

FAQ: Tribulation Terrors – Lesson 1

Date: September 7, 2025

1. What is the "Tribulation" and how does it relate to God's judgment?

The Tribulation is described as a seven-year period of intense crisis and judgment upon the world. It is not merely the result of natural consequences or man's actions, but rather the active wrath of God, directly intervening to judge the world for its sin. This period signifies God taking repossession of the world.

2. When does the Tribulation begin, and what happens to the Church before it starts?

According to the teachings, the Church—meaning all who know and love Jesus Christ—will be raptured (removed from the earth) prior to the Tribulation. This event is regarded as a biblical certainty. Only after the Church is removed will this terrible time of judgment begin.

3. How is the seven-year Tribulation period structured?

The Tribulation is clearly divided into two distinct halves of three and a half years each:

- First Half (3.5 years): Described as a time when Satan is preparing, with some seal judgments from Revelation possibly occurring.
- Second Half (3.5 years – The Great Tribulation): Far more extreme and traumatic, marked by a pivotal event.

4. What key event marks the midpoint of the Tribulation, and what role does the Antichrist play?

The midpoint of the Tribulation is marked by the desecration of the temple.

- The Antichrist, a man possessed by Satan, will initially confirm a peace treaty with Israel, allowing them to rebuild and use their temple for sacrifices.
- In the middle of the seven years, he will personally desecrate the temple by setting up an idol of himself that speaks and demands worship.
- This event precipitates the Great Tribulation and leads to intense persecution.

5. What happens to Israel during the Tribulation, especially during the "Great Tribulation"?

During the Great Tribulation, Israel will face severe persecution from the Antichrist and Satan:

- Two-thirds of Israel will be cut off and die.
- God will provide a special place for a portion of Israel to flee, described as an airlift to a wilderness refuge (possibly Petra).
- There, they will be nourished and protected from Satan's presence for 1,260 days (three and a half years).

6. Who are the "two witnesses" mentioned in relation to the Tribulation?

The two witnesses will:

- Prophecy for 1,260 days (three and a half years).
- Be clothed in sackcloth.
- Be killed, but later resurrected by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Their identities are debated, but their role is to deliver a powerful prophetic message during the Tribulation.

7. What does the Bible say about the intensity and nature of God's wrath during the Tribulation?

The Tribulation is called the "Day of the Lord"—a period of devastating judgment.

Zephaniah 1:15 (NKJV):

"That day is a day of wrath,
A day of trouble and distress,
A day of devastation and desolation,
A day of darkness and gloominess,
A day of clouds and thick darkness."

God will bring distress upon men, and their blood shall be poured out like dust (Zephaniah 1:17). Scripture emphasizes that nothing alleviates God's punishment during this time—the fear, terror, misery, and judgment of a furious God will be poured out.

This period represents God reclaiming control after man has had his own "day."

8. How does Jesus's description of the Tribulation in Matthew 24 compare to Old Testament prophecies?

Jesus's teaching in Matthew 24 provides a firsthand, more defined description of the Tribulation.

- It builds on Old Testament prophecies, such as those in Zephaniah.
- While identifying the exact chronology in Matthew 24 is challenging, verses 4–8 are often seen as describing the first half of the Tribulation.
- Jesus's words add clarity to the signs of the end of the age and His return, giving a fuller picture of what is to come.

Notes

- No Greek words appear in this document.
- All Scripture references match the NKJV Bible.