

"The Great Tribulation"

(Or Tribulation According to the Bible - Rev.7:14)

What is "tribulation?" How is it used in the Bible?

Old Testament (KJV) the Hebrew word for it means "tight spot" or difficult time – trouble.

Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more. Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.

(Jdg 10:13-14)

NKJV translates it "distress."

New Testament Greek word means anguish, persecution, trouble.

How many different time periods are referred to in that language in the Bible?

Many:

Deuteronomy 4.30 of coming tribulation upon Israel hundreds of years later

During time of Judges – Judges 10.14

David's trouble running from Saul – 1 Sam. 26.24

Of Christians throughout the last time:

Matt. 13.21 a cause for falling away in any age

John 16.33 of disciples, apostles and all Christians generally

Acts 14.22 again generally all Christians will go through some tribulation

Many are concerned about "The Great Tribulation."

Most people are thinking only of one in particular, and usually it is a mixture of two times of tribulation mentioned and prophesied in the Scriptures.

Matthew 24.21 "great tribulation" and

Rev. 7.14 of those who had come out of "great tribulation" and had washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb.

But there are three specific periods of time referred to in the Bible as periods of tribulation, even great tribulation, but no "The Great Tribulation." All three are subjects of prophecy and we want to examine them briefly in this lesson.

Tribulation 1 – The time of “Jacob’s Trouble” Jer. 30.7

Prophecy began with Moses, if not before – Deut. 4.25-30 (Deut. 28:36-37)

Fulfilled in Babylonian captivity – Daniel 9:11, 13 and Lamentations

TEMPLE DESTROYED AUGUST 5, 586BC

A remnant returned – Deut. 4.29-31

Tribulation 2 – Destruction of Jerusalem

Prophesied by Old Testament prophet Daniel – Daniel 9.24-27

By the Lord – Luke 19.42ff; Luke 21.20; Matt. 23.37-38; Matt. 24.1-3

Fulfilled in destruction of Jerusalem 70AD

TEMPLE DESTROYED AUGUST 5, 70AD

Tribulation 3 – persecution of the saints (church)

Prophesied by Daniel – Daniel 7.23-25

Paul – 2 Thess. 2.1-12

John – Revelation 2.10; Rev. 7:14; Rev. 12:13-17; Rev. 13:7

Fulfilled during the time of Roman oppression against the church 64-410AD

(346 years, 3 1/2 centuries, signified by by 1260 days, 3.5 years, "time, times and dividing of time" of Revelation and Daniel)

Conclusion:

Does that mean we will not have tribulation? No.

What kind will we have?

When will it end? John 16:33; 2 Tim. 3:12

What will be the outcome of it all? 2 Cor. 1:10; 2 Tim. 4:18; John 16:33