... He will send His angels.....they will gather together the elect....."

Luke 21:25-26

".....signs in the sun, moon and in the stars, and on the earth distress of nations, men's heart failing them from fear.....Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

The judgment and the calamities of those days is the subject of much OT prophecy (Isa. 26:20,21; Jer.25:32,33; 30:5-7; Dan.9:27; 12:1; Zech.13:8-9) and the Book of Revelation (6-19), and 2 Thessa.2.

- It is a unique time of tribulation in the future.
- The intensity of calamity will be unprecedented.
- Culminated by the coming of the Son of Man in glory.
- Accompanied by celestial signs and distress of nations.
- Period of wrath, judgment, destruction, desolation, and darkness.
- Darkest hour in human history.
- The Antichrist will rule the world during this time.

Conclusion

Future Period

The Tribulation is a future period of God's wrath and judgment on Israel and the unbelieving world

Distinct from Current Trials

It is entirely different from the general trials, tribulations, suffering, and persecution we go through in a hostile world.

Present Age Suffering

Suffering and tribulation are promised to us in this life (Jn.16:33; Acts 14:22; Rom.8:18-25, 35, 36; 2 Tim.3:12; Phil1:29; 1 Pet.4:13).

Essential Nature

The Tribulation period differs from this present age of grace in its essential nature.

The Purpose of the Tribulation

1

Prepare Israel

To prepare Israel for the coming of the Messiah

- "Time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer.30:7)
- "At that time your people" (Dan.12:1)
- 70 weeks are determined for your people (Dan.9:24)
- "When you are in distress (tribulation).....in the latter days (Deut.4:30)

2

Judge the Nations

To Judge the Christ-rejecting Gentile nations, persecutors of Israel, and all unbelievers (Rev.14:8;18:8; 6:15-17; 16:19; Isa.11:11-13; Joel 3:2; Oba. 15-16).

The Extent of the Tribulation

1

World-wide Scope

Revelation 6-19; Luke 17: 26-27; Revelation 3:10

2

Earth-dwellers

Judgment on persistent unbelievers

3

Global Impact

Affecting all nations and peoples

The Tribulation will have a world-wide scope, impacting all "earth dwellers" who are persistent unbelievers in the world during this period (3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8,12,14; 14:6; 17:8).



The Duration of the Tribulation

1

7 Years Total

Daniel's 70th week –
7-year period
(Dan.9:24-27)

2

Two Halves

Dan.9:27
indicates that the
'week" (7 years)
will be divided
into two halves –
"in the midst of
the week."

3

3.5 Year Periods

Two halves of three- and
one-half years – 42
months
(Rev.11:2; 13:5); 1260 days
Rev.11:3; 12:6; a time,
times, and half a time
(Dan.12:7).