

## THE TRIBULATION

### The Seventieth week of Daniel

A. What is the purpose of the tribulation? It is not just about judgment and punishment for unbelievers, although that is certainly a part of it.

Scripture provides us with at least five reasons for the tribulation and all relate to a specific person or group—**Israel, Gentiles, God, Satan, Antichrist, and Believers.**

#### 1. TO PREPARE ISRAEL (A purpose for Israel)

(a.) God will use this “*time of trouble for my people Israel*” to prepare the nation for her Messiah. This time of great tribulation will be so intense that it will bring the Nation of Israel to the brink of extinction, so that they will call out to God to save them.

#### **Daniel 12:1**

<sup>1</sup> *And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: **and there shall be a time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

#### **Matthew 24:21**

<sup>21</sup> *For then shall be **great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time**, no, nor ever shall be.*

#### **Jeremiah 30:7**

<sup>7</sup> *Alas! for **that day is great**, so that none is like it: it is even **the time of Jacob's trouble**; **but he shall be saved out of it.***

#### **Matthew 23:39**

<sup>39</sup> *For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, **Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.***

(b.) God will refine the rebellious nation in the fire of the tribulation period.

#### **Zechariah 13:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> *And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.*

<sup>9</sup> ***And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.***

(c.) *D. Pentecost* states, “God’s purpose for Israel in the tribulation is to bring about the conversion of a multitude of Jews, who will enter into the blessings of the kingdom and experience the fulfillment of all Israel’s covenants.”

## 2. TO PUNISH SINNERS (A purpose for Gentiles)

(a.) God will use the tribulation to punish the godless nations and all unbelievers for their sins, especially those who take the mark of the beast.

### **Revelation 16:2**

<sup>2</sup> *And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore **upon the men which had the mark of the beast**, and upon them which worshipped his image.*

### **Revelation 19:15**

<sup>15</sup> *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, **that with it he should smite the nations**: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

### **Daniel 2:44**

<sup>44</sup> *And **in the days of these kings** shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, **but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms**, and it shall stand for ever.*

(b.) The punishment of the nations will bring an end to “the times of the Gentiles”.

### **Luke 21:24**

<sup>24</sup> *And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, **until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.***

## 3. TO PROVIDE SALVATION (A purpose for Believers)

(a.) God will graciously use the tribulation to drive men to Himself in repentance and belief. There will be a great harvest of souls during this time, more than anyone can count.

### **2 Peter 3:9**

<sup>9</sup> *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***

### **Matthew 24:14**

<sup>14</sup> *And **this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations**; and then shall the end come.*

### **Revelation 7:9**

<sup>9</sup> *After this I beheld, and, lo, **a great multitude, which no man could number**, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*

#### 4. TO PORTRAY SATAN'S TRUE CHARACTER (A purpose for Satan)

(a.) God will use the tribulation to unmask Satan for what he is—a liar, a thief, and a murder.

### **John 8:44**

<sup>44</sup> *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a **murderer from the beginning**, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: **for he is a liar, and the father of it.***

(b.) When God removes all restraints, Satan will be fully manifest as the world experiences the final firestorm from the dragon. Knowing his time is short, Satan will pour out his wrath with force and violence. **Revelation 12:1-17**

#### 5. TO PROVE GOD'S POWER (A purpose for God)

(a.) To prove He is the all-powerful God and that He alone is God and He is the only one worthy of praise and worship.

### **Revelation 15:3, 4**

<sup>3</sup> *And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, **Lord God Almighty**; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.*

<sup>4</sup> *Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for **thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.***

- ✓ The Greek word for “Almighty” is “pantokrator” which is a compound word and comes from two root words, “pantos” meaning “all”, and “kratein” meaning “to hold”.

### **CONCLUSION:**

While the Tribulation will be a time of God's wrath and judgments, some of which are difficult for us to comprehend or understand, God will use it to accomplish His sovereign purposes.

### **Isaiah 14:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> *This is the **purpose** that is **purposed** upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.*

<sup>27</sup> *For the LORD of hosts hath **purposed**, and who shall disannul it? And his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?*

## **A PROPOSED CHRONOLOGY OF THE TRIBULATION**

(The seventieth week of Daniel's seventy-weeks Prophecy)

The confirming of a peace treaty between Israel and the Antichrist marks the starting point of the final seven-years of the 490-year period.

### **Daniel 9:27a**

<sup>27a</sup> **And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week:**

Since the final seven-years of this prophecy and the tribulation period are one and the same it would follow that the confirming of the peace treaty will be the starting point for the tribulation and not the rapture of the church. The main purpose of the rapture of the church is to bring an end to the church age. So, there is some period of time between the rapture and beginning of the tribulation period. How much time is unknown? Scripture does indicate that some things must occur before it can start.

### **2 Thessalonians 2:2-3, 6-8a**

<sup>2</sup> *That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

<sup>3</sup> *Let no man deceive you by any means: for **that day** shall not come, **except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;***

<sup>6</sup> *And now ye know **what withholdeth** that he might be revealed in his time.*

<sup>7</sup> *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: **only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.***

<sup>8a</sup> ***And then shall that Wicked be revealed, ...***

1. "A falling away" the complete apostasy that will take place and the "what withholdeth" have reference to the church being taken out of the way (raptured). The rapture of the church will also remove the ministry of the Holy Spirit since it was given only to church age believers. "... **he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.**"

### **John 14:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*

<sup>17</sup> *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; **for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.***

## 2. The Rise of the 10 Nation Confederation. (The Revived Roman Empire)

### **Daniel 7:24**

<sup>24</sup> *And the ten horns out of this kingdom **are ten kings that shall arise**: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.*

## 3. The Lamb receives the seven-sealed scroll. **Revelation 5:1-9**

### **Revelation 5:1, 6-7**

<sup>1</sup> *And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. ...*

<sup>6</sup> *And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.*

<sup>7</sup> *And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.*

- There is much debate over what this sealed scroll is. There were several types of legal documents in Old Testament times that were recorded on scrolls and then sealed, usually with seven seals. The most common of these documents were wills and title deeds for a piece of property. I believe the scroll has to do with the title deed to the earth. **Jeremiah 32:6-15** gives a picture of how a title deed functioned.

## 4. "That man of sin be revealed" The Antichrist is revealed.