

My journey to understanding that the
Church will pass through
the Great Tribulation before the Rapture

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A bit about myself

My religious past / background

- Methodist – Family Church
- White garment church  *It was here as a boy of 8 to 10 years, that I dedicated my life to God.*
- Jehovah's Witness 'associate'

My salvation

Around midnight July 31, 1983 in my 6th year at the University, I was led to Christ by my friend, Akin Oluwatudimu

The Challenge

This was to do personal study on the pre-tribulation rapture teaching

- The challenge came from my friend, Tokunbo Ilesanmi in the early 1990s.
- Prior to this time, I have simply accepted the pre-tribulation teaching as ‘gospel’ truth. Never questioned or doubted it; and never carried out any personal study like the **Berean** brethren. **(This remains the situation for majority of believers today even pastors)**

How I went about the study

- I prayed that the Holy Spirit Himself teach and guide me to the truth direct from the Bible.
- Picking up Strong Concordance (on the KJV*), I checked up practically all the passages that relate to:
 - Tribulation
 - Wrath
 - Anti-Christ
 - The Beast, etc

***The KJV ideally should be used for such a study, for obvious reasons:** These words are given new 'equivalent' words in the 'modern' versions e.g. tribulation may become 'pressure', 'persecution' or 'suffering'

My initial observations

- That I have never read / come across what I discovered from the study in any Christian literature
- That I have never heard it from any believer including my teachers in the Lord.
- That many, like me, simply believed the pre-trib teaching without a second look.
- That many did not even show much interest generally in end time issues.

My findings – on tribulation

Regarding ‘*tribulation*’ – 1

- The word appears in the KJV 25 times:
 - 4 times in the OT (Deuteronomy, Judges and twice in 1 Samuel)
 - 21 times in the NT.
- The 4 times in the OT all referred to Israel
- The NT books where found are:
 - The Gospels: Matthew (3), Mark (1), John (1).
 - Acts (1), Romans (4); 2Corinthians (2), Ephesians (1), 1Thessalonians (1), 2Thessalonians (2) and Revelations (5)
- Of the 21 times in the NT:
 - it is associated with believers 19 times and
 - only twice in reference to unbelievers / backsliders

Regarding ‘*tribulation*’ – 2

- Two *adjectives* are associated with the word:
 - ‘*great*’ 2 times
 - **Revelation 2:22:** Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great *tribulation*, except they repent of their deeds.
 - **Revelation 7:14:** And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great *tribulation*, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
 - ‘*much*’ once
 - **Acts 14:22:** Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much *tribulation* enter into the kingdom of God.

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – OT (1)

VERSE: Deuteronomy 4:30

When thou art in ***tribulation***, and all these things are come upon thee, **even in the latter days**, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;

COMMENT

- ‘**When**’ – Not ‘If’ means it will happen following disobedience
- ‘**thou**’ means ‘Israel’, God’s people
- ‘**even in the latter days**’ – from that time till the end times

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – OT (2)

VERSE: Judges 10:14

Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you **in the time of your *tribulation*.**

COMMENT

‘**in the time of your**’: it will happen following disobedience

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – OT (3)

VERSE: 1 Samuel 10:19

And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all **your adversities and your tribulations**; and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.

COMMENT

- ‘**your adversities and your**

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – OT (4)

VERSE: 1 Samuel 26:24

And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all **tribulation**.

COMMENT

David’s unjust suffering is an example of the unjust tribulation of saints of all ages

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (1)

VERSE: Matthew 13:21

Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for **when** **tribulation** or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

COMMENT

- Jesus was talking about the experience of **believers**
- ‘**when**’ means it **will surely happen** to believers

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (2)

VERSE: Matthew 24:21

- For **then shall be great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

COMMENT

- The experience of God’s people in 1st century and later in the future
- ‘**then shall be**’ means it will surely happen

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (3)

VERSE: Matthew 24:29

- Immediately after the *tribulation of those days* shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

COMMENT

- The experience of God’s people later in the **future**

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (4)

VERSE: Mark 13:24

- But in those days, after that ***tribulation***, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

COMMENT

- Similar to previous slide.

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (5)

VERSE: John 16:33

- These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world **ye shall have tribulation**: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

COMMENT

- ‘**ye shall have**’ – tribulation is the lot of believers

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (6)

VERSE: Acts 14:22

- Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that **we must through much *tribulation* enter** into the kingdom of God.

COMMENT

- ‘**we must through much *tribulation***’ – tribulation is the lot of believers.
- ‘**much**’ = ‘**great**’

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (7)

VERSE: Romans 5:3

- And not only so, but **we glory in tribulations** also: knowing that **tribulation worketh patience;**

COMMENT

- ‘**we glory in tribulations**’ – Expected response to tribulation by believers.
- ‘**worketh patience**’ means it is for our good *ultimately* because ALL THINGS work together for our good.

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (8)

VERSE: Romans 8:35

- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

COMMENT

- Not even tribulation is *strong enough* to *separate us* from the *love of Christ*!

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (9)

VERSE: Romans 12:12

- Rejoicing in hope; patient in *tribulation*; continuing instant in prayer;

COMMENT

- Christian disposition under *tribulation*.

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (10)

VERSE: 2 Corinthians 1:4

- Who comforteth us in all our **tribulation**, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any **trouble**, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

COMMENT

- God will comfort the believer in times of **tribulation**.

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (11)

VERSE: 2 Corinthians 7:4

- Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am **exceeding joyful** in all our **tribulation**.

COMMENT

‘**exceeding joyful** in all **our tribulation**’

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (12)

VERSE: Ephesians 3:13

- Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my ***tribulations*** for you, which is your glory.

COMMENT

Others should ‘faint not’ in Paul’s tribulations. His troubles are for their good.

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (13)

VERSE: 1 Thessalonians 3:4

- For verily, when we were with you, **we told you before that we should suffer *tribulation*; even as it came to pass**, and ye know.

COMMENT

‘we told you before that **we should** suffer ***tribulation***’ and it **surely** came to pass.

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (14)

VERSE: 2 Thessalonians 1:4

- So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in **all your persecutions and *tribulations* that ye endure:**

COMMENT

‘**all your persecutions and *tribulations* that ye endure:**

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (15)

VERSE: 2 Thessalonians 1:6

- Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense **tribulation** to them that trouble you;

COMMENT

One place where **tribulation** was associated with unbelievers / backsliders.

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (16)

VERSE: Revelation 1:9

- I John, who also am your brother, and **companion in tribulation**, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

COMMENT

‘**companion in tribulation**’: John’s tribulation experience as exile in Patmos.

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (17)

VERSE: Revelation 2:9

- **I know** thy works, and **tribulation**, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

COMMENT

‘**I know**’ means God is fully aware we shall have tribulation in this world.

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (18)

VERSE: Revelation 2:10

- Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and *ye shall have tribulation* ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

COMMENT

‘ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death’

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (19)

VERSE: Revelation 2:22

- Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great **tribulation**, except they repent of their deeds.

COMMENT

A second verse where **tribulation** was associated with unbelievers / backsliders.

The ‘tribulation’ *verses* with comments – NT (20)

VERSE: Revelation 7:14

- And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, **These are they which came out of great *tribulation*, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

COMMENT

Who
are
these
but believers?

Other *tribulation*-related scriptures

Isaiah 43:2 says ..

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Believers enjoined to *endure*

Matthew 10:22

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. (Also Matthew 24:13, Mark 13:13)

Mark 4:17

And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

2 Thessalonians 1:4

So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

2 Timothy 2:3

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:10

Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

2 Timothy 3:11

Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Believers enjoined to *endure* (cont.)

2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2 Timothy 4:5

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Hebrews 6:15

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

Hebrews 10:32

But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

Believers enjoined to *endure* (cont.)

Hebrews 11:27

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Hebrews 12:2

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:3

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds

James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 5:11

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

1 Peter 2:19

For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

Faith and Patience enjoined

2 Thessalonians 1:4

So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

Luke 21:19

In your patience possess ye your souls.

Romans 5:3

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Romans 5:4

And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Faith and Patience enjoined

Romans 8:25

But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with **patience** wait for it.

Romans 15:4

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through **patience** and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

2 Corinthians 6:4

But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in **much patience**, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

Colossians 1:11

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto **all patience and longsuffering** with joyfulness;

Faith and Patience enjoined

Hebrews 6:12 - That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 10:36 - For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Hebrews 12:1 - Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **let us run with patience** the race that is set before us,

James 1:3-4

Knowing this, that **the trying of your faith worketh patience.** But **let patience have her perfect work**, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 5:7

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath **long patience** for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Faith and Patience enjoined

James 5:10

Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for **an example of suffering affliction**, and of **patience**.

2 Peter 1:6

And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to **patience** godliness;

Revelation 1:9

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and **patience** of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Faith and Patience enjoined

Revelation 2:2-3

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy **patience**, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Revelation 2:19

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and **faith**, **and thy patience**, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Revelation 3:10

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Faith and Patience enjoined

Revelation 13:10

He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. **Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**

Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Matt 23:29-39

29 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. 30 And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' 31 So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of the sin of your forefathers! 33 "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? 34 Therefore **I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.**

35 And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 I tell you the truth, all this will come upon this generation. 37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you **who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you,** how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. 38 Look, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

John 16:1-5

- 1 "All this I have told you so that you will not go astray.
- 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God.
- 3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me.
- 4 I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you.....

Rom 8:36-39

36 As it is written, **For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.**

37 Nay, **in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

38 For **I am persuaded**, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Peter 4:12-13

‘fiery trial which is to try you’

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the **fiery trial which is to try you**, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, **when his glory shall be revealed**, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Heaven's Hall of Fame – Hebrews 11:33-40

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. 39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

My findings – on wrath

Regarding ‘wrath’

- The word appears in the KJV 200 times:
 - 152 times in the OT
 - 48 times in the NT.
- It referred to:
 - Wrath of God e.g. against individuals, group, Israel and other nations
 - Wrath of man e.g. of Portifar, of Aheuseurus, etc
 - Wrath of the devil (only 1 time in the entire Bible – Revelation 12:12)

Our main *concern* is ‘wrath’ in the NT

- The word appears in the 48 times in the NT.
- It referred to:
 - Wrath of God – 31 or 32 times against unbelievers
 - Wrath of man – 15 times
 - Wrath of the devil – only 1 or 2 times against the inhabitants of the world

Believers and the *wrath of God*

John 3:18

He that believeth on him is not condemned:

John 3:36

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:

Romans 5:9

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, **we shall be saved from wrath** through him.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

And **to wait for his Son from heaven**, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which (who) **delivered us from the wrath** (of God = tribulation for those who 'believeth not') **to come**.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

For **God hath not appointed us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Unbelievers and the *wrath of God*

Matthew 3:7

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, **O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the *wrath* to come?**

Luke 3:7

Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, **O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the *wrath* to come?**

John 3:18

..... he that believeth not is **condemned already**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36

..... he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the **wrath** of God abideth on him.

Unbelievers and the *wrath of God* (cont.)

Romans 1:18

For the *wrath* of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness

Romans 2:5

But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself *wrath* against the day of *wrath* and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Romans 2:8

But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and *wrath*,

Romans 9:22

What if God, willing to shew his *wrath*, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

Unbelievers and the *wrath of God* (cont.)

Ephesians 2:3

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature **the children of wrath**, even as others.

Ephesians 5:6

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon **the children of disobedience**.

Colossians 3:6

For which things' sake the **wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:**

1 Thessalonians 2:16

Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is **come upon them to the uttermost**.

Unbelievers and the *wrath of God* (cont.)

Revelation 6:16-17

And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from **the *wrath* of the Lamb**: For the great day of his *wrath* is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Revelation 11:18

- And the nations were angry, and thy ***wrath*** is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Unbelievers and the *wrath of God* (cont.)

Revelation 14:8, 10

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Revelation 14:19

And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

Unbelievers and the *wrath of God* (cont.)

Revelation 15:1

And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels **having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the *wrath* of God.**

Revelation 15:7

And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the ***wrath* of God**, who liveth for ever and ever.

Revelation 16:1

And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the ***wrath*** of God upon the earth.

Revelation 16:19

And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his ***wrath***.

Unbelievers and the *wrath of God* (cont.)

Revelation 18:3

For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

Revelation 19:15

And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

*My findings – that there is a
misunderstanding, some confusion*

.....that the Church
is equating the *prophetic* ‘great tribulation’
with the wrath of God *only*!

My findings – the links

Tribulation *versus* Wrath

The Wrath of God



Is Tribulation for the unbelieving world

The Wrath of the devil



Is Tribulation essentially for the *people of God: Jews and Christians* alike.

Who executes who's wrath?

The Wrath of God



Is executed by the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lamb of God

The Wrath of the devil



Is executed by the Beast, the anti-Christ

Humanity *classified* for *salvation* according to
1 Cor 10:32-33

32 Give none offence, neither to the **Jews**, nor to the **Gentiles**, nor to the **church** of God:

33 Even as I please **all men** in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

Tribulation is the lot of **ALL** men!

Jews, Christians and the world

depending on who is the author and agency of the wrath
God through Christ **or** Satan through antichrist!

In effect there are
3 *prophetic* 'Great Tribulations' for **ALL** men!

One each for

- Jews – time of Jacob's trouble
- Christians and
- Gentiles (World) -

Tribulation for the Jews - Jer 30:4-7

4 And these are the words that the Lord spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah.

5 For thus saith the Lord; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.

6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?

7 **Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.**

Tribulation for the saints - Rev. 7:9-14

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, **These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

Tribulation for the world - Rev 6:12-17

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from **the wrath of the Lamb**:

17 For **the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?**

What the *pre-trib* theory teaches

- **Just before** the antichrist appears on the world scene, the church is raptured.
- Those who are '**left behind**' includes **backslidden** believers and unbelievers.
- Some backslidden believers now repent and face the terror of the antichrist as they refuse to take his mark. They are killed and save themselves through **martyrdom**. Some unbelievers also repent and die likewise.
- These ones who die through martyrdom are referred to as the '**tribulation saints**'
- Antichrist reaches peace agreement with Israel for 7 years but breaks it in the middle of the peace period
- Tribulation is on earth, but the Church is in heaven.

The *problem* with the *pre-trib* position

1. The name **antichrist** means: 'in place of' as well as 'against'. The antichrist is **both** an **impostor** and **opposer** of Christ.
2. As antichrist he is against Christ and all that belong to Him – His people – Jews and Christians. There is no way he can touch Jesus direct, so he turns against His people. **If the believers/church has gone, antichrist is not properly antichrist in name. He would only be anti-Jew and anti-Israel.**
3. The world will hail antichrist. They will see him as a saviour. They are already his. The real aim of the antichrist is to get God's people away from Christ by pretending to be the expected One. **He wont have such opportunity if the Church has gone. Many Jews will actually believe him until it is too late!**
4. In better times backslidden believers could not stand for the Lord. How easy will they stand under the beast. Also the 'rapturable' believers and pastors are in heaven, who will support and guide these ones left behind. The Bible is banned or a new corrupt version is allowed

The *problem* with the *pre-trib* position (cont.)

5. Who is the **mark of the beast** really meant for? The people of the world that already belong to Satan and to whom having a mark is no big deal and actually of no consequence in essence (they go to hell mark or no mark) **or** believers to force them reject Jesus.
6. **No one** is ever saved through martyrdom, but by the blood of the lamb!
7. Backslidden believers don't deserve to be called 'saint'.

Concerning the word ‘*saint*’

- One of the names / titles of believers.
- It is the **most glorious** of our titles because it **conveys** godliness and holiness.
- We easily don’t mind saying we are born again, Christian, child of God, etc but although we know we are saints we rarely use the word in reference to ourselves.
- It is the **most appropriate** and **most befitting** title for the believer during the world’s darkest moment in history under antichrist, Satan incarnate himself.
- During the period of darkness and horrific sins God’s light shines through His saints who would remain faithful to the end!

The pre-trib teaching as a major reason for the *apostasy*, ‘the great falling away’

The pre-trib teaching says, ‘Don’t you worry, before antichrist comes, Jesus takes you away’. So when people suddenly realise their error when they meet antichrist, the rapture yet to occur and not having prepared before hand they fall away under pressure.

Consider

How can God take away His champions before the final conflict? Only backslidden believers and new believers will now be left behind to stand for God?

They were ‘yo-yo’ Christians before the antichrist emerged and will they be suddenly strong to face the antichrist?

Consider

Moses faced Pharaoh

David faced Goliath

The Apostles faced the Jews and Rome

Protestants faced the Popes

But we, surrounded by the cloud of witnesses and to whom much is given will just dodge the enemy?

Consider

Satan's greatest delight is to see God's people of ALL AGES suffer. He will do it **most severely** against the last generation of Christians 'upon whom (truly) the end of the world have come'.

Consider

We are in a **race**, a **relay race** in fact. The believers that carry the ‘baton’ last have the greatest challenge to win the race for all, for themselves and for the glory of God!

Consider

Up till the 19th century, believers expected that the church will be dealt with by the final antichrist. But this changed towards the end of that century and has remained to this day.

The argument that ‘Church’ is missing in Revelations after chapter 3

.....is of no consequence. Our salvation is individualised. Each saint will be tried not a church, group or denomination. Salvation is about *personal responsibility!*

Consider, if the pre-trib teaching is correct

.... those of us who believe we will pass through antichrist generated tribulation will still be raptured because though we have prepared for the worst, and it hasn't happen, our preparation in love, faith, holiness and faithfulness makes us rapturable!

Consider, if the pre-trib teaching is wrong

..... our preparation will still help us to face the fire of the antichrist while those who did not, who were promised / taught soft landing will find it more difficult to resist the enemy. The pre-trib teaching will make believers unprepared to stand to the end against antichrist because they have been assured that they would never meet this son of perdition.

Today in the Church ...

- Hardly are end time issues discussed, preached or taught.
- The dominant issues are: prosperity, miracles, personal development, motivational talks, etc
- Songs like, 'Me I no go suffer, I no go beg for bread ...God of miracles, na my papa o' and 'The God that answereth by fire, let Him be my God ...' reflect our thoughts and attitudes, orientation
- Many have no depth in the word
- Many of us have poor relational testimonies
- Evangelism is relegated to the background
- Mission work is poorly supported
- The world has entered the Church. We have adopted e.g. its fashion trends, its entertainment, etc
- Money is being worshipped
- We are engrossed in projects (e.g. building Church Palaces) and programmes, etc

The condition in which the Church is

....right now is appalling! Jesus must not come now to meet us this way! We are simply not ready for the Lord, because he is coming back for a Church that is without spot or wrinkle. A glorious Church!! The world is going to get more and more unliveable for us because of sin. Lot was so much in pain in Sodom.

Finally, God's people have generally been delivered at the *height of their suffering*

.....it will be so in future for believers. Rapture will take place at the *height of the greatest persecution of living saints never seen or experienced before!* We have been warned adequately.

Let those who have ears
hear ‘what the Spirit is saying’!

Thank you all for listening