



## Lifted Up The Great Tribulation

Matt 24:21-22

21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

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1. God will use the great tribulation to fulfill His promise to the Jews.

The great tribulation is a story that occurs in the future. It is the story of how God fulfills His promises to the Jews.

God has promised the Jews....

- They would have a Ruler.

He would deliver them from their enemies.

He would rule over all the nations of the earth.

He would rule from the city of Jerusalem.

- They would be filled with God's Spirit
- They would be true followers of God's Word

God will use the great tribulation to fulfill what He has promised the Jews.

2. God will also use the great tribulation to fulfill His promise to Satan.  
He will overthrow the god of this age and put an end to his tyranny.
  3. God will use the great tribulation to fulfill His promise to the world.
  4. God will use the great tribulation to fulfill His promise to His Son, Jesus.  
He will exalt His Son Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- The story begins with all the nations of the world against the nation of Israel.
  - A powerful political figure forges a peace treaty between Israel and the other nations.

This political figure has an evil agenda.

1. His agenda is to rule all the nations of the world.
2. His agenda is to rid the world of the Jews and Christians.
  - Two Jewish men begin to witness to the Jews in Israel that Jesus is their messiah.
  - The world begins to experience a series of catastrophic events unlike anything the world has ever experienced since the days of Noah.

In the Great Tribulation there is a degree of violence that is unparalleled in all of history!

In the days of Noah, the wicked died over a 40-day period from one catastrophic event; the great flood.

In the great tribulation, there are 20 catastrophic events over a period of 7 years. That is an average of one every four months.

The scope and magnitude of these events increases the seven-year period.

The first mention of the Tribulation in the Bible is found in [Deuteronomy 4:27-30](#). Before the Children of Israel entered the Promised Land, Moses warned them that if they were unfaithful to God, they would be scattered among the nations.

He then prophesied that *"in the latter days"* they would come under *"distress,"* and the result would be their *"return to the Lord."*

Centuries later, Jeremiah used the same terminology when he referred to the Tribulation.

He called it *"the time of Jacob's distress"* ([Jeremiah 30:7](#)).

In like manner, Daniel called it *"the time of distress,"* and he prophesied it would be the worst period of trouble in the history of the Jewish people ([Daniel 12:1](#)).

Malachi stated it would be a time of refining for the Jews, as when silver is purified by fire ([Malachi 3:1-4](#)).

And Zechariah used the same imagery when he prophesied that two-thirds of the Jewish people will perish during this time. Of the remnant remaining, he wrote, *"I [the Lord] will bring the third part through the fire [and] refine them as silver is refined..."* ([Zechariah 13:8-9](#)).

The Jews will not be the only ones to suffer during this period of unparalleled trouble. The Bible makes it clear that all the nations of the world will experience catastrophic calamities.

Isaiah says it will be *"a day of reckoning"* for all the nations of the world ([Isaiah 2:10-17](#)).

Zephaniah says that *“all the earth will be devoured in the fire of God’s jealousy”* ([Zephaniah 1:18](#)).

Here’s how the psalmist Asaph put it:

*“A cup is in the hand of the Lord, and the wine foams... surely, all the wicked of the earth must drain and drink down its dregs”* ([Psalm 75:8](#)).

Isaiah wrote that it will be a day of *“terror of the Lord”* when *“the pride of men will be abased”* ([Isaiah 2:10,17,19](#)).

Zephaniah proclaimed that it will be a *“day of wrath,” “a day of trouble and distress,”* and *“a day of destruction and desolation”* ([Zephaniah 1:15](#)).

Men will stumble around like they are blind and *“their blood will be poured out like dust”* ([Zephaniah 1:17](#)).

The Apostle John states that the chaos will be so great that the leaders of the world will crawl into caves and cry out for the rocks of the mountains to fall upon them ([Revelation 6:15-16](#)).

During the first 3 and one-half years of the tribulation, this political figure uses the catastrophic events to secure his power and promote his agenda.

After 3 and one-half years of the tribulation, this political figure’s agenda is exposed, and his plans begin to fall apart. He kills the two witnesses. He desecrates the temple in Jerusalem. He begins the extermination of the Jews and all Christians.

As the magnitude of the catastrophic events increases in the last three and one-half years of the great tribulation, this political figure is fighting for his survival and every nation that remains is fighting for survival.

The last catastrophic event is a great battle in the middle east.

Jesus ends the battle by His return. He kills this political figure and everyone that is following Him. Jesus receives the power and glory He deserves and ushers in a new age on the earth. This age is called the millennium.

When will the great tribulation begin?

1. The Bible says it will begin at a time when the world comes together against Israel ([Zechariah 12:2-3](#)).
2. The Bible says it will occur during a time when certain sins characterize people in the world. (2 Tim. 3:1-4)

2 Tim 3:1-4

1But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers,  
disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,  
3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,  
4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...  
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Just like the great flood in the days of Noah, the great tribulation is an event that will begin on a particular day and at a particular hour.

People will be eating and drinking. People will be getting married. People will be working to make a living. People will be living normal lives believing they are safe.

Suddenly, the first in a series of catastrophic events will occur that God will use to fulfill His promises.

Jesus will be lifted up! The first time Jesus came He was lifted up on a tree and became a curse for the sins of mankind. The second time that Jesus comes He will be lifted up as the Kings of Kings and Lord of Lords.

How should we respond to this story?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

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This story should...

- Create urgency in the church
  1. Purity (1 John 3:2-3)

This prophecy challenges me to not love the world or the things of the world.

2. Proclamation (Joel 2:1)

The day of the Lord challenges me to love Jesus and to share Him with others. By faith, I need to lift Jesus up right now as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It is so easy for the church to become something other than Jesus's church and what He intended for it to be. The only way to change is to rediscover the Word of God.

- Cause unbelievers to reconsider what you believe

Will you receive Jesus?

Will you believe these prophecies and become intentional about making disciples for Jesus?

What are the catastrophic events of the great tribulation?

- I. That which restrains evil will be removed.

Revelation 6:4

4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

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- II. There is a great economic recession accompanied by inflation.

Revelation 6:6

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

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- III. One fourth of the world's population dies from murder, hunger, and wild animals.

Revelation 6:8

8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

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- IV. A massive earthquake levels mountains and moves islands and asteroids crash into the earth.

Revelation 6:12-16

12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves 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 who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

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- V. Hail and fire, mingled with blood fall from the sky and burn up one third of the trees and all the grass.

Revelation 8:7

7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

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- VI. A great asteroid crashes into the ocean, pollutes one third of the sea, destroys one third of all sea creatures, and destroys one third of the world's ships.

Revelation 8:8-9

8 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

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- VII. A great asteroid falls and pollutes one thirds of the rivers and springs of waters.

Revelation 8:10-11

10 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

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- VIII. One third of the sun, the moon, and the stars are darkened to shorten the days and extend the nights.

Revelation 8:12

12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

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IX. A plague of insect's torments people for five months.

Revelation 9:3-6

3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.

6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

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X. Plagues destroy a third of mankind

Revelation 9:13-19

13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed — by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.

19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

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XI. God sends two messengers to prophesy during these events and they kill anyone that opposes them using fires, drought, environmental pollution, and plagues.

Revelation 11:3-6

3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.

5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

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XII. Multitudes are slain in a great battle

Revelation 14:20

20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs. NKJV

XIII. Sores cover the wicked

Revelation 16:2

2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

XIV. The sea is polluted, and every sea creature dies.

Revelation 16:3

3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.

XV. All rivers and streams are polluted with blood.

Revelation 16:4-7

4. Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, because You have judged these things.

6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due." 7 And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

XVI. Men are scorched by great heat from the sun.

Revelation 16:8-9

8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.

9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

XVII. Darkness covers the earth and men gnaw their tongues and blaspheme God because of the pain and their sores

Revelation 16:10-11

10 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.

11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

XVIII. Men rise up together to destroy the Jews and oppose God

Revelation 16:12-16

12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. 15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

XIX. A final mighty earthquake destroys all cities, levels all remaining mountains, and removes every island. This leads to a final hail storm that that covers the earth will 100-pound hail stones.

Revelation 16:17-21

17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

18 And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

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XX. What remains of unbelievers are slain in a final battle

Revelation 19:17-21

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,

18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.  
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