

WILL THE SAVED GO THROUGH THE GREAT TRIBULATION?

INTRODUCTION:

One of the greatest controversies of our generation pertains to events surrounding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

The fact of Christ's return is clear and certain – *John 14:1-3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18*. Much of the Bible focuses upon the visible, personal, and triumphant return of Jesus Christ at the end of this age for His bride, (His church) and all the saved.

Most of the controversy pertaining to His Second Coming centers on the time of the events, not the fact of the events.

The most awesome event preceding the Second Coming of Christ To EARTH is called in the Bible "The Great Tribulation" – *Matthew 24:21; Revelation 7:14*.

These events are described in - *Revelation chapters 6 – 19*. This will be a time of unprecedented wrath and judgment of God upon those who have neglected God's way of salvation.

TRANS. SENTENCE:

Today's message will be dealing with the primary question: "Will The Saved Go Through The Great Tribulation Upon This Earth?"

I. A DEFINITION AND EXPLANATION OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

- A. This Will Be A Time Of Unprecedented Tribulation on The Earth – *Matthew 24:21-22*.
- B. This Period Was Prophesied In The Old Testament.
 - 1. This is the completion of the seventieth week of Daniel – *Daniel 9:24-27*.
- C. These Events Are Described In *Revelation chapters 6 to 19*. These Chapters Reveal Things That "Are Yet To Come" - *Revelation 1:19*.
- D. Christians Will Have Tribulation While On This Earth, But Not Like The Great Tribulation – *John 16:33; II Timothy 3:12; I Peter 4:12-16*

II. DIFERENT VIEWS REGARDING THIS CONTROVERSY

- A. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture View

- B. There Is The Mid-Tribulation Rapture View
- C. There Is The "Post-Tribulation Rapture" View.
- D. There Is "The Partial Rapture" View
- E. There Are Those Who Believe In No Rapture At All

III. BIBLICAL REASONS WHY I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT CHRISTIANS WILL GO INTO OR THROUGH THE TRIBULATION PERIOD.

- A. The Outline Of The Revelation Given By Inspiration Of God, Regarding The Future Is Given In – *Revelation 1:19*.
 - 1. This passage tells John to write:
 - a. The things he has seen – *Revelation 1*
 - b. The things which are – *Revelation 2-3*
 - c. The things, which shall come in the future *Revelation 4-22*.
 - 2. *Revelation 4:1* – speaks of things that will happen after the church age or day of grace.
 - a. The church is never mentioned between *chapters 4* and *19* of *Revelation*.
 - b. In *chapter 4* they go up to meet the Lord at the sound of a trumpet – *I Corinthians 15:51-52*; *I Thessalonians 4:16-17*
 - c. God pours out His wrath and judgment upon the earth and draws Israel to Himself – *Revelation 6-19*
 - d. The saved returns with Christ at the end of the Great Tribulation in - *Revelation 19:11-14*.
- B. Daniel's Seventieth Week Always Referred To God's Future Dealings With Israel. - *Romans 11:7-29* - clearly indicates that God is not finished with Israel.
- C. God Clearly Promised To Deliver His People From "The Great Day Of His Wrath" – *I Thessalonians 1:10*; *5:9-10*. We Are Not Looking For "the wrath of God", But, The Coming Of Jesus.
- D. Old Testament Types Illustrated The Removal Of God's People Before His Wrath Was Poured Out Upon Sinners.
 - 1. *Genesis 19:22* – It was necessary to remove Lot before God Judgment upon Sodom.
 - 2. In *Exodus 11:4* and *12:41*, it was necessary to put Israel under the blood before He released the death angel upon Egypt.
- E. The Removing Of The Saved Is The Event, Which Releases The Antichrist Upon The Earth – *II Thessalonians 2:1-8*.

1. The one who is "*withholding*" and "*restraining*" – *verse 6-7* are the saved.
2. Therefore, *in Revelation 6* you see the arriving of the Antichrist upon the earth immediately after the removing of the saved.

F. The Bible Repeatedly Refers To The Coming Of Christ As - "*a thief in the night*" – *Luke 12:39-40; I Thessalonians 5:2-4; II Peter 3:10.*

1. If Christ comes after the events described in *Revelation*, it would be a very predictable coming.
2. Yet, we are repeatedly warned to live with an awareness of the imminent return of Christ – *I John 2:28.*

G. Christians Are Told To Be Looking For Christ's Appearing, Not The Appearance Of The Antichrist – *Titus 2:11-13.*

1. Many Christians fail to distinguish between the Rapture and the Second Coming of Jesus.
 - a. The rapture of the saved is unpredictable, unannounced; and known only to God the Father - *Matthew 24:36.*
 - b. There will be very definite events taking place preceding His Second Coming to earth after the Great Tribulation.
2. Always Remember That Jesus Is Coming For His Own At The Rapture, And He Is Coming With His Own After The Great Tribulations.

CONCLUSION:

I realize there is disagreement on this study, even more so in the last few years. Still I do believe the scripture establishes the fact that the saved will be gone before the Tribulation begins.