

The Simple Truth Series #4

Why does there have to be a Great Tribulation?



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'And expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.' Acts 18:26.

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The events in the Book of Revelation do not run in chronological order, but many (as an example the Seven Church Ages, of Chapters 2 and 3, and the Seven Seals of Chapters 6 to 8), run concurrently, beginning at the same time. We are only concerned here with the events that give us a basic understanding of the reasons for, and the events in, the Great Tribulation. There are many other major events that will take place over this time, which we will not consider; the most important being World War Three, which will leave large areas of the U.S., and Europe, as radioactive wastelands.

The image in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, in Daniel 2:31-44, foretold the four Empires that would rule over the lands, inhabited by Israel and Christians until the return of Jesus Christ in Glory. The first was Babylon 606-536 B.C. Then Medo-Persia 536-330 B.C. Then Greece 330-30 B.C. Then Rome from 30 B.C. As the legs and feet of the Image (representing Rome) continued unbroken until their destruction by Jesus Christ at His return, so, Rome would rule uninterrupted until the end-time.

In 476 A.D. the Western Imperial Roman Empire ended, (the *'one head wounded to death,'* of Revelation 13:3), when the last Roman Emperor, Romulus Augustus, was deposed by Odoacer, a German Prince. Then, the Roman Empire continued to live on in Papal Rome, with the same Satanic spirit behind it, (Compare the identical descriptions of Imperial Rome in Daniel 7:7, with that of Papal Rome in Revelation 13:1-2), and Rome continued to dominate world affairs. Over the next 1500 years, more than 70 million Christians were murdered by Rome, because they would not accept her superstitions, instead of the revealed Word of the Living God in the Bible.

Today, Catholicism is wooing all apostate 'Christian' denominations, Islam, Eastern Religions, Wicca, Animists, Paganists, and all the other Cults and Religions that abound in a world without God, to form a 'World Religion' which she will dominate. But the Lord gives a warning to the 'True' Church not to be seduced by her lies. *'Come out of her My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto Heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.'* (Revelation 18:4-5).

Rome will be plagued and destroyed as punishment for its rejection of the Gospel, and persecution and murder of God's people through the centuries. *'And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the Saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.'* (Revelation 17:6). Anyone who joins the 'World Religion' with Rome, will also receive

the punishment given to her during the Tribulation.

The events coming upon the earth in the immediate and near future, will culminate in Satan's last desperate attempt to rule and reign over Creation as 'God,' which will be his incarnation in the Anti-Christ, (the last Pope), over the restored Imperial Roman Empire, (*'whose deadly wound was healed.'* Revelation 13:3).

The New World Order will be Satan's reign, through Godless people, with a Godless religion, making it a Godless world. Once the N.W.O. is in place, it will move quickly to establish its supremacy, and rid the world of anyone, or anything, opposed to it. All currencies will be devalued, and the 'Cashless' society will be introduced. Everyone will be forced to accept the 'Mark' of the N.W.O., or they will not be able to buy or sell. (Revelation 13:16-17). Many will not for various reasons, and will be hunted down and killed. There will be a terrible persecution of the 'True Church,' by the tyrannical 'False Church,' the World Religion. Millions will lose their lives during this persecution. Christians will be stripped of everything they own, and all they hold dear, when they will not accept the 'Mark of the Beast.'

When they cry out in desperation for the Lord to come and save them, the 'Spirit of God' will be withdrawn from the earth, and all Christians who have the Spirit of God living in them, will go with it, to meet the Lord in the air. (The 'Rapture' of the Church). *'Then we which are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.'* (1 Thessalonians 4:17). Sadly, millions who attend 'Church' regularly, and call themselves 'Christians,' but live completely self-centered, unregenerated lives, will find themselves still on earth after the Rapture, to endure the horrors of the Tribulation.

Salvation will then be over for the Gentiles, and the Lord will reveal Himself to Israel, who were blinded Spiritually, so that we could be saved. *'For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.'* (Romans 11:25).

Then, the 3 1/2 years of the 'Great Tribulation' will begin. *'For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world, to this time, no nor ever shall be.'* (Matthew 24:21). The reason for the 'Great Tribulation,' is because the Lord's Creation have rejected Him, and, by Political Legislation, have banned Him from Schools, Public, and Government buildings, and, through the 'World Religion,' will ban worshipping Him, speaking of Him, and gathering in His Name. The Tribulation is punishment for the world that has rejected Him, and especially for the Papal Church. *'And in her was found the blood of Prophets, and of Saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.'* (Revelation 18:24).

Once the Christians have been taken from the earth, Satan, through the World Government, and the World Religion, will unleash his fury upon Israel. *'Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.'* (Revelation 12:12). The Lord will then seal the Elect of Israel so the plagues will not harm them. *'And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the Tribes of the children of Israel.'* (Revelation 7:4).

We see them again in Revelation 14:1, when the Lord has revealed Himself to them. *'And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred and forty and four thousand, having His Father's Name written in their foreheads.'* Zechariah 12:10 tells us what will happen at that time. *'And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.'* *'And one shall say unto Him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then shall He answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'* (Zechariah 13:6).

The Lord's two Hebrew Prophets of Revelation 11 will be among this number. Most Christian Teachers refer to them as Moses and Elijah, because they have the same powers that Moses and Elijah had. *'And I will give power unto My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and three score days, (3 1/2 years), clothed in sackcloth. ...These have power to shut Heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophesy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.'* (Revelation 11:3,6). As it was in Egypt when Angels held the plagues in vials, until Moses spoke, *'Let there come frogs.'* etc, when the Angel could pour the plague upon the land, so, it will be during the Tribulation. Angels hold the plagues in vials, Revelation 16, and they cannot pour the plagues upon the earth, until one of these Prophets speaks the Word first.

The plagues include:

- sores upon those who have accepted the Mark of the Beast.
- sea became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.
- the rivers and fountains of waters became blood.
- men scorched with great heat.
- a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake and so great. (This earthquake will be so devastating, that all buildings, walls, and trees, will be shaken to the ground. Mountains will crumble, Islands will disappear. No wonder men cry out for the rocks to fall on them and hide them from the wrath of God. Revelation 6:16.)
- great hail, every stone about the weight of a talent. (About 40 kgs).

The world will hate the Prophets so much, because of the plagues, that the World Government, (U.N.) Armies will surround, and attack Jerusalem. *'For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the City shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished...'* (Zechariah 14:2). The two Prophets will be killed. *'And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. (Jerusalem). And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and a half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two Prophets tormented them that dwell on the earth''* (By calling the plagues forth, Revelation 11:7-10). But that isn't the end of them, because their testimony isn't finished yet.

'And after three days and a half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great Voice from Heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to Heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.' (Revelation 11:11-12). After this the Lord Jesus will return with His Saints, and the battle of Armageddon, which ends both Satan's, and Man's reign upon the earth, will take place, before the setting up of the Lord's Millennial Kingdom, and His physical Presence upon earth, living among His Redeemed People once again, as it was in the Garden of Eden.

The Lord has been patient with Mankind for the past 2000 years, offering everyone a free pardon for their sins, and Eternal Life. As Peter wrote *'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.'* (2 Peter 3:9).

No-one will have an excuse, but many will have regrets. There is only one place of absolute safety for anyone, and that is in Christ. There are only two sides to this, that is the winners, and the losers, and, as the end of the story is already made known in the Bible, it shouldn't be hard to make a choice. Your eternity is at stake, so choose wisely.

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Ed.D.