



## The Great Tribulation

In Matthew 24 Jesus was asked by his disciples what will be signs of your coming and the end of the age.

- The beginning of sorrows(verses 1-8) The signs of the end(verses 9-14)
- The great tribulation(verse 15-28)

Matt 24:15-28

15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 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.

23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand.

26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

NKJV

It is at the end of this tribulation and these judgments that Jesus returns.

Matt 24:29-31

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of

the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.  
NKJV

The book of Revelation contains the specific events of a period of time called the great tribulation. The prophetic details of the book of Revelation will only be fully understood by those followers of Jesus who are living on earth during the tribulation. It is written for their encouragement and hope.

In Revelation 5, God the Son takes a sealed scroll from God the Father. He opens the scroll by breaking the seven seals one at a time. By breaking the seals He unleashes three series of divine judgments on earth during the great tribulation.

1. Seven seal judgments(Rev. 6-7)
2. Seven trumpet judgments(Rev. 8-11)
3. Seven bowl of wrath judgments(Rev. 12-18)

In Matthew 24:15-28 Jesus only gave a brief overview of the events of this period of time.

What makes this final tribulation so great is...

- These judgments affect the whole world
- These judgments are of a magnitude that the world has not experienced since the days of Noah
- These judgements cause the deaths of 75% of the world's population.

In one of those events called the battle of Armageddon the blood of the enemies of God is said to flow as deep as a horse's bridal. (Revelation 14:20).

Why is there a great tribulation and these great judgments before the second coming of Jesus and the end of the age? Why does God judge the world in these ways before the final judgment?

- To fulfill prophecy
- To fulfill God's promise of justice to His children

What is that promise?

Rev. 6:10-11

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed. NKJV

Rev 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."

NKJV

Rev 18:20

20 "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"

NKJV

Rev 19:1-3

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!  
2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."

NKJV

The blood of the saints that has been shed will be shed on earth.

2 Thess. 1:3-6

3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for

your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, 5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, NKJV

The great tribulation occurs because it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble His children.

God abhors the shedding of innocent blood. God's judgment of the world through the great flood during the days of Noah was precipitated by the shedding of innocent blood.

His indignation is stirred even more by those who shed the blood of His children.

The world events that precede the great tribulation and those that occur during the tribulation will cause unbelievers to be offended by believers, to betray us, to hate us, and to kill us.

Matt 24:9-11

9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

NKJV

It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you.

The judgments of God during the great tribulation are God's vengeance upon those who trouble His children.

- God repaid Amalek for Israel.(I Samuel 15:2)
- God repaid Israel for the prophets and for Jesus.(Luke 11:46-51; Luke 19:41-44)

Luke 11:46-51

46 And He said, "Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. 47 Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. 48 In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs. 49 Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,' 50 that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, 51 from the blood of

Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple.  
Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.  
NKJV

- God will repay the world for His children.

How should this truth about God change those of us who are His children?

- It should make us feel loved and secure

I have never experienced such persecution. But if it did occur, it would make me feel really loved to know that God personally thinks so much of me that He would pour out His vengeance on my enemies. To think that I am that personally cherished by Him is overwhelming.

It is like knowing that God loves the world but then understanding for the first time that you were personally chosen and adopted by God. It should make you feel loved and secure to know that if you suffer persecution for Him, He is going to repay those who cause you to suffer.

- It should make us more devoted to Him

In light of this revelation, it should cause us to examine ourselves for any blemish in our lives so that we can change it. He who has this hope in himself purifies himself. It should cause us to carefully watch over our salvation.

- It should make us very concerned about others who are not prepared for The Great Tribulation.

Knowing that through these events in the great tribulation God is going to judge the world and that what happens in this world is just a prelude to His eternal vengeance, we should be sounding the warning. It should cause us to be more passionate and intentional about being a watchman on the wall who is sounding the alarm.

Perhaps you have never thought that you deserve God's vengeance because you have never persecuted Jesus or one of His children.

But indeed you have.

You have persecuted Him by not believing in Him. You deny the truth about Him and lead others to believe a lie.

You have persecuted Him by rebelling against Him. You rebel against His authority and lead others to rebel. You are guilty of treason.

You are just as guilty of treason as those who beat Him and drove the nails through His hands.

If you profess that you are on His side let me ask you a question. If you were put in a position in which you had to choose to either die with His children or join those who are killing them, what would you choose?

God knows right now what you would choose and if Jesus returned today you would be judged accordingly and you would have no defense.

The apostle John said that a lack of love for His children reveals your true spiritual condition.

If you are persecuting Jesus right now by your unbelief and by your rebellion, my prayer for you is may the Lord forgive you. Jesus has made it known that He is willing to forgive. But to be forgiven you must come on over to His side. He came and died so that you can be redeemed through His blood and be forgiven of your sins. Will you choose His side?