

Briefing Document: Analysis of Tribulation Terrors Lesson 3

Date: September 21, 2025

This document synthesizes the core themes from Tribulation Terrors Lesson 3, delivered on September 21, 2025. It provides a detailed exegesis of the Tribulation judgments in Revelation, focusing on the Seven Seals and Seven Trumpets.

I. Core Theological Framework: The Purpose of the Tribulation

- For the Nation of Israel:
 1. Punishment: To judge the rebellious within the nation.
 2. Salvation: To redeem a believing remnant, culminating in Israel turning to Christ.
- For the Gentiles (The Nations):
 1. Punishment: To judge unbelieving Gentiles for rebellion against God.
 2. Salvation: To bring about a massive revival, resulting in countless saved Gentiles.
- Regarding Sin and Satan:
 - Sin is allowed to 'finally run its course' and manifest fully before God crushes it forever.
 - Satan is permitted to reveal his true character, gather his followers and demons, and 'throw everything they can at God'—only to be defeated.
- For Contemporary Believers:
 - To show how much God hates sin.
 - To emphasize the urgency and exclusivity of salvation through Jesus Christ.

II. Sequential Analysis of Tribulation Judgments

The Seven Seals (Revelation 6)

Seal	Symbol / Rider	Interpretation & Consequences
1st	White Horse	The Antichrist—appearing virtuous but possessed by Satan. 'A crown was given to him.'
2nd	Fiery Red Horse	The removal of peace; widespread killing. 'Every man's sword shall be against his brother.'
3rd	Black Horse	Famine; a day's wages (a denarius) buys only one meal. Oil and wine become luxuries.

4th	Pale Horse	Death; one-fourth of the earth's population dies through war, hunger, disease, and wild beasts.
5th	Martyrs' Cry	Souls of martyrs cry out, 'How long, O Lord... until You judge and avenge our blood?'
6th	Cosmic Collapse	Great earthquake, sun turns black, moon like blood, stars fall, and the sky recedes like a scroll.

The Seven Trumpets (Revelation 8–9)

Trumpet	Judgment
1st	Hail, fire, and blood burn up one-third of the earth, trees, and all green grass.
2nd	A great mountain burning with fire strikes the sea; one-third of the sea becomes blood; one-third of sea life and ships destroyed.
3rd	A great star (Wormwood) poisons a third of fresh water, causing many deaths.
4th	One-third of the sun, moon, and stars darkened; chaos in seasons and crops.
5th	Demons released from the abyss torment mankind so severely that 'men will seek death and will not find it.'
6th	An army of 200 million kills one-third of humanity.
7th	Leads to the Bowl Judgments—earthquake, massive hailstones, and global blasphemy against God.

III. Eschatological and Hermeneutical Positions

- Bible Manuscript Traditions

- Textus Receptus: The longer Greek manuscript tradition.
- Nestle-Aland / United Bible Society (NU): Shorter due to fewer additions by later copyists.

- Rapture vs. Second Coming

- The Rapture: Jesus appears 'in the air' to catch away the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:17). Not considered His 'return.'
- The Second Coming: At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus returns physically to earth and stands on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4).

- Age of the Earth & Cosmology

- Scientific View (Rejected): Earth billions of years old; eventual natural end.
- Biblical View (Affirmed): Earth is 6,500–7,000 years old based on biblical chronology.

- Scientific claims of millions or billions of years are dismissed as deliberate deception.

IV. Key Quotations and Thematic Statements

On the Rebellion of Humanity: They would rather the rocks crush them than recognize God.

On the Character of God and Sin: We also have a God who hates sin with an absolute eternal hatred and cannot tolerate its existence in His presence. Ultimately He will condemn every sinner not cleansed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

On the Purpose of Tribulation for Sin: The Tribulation is God's way of letting sin finally run its course, letting it run absolutely wild and then putting it under His foot forever.

On the Certainty of Judgment (quoting Dr. Joseph Seiss): Though sentence against an evil work will not be speedily executed, it will finally be executed at last. The trampled law of God will avenge its rightful honor.

On the End of the World: The world is not going to come to an end because the sun gets old or the moon collides with the earth. It is going to end because Jesus Christ will return literally.

V. Ancillary Information and Context

Announcements:

- September memory verse: Matthew 5:14.
- Donation drives ('OCC boxes').
- New Life Kids Christmas store.
- Wedding shower for Tyrus and Emily.
- Spaghetti dinner.
- Various church group meetings.

Prayer Requests & Praises:

- Karen Pike (bereavement).
- Praise for baptisms.
- Distribution of Bibles in Tucson.
- Recovery of a friend named Dick from a stroke.

Charlie Kirk Memorial:

- Referred to as a 'powerful' event.
- Attended by U.S. President and Vice President, both declaring the gospel.
- Resulted in at least one new person attending church.

Greek Words

Textus Receptus (Τέξτος Ρεσέπτους) – Tek-stos Reh-sep-toos: Refers to a collection of Greek New Testament manuscripts that formed the basis of the King James Version.

Nestle-Aland (Νέστλε-Άλαντ) – Nes-lay Ah-lahnd: A critical Greek New Testament text compiled from older manuscripts, widely used in modern translations.

Denarius (δηνάριον – dēnárion) – Day-NAH-ree-on: A Roman silver coin, equal to a day's wages in the first century (cf. Matthew 20:2).

Wormwood (Άψινθος – Ápsinthos) – AP-sin-thos: Name of the star in Revelation 8:11; associated with bitterness or poison.