

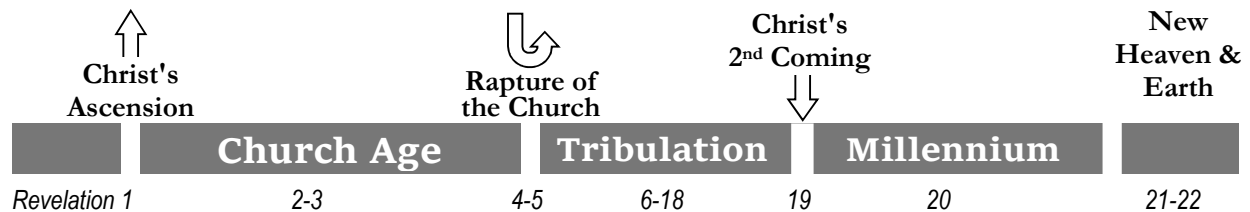


Revelation 6-10

TRIBULATION ON EARTH

John eagerly received the Word of God, but when he saw that more judgment was to follow, it brought travail of soul and sorrow of heart. It was sweet in his mouth and bitter in his digestive system. If you and I can take delight in reading this section of the Word of God and the judgments that are to fall upon the earth, then we need to do a great deal of praying to get the mind of God. It is sweet to know the Book of Revelation and what God intends to do, but when we find out that judgment is coming to the Christ-rejecting world around us, we cannot rejoice in that. The prophecy becomes bitter. —J. Vernon McGee

As humans, we seem to have an innate fascination with the end of the world. We sense that history is moving toward a climax, toward a destination, and, in some way, toward disaster. But what the world sees as an uncertain end, the believer sees as the final chapter of God’s story.



WHAT IS THE TRIBULATION?

He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. —Daniel 9:27

Ask and see: Can a man bear children? Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor, every face turned deathly pale? How awful that day will be! No other will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it. —Jeremiah 30:6-7

The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left. —Isaiah 24:5-6

Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! Why do you long for the day of the Lord? That day will be darkness, not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. —Amos 5:18-19

For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. —Matthew 24:21

We appear to be plunging into another Dark Age of tribal hate, planetary desolation, and wars multiplied by wars.

—Alvin Toffler, futurist

Should [nuclear] war erupt now, the environmental toll includes massive water contamination, radiation fallout, toxic rain, uncontrollable fires and the resultant inability to grow food.

—Jamie Peterson

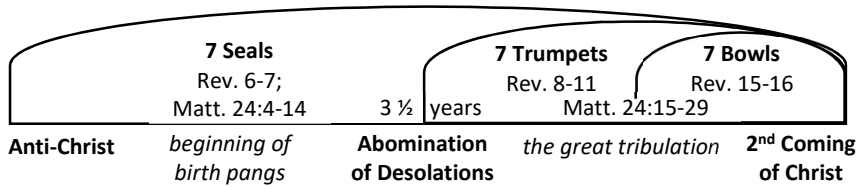
The Tribulation will be the darkest hour in human history.

—Mark Hitchcock

A prominent feature of Jewish eschatology, as represented especially by the rabbinic literature, was the time of trouble preceding Messiah's coming. It was called "the birth pangs of the Messiah."

—Millar Burrows

WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON EARTH?



- 1st Seal: Worldwide _____ (6:1-2)
- 2nd Seal: Worldwide _____ (6:3-4)
- 3rd Seal: Worldwide _____ (6:5-6)
- 4th Seal: Worldwide _____ (6:7-8)
- 5th Seal: Worldwide _____ (6:9-11)
- 6th Seal: Worldwide _____ (6:12-17)

The Interlude (7:1-17)

- Israel fulfills its _____ to be a kingdom of priests and a blessing to the nations (Gen. 12:3; Ex. 19:6; Is. 43:10).
- Many people—from all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues—come to faith during the tribulation and are martyred.

7th Seal: Seven trumpets and seven bowls intensify the worldwide distress and environmental devastation (8:1-9:21; 16:1-21). There is also an unleashing of full demonic power and oppression (9:1-21).

Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

—Matthew 24:22

HOW SHOULD WE LIVE NOW?

1 Cor. 15:58; 1 Th. 5:1-11; 2 Tim. 3:10-17; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Pet. 4:7-11

- Do not be _____. Put your hope in Jesus Christ!
- Do not be _____. Hold fast to God's Word!
- Do not be _____. Abound in the Lord's work!

I think what you have in the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls in Revelation matches the structure you have in Matthew 24. You have one series that takes you all the way to the end (24:4-14), the next one that reviews the second half (24:15-28), and then finally one that concentrates on the end (24:29-31). This is a typical Hebrew way of arguing: overview, restatement, and focus. And the focus of all three comes at the end of the age when Jesus Christ returns.

—Mark Bailey

Before the terrors of the tribulation break loose and lead to the battle of Armageddon there will come a period of world peace. But it will be a deceptive peace as the world is lulled into a false sense of security followed by war, famine, and death.

—John MacArthur, Jr.

6:5-6. *To put it in ordinary language, the situation would be such that one would have to spend a day's wages for a loaf of bread with no money left to buy anything else.*

—John Walvoord

The tribe of Dan is absent in this list perhaps because that tribe was the first to establish idolatry in Israel (Judg. 18:30; cf. 1 Kings 12:29-30). However the Danites will receive a portion of land in the Millennium (Ezek. 48:1-2).

—Thomas Constable

Both these groups in Revelation 7, the 144,000 and the saved multitude who are largely Gentiles, demonstrate clearly that the tribulation will be a period of much salvation.

—Charles C. Ryrie