

“The Tribulation” by E A Terry Delivered 03 31 19
Revelation 6: 1 – 17; Revelation 8: 1 – 13; Revelation 9: 1 -21; Revelation 11: 15 – 19;
Revelation 16: 1 – 21 (Sermon)

The Tribulation is the 7 year period that immediately precedes Jesus’ Second Coming to establish His eternal Kingdom on earth.

This 7 year period is divided into two 3 ½ year periods and the second 3 ½ year period is called the Great Tribulation (Revelation 7:14 and Matthew 24:21).

This 7 year period called The Tribulation is the same period as Daniel’s “*Seventh Week*” (Daniel 9:24-27) and “*The Time of Jacob’s Trouble*” (Jeremiah 30:7).

Chapters 6-19 in The Book of Revelation record a series of traumatic events describing God’s wrath and judgment being poured out on the earth during The Tribulation.

These terrible events are designed to get peoples attention and to give those people still living on the earth one more last chance to accept Jesus as their Savior.

The 7 year Tribulation ends with Jesus putting down all rebellion, Jesus punishing the people who refused to believe in Him, and Jesus destroying all evil and Satan.

The 7 Year Tribulation immediately follows The Rapture.

We looked at the Rapture on December 23rd.

Remember The Rapture is the time when the Church is removed from the earth.

So the good news is that Christians will be in heaven when The Tribulation takes place and Christians will not have to go through The 7 year Tribulation.

Today we will briefly look at God’s punishment and judgment on an unbelieving world.

We will not be identifying or discussing the various characters that appear during The Tribulation since as Christians we will be in heaven during the 7 year Tribulation.

However as Christians we need to know the purpose of the tribulation.

We all need to be reminded that God will not tolerate unbelief and / or sinful behavior and that God punishes sin.

We need to know the severity of God’s punishment of sin so that we will be quick to repent and ask The Lord for forgiveness and so we will appreciate what our Savior Jesus has saved us from.

Knowledge of The Tribulation should also make every Christian want to continually thank and praise Jesus every day for sparing us the pain and agony of The Tribulation.

As Christians we also need to know about the horrors of The Tribulation so we will warn non-believers and encourage non-believers to accept Jesus as their Savior.

During the tribulation the people on earth will be given many chances to repent of their sins and to ask Jesus Christ to be their savior.

Fortunately some people will repent, some will ask Jesus Christ to be their savior, and they will be saved during The Tribulation.

However, most people will not repent.

The people who do not repent will be severely punished.

Those people who do not repent will experience God's wrath while they are alive on earth and then they will spend eternity in hell.

Remember when The Apostle John was exiled on The Island of Patmos John was translated into heaven in a vision.

The Book of Revelation records the vision Jesus gave to The Apostle John.

In Revelation 5 we read that Jesus, The Lamb of God, was the only one who was worthy to open the scroll.

The scroll described the events that would occur during the 7 year tribulation and the scroll was sealed with 7 seals.

Revelation 6 describes the terrible events that **begin** the 7 year Tribulation.

When the 1st seal on the scroll is opened the Antichrist is released and the Antichrist begins his unrestrained reign on earth (Revelation 6:1-2).

Remember the restraining power of The Holy Spirit was removed from the earth at The Rapture.

When the 2nd seal on the scroll is broken all peace will be removed from the earth.

Violence and widespread killings will occur in every part on the earth. (Revelation 6:3-4).

This violence will be much more intense than the violence we are experiencing today.

When the 3rd seal is broken there will be a world-wide famine (Revelation 6:5-6).

When the 4th seal is broken, ***"1/4 of the people on earth will be killed by the sword, famine, plagues, and the wild beast of the earth"*** (Revelation 6:7-8).

When the 5th seal is broken widespread persecution will take place on earth. (Revelation 6:9-11).

When the 6th seal is broken a great earthquake occurs that moves every mountain and every island from their place.

The sun will turn black and the stars in the skies will fall to earth (Revelation 6:12-17).

Revelation 6:15-17: tells us that when this happened; ***“then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of The Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?’”***

Please note that we read the people knew God’s power and they knew God was causing their misery but they refused to ask God to save them.

Revelation 7 describes an interlude period between the 6th seal and the 7th seal.

Chapter 7 also answers the question raised at the end of chapter 6; ***“Who can withstand the great day of wrath that has come?”***

And the answer is the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (7:1 – 8) and their converts (7:9 – 17)

Revelation 8:1-5 describes the events that take place when the 7th seal on the scroll is broken.

“Fire from the altar was hurled to the earth and there was thunder, lightning, and an earthquake”.

When the 7th seal is broken 7 angels with 7 trumpets appear and are prepared to sound their trumpets.

The 7 trumpets signal the continuation of God’s judgment on an unbelieving earth.

The devastation that will occur with each trumpet is greater than the devastation that occurred when each seal was broken.

When an angel sounds the 1st trumpet hail and fire will be poured out on the earth and 1/3 of the earth, 1/3 of the trees, and 1/3 of the grain on earth will burn up (Revelation 8:7).

When an angel sounds the 2nd trumpet 1/3 of the sea will turn to blood and 1/3 of the creatures living in the sea will die and 1/3 of the ships on the sea will be destroyed (Revelation 8:8).

When an angel sounds the 3rd trumpet 1/3 of the water on earth will turn bitter and many people will die from the bitter water (Revelation 8:10-11).

When an angel sounds the 4th trumpet 1/3 of the sun, 1/3 of the moon, and 1/3 of the stars will turn dark. 1/3 of the earth will be without light (Revelation 8:12).

When an angel sounds the 5th trumpet the abyss will be opened and smoke from the abyss will darken the sun.

In addition, locusts come out of the smoke and for 5 months these locust will torture all the people who do not have The Seal of God on their forehead.

These locusts have teeth like lions and stingers like a scorpion in their tails.

Revelation 9:6 says, ***“During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.”***

When an angel sounds the 6th trumpet 1/3 of all mankind will be killed by three plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur (Revelation 9:18).

Revelation 9:20 states, ***“The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk.”***

In Revelation 13 we are introduced to The Anti-Christ.

The prefix “*anti*” means against and / or a counterfeit.

The Antichrist is a real person who is empowered by Satan.

The Antichrist will be given charismatic powers and he will promise peace and promise to solve the world’s problems.

But the Antichrist sets himself up to be world dictator.

The Antichrist will pledge protection for Israel but after 3 1/2 years, the Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and the Antichrist will defile the new temple that he allows the Jewish people to build.

In 2nd Thessalonians 2:4 The Apostle Paul tells us that The Antichrist will ***“exalt himself over everything that is called God or worshipped ... he will set himself up in the temple of God and proclaim himself to be God.”***

During this period the people who do not have the mark of The Beast will not be able to buy or sell anything.

Those people who refuse to worship The Beast will be killed. (13: 15 – 17)

Please remember that the Antichrist is simply a tool who God uses to carry out God’s eternal plan.

When an angel sounds the 7th trumpet there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. (Revelation 8:1)

After that seven angels appear with seven bowls filled with God’s wrath.

This marks the beginning of the second 3 1/2 years of the 7 year tribulation period.

The devastation that will occur when each trumpet is sounded is horrible but that devastation is not as great as the devastation that will occur when each of the seven bowls filled with God’s wrath are poured out on the earth.

In Revelation 16:1 we read; ***“Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.”***

When the 1st angel poured out his bowl filled with God's wrath on the land ugly festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and had worshiped its image. (16: 2)

When the 2nd angel poured out his bowl filled with God's wrath on the sea it turned into blood and every living thing in the sea died. (16:3)

When the 3rd angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and fresh water they became blood. (16:4)

When the 4th angel poured out his bowl filled with God's wrath on the sun the sun scorched the people with intense heat.

When the people were burned by the intense heat they cursed the name of God and they refused to repent and glorify Him. (16: 8 – 9)

When the 5th angel poured out his bowl filled with God's wrath on the earth the earth was plunged into darkness.

Then the people gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed The God of Heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done. (16:10 – 11)

When the 6th angel poured out his bowl on the great Euphrates River its water was dried up.

Then three demonic spirits appeared that performed miraculous signs and these demonic spirits stirred up the whole world to come together for The Battle of Armageddon.

When the 7th angel poured out his bowl into the air there was lightning, thunder, and a severe earthquake.

This earthquake was so severe that ***“the cities of the nations collapsed and the City of Jerusalem was split into three parts, every island disappeared and the mountains were leveled. The people cursed God when hailstones weighing about a hundred pounds fell to the earth.”*** (16:17 - 21)

The seal judgments, the trumpet judgments, and the bowl judgments inflicted on an unbelieving world are similar.

They all come in rapid succession.

But there are differences since the 4th seal judgment affected ¼ of the people, the first four trumpet judgments affect 1/3 of the earth and 1/3 of the people, while the bowl judgments are universal and are of much greater in intensity.

Some people ask; *“why would a loving God cause so much devastation and misery on people”*.

The answer is God has been patient with an unbelieving world for over 2000 years and giving people many opportunities to choose Jesus as their savior.

God has also been trying to get people's attention through a series of disastrous events.

Remember God's purpose is to get people to acknowledge that He is The One True Living God and for them to turn to Him.

There are four purposes for Christians to know about The Tribulation.

First if you have never asked Jesus to be your personal Savior and you do not want to go through The Tribulation and to spend eternity in hell you need to ask Jesus to save you before you leave here today.

Come up to me and say; I want Jesus to save me from the penalty of my sins. Friends today may be your last chance.

As horrible as The Tribulation will be for unsaved people The Tribulation is only a small fraction of the pain and suffering unbelievers will suffer in hell throughout eternity.

Secondly The Tribulation reminds us that God hates sin and God punishes unforgiven sin.

Third if you are a Christian knowing the horrors of The Tribulation should make all of us want to thank The Lord for saving our souls and for sparing us from going through the misery of The Tribulation.

Not only should we thank The Lord every day we should commit our lives to The Lord.

Forth knowing the horrors of The Tribulation should make everyone of us eager to tell the unsaved people God has put in our life about Jesus Christ.

The good news is that the church will be removed from the earth before The Tribulation begins so Christians will not have to endure the pain and the agony of God's wrath.

The good news is that some people will saved during the tribulation.

The bad news is that most people will not turn to The Lord during The Tribulation.

Instead they will curse God and blamed God for their misery. (16:1)

The good news is that when Jesus comes to earth again Jesus will put down all rebellion, Jesus will defeat the armies of the world, Jesus will destroy Satan and all evil, and Jesus will establish His eternal kingdom on earth.

Friends rejoice knowing that our God is in total control and that God is carrying out His eternal plan.

AMEN