

WILL CHRISTIANS GO THROUGH THE TRIBULATION?

End Times Bible Study – Pt. 3

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Luke 21:25-26

I. THE COMING SEVEN-YEAR TRIBULATION

*“There will be **signs** in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in **anguish** and **perplexity** at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint **from terror**, **apprehensive** of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be **shaken**.”* Luke 21:25-26¹

*“For those will be **days** of such **horror** as **have never been** since the beginning of God's creation, nor will ever be again. And unless the Lord shortens that time of **calamity**, not a soul in all the earth will survive. But for the sake of his chosen ones he will limit those days.”*

Mark 13:19-20 (LB)

(More **details** on the Tribulation are found in **Revelation** chapters 6-18)

The Bible refers to the Tribulation as:

“The Day of the Lord”

“The Time of Trouble”

“The Day of Vengeance”

“The Indignation”

“The Vengeance of God”

“The Hour of Trial”

“The Hour of Judgment”

“The Tribulation”

“The Great Tribulation”

“The Time of Jacob's trouble”

“The Wrath of God”

“The Day of Wrath”

“The Day of distress”

“Israel's Calamity”

“Desolation”

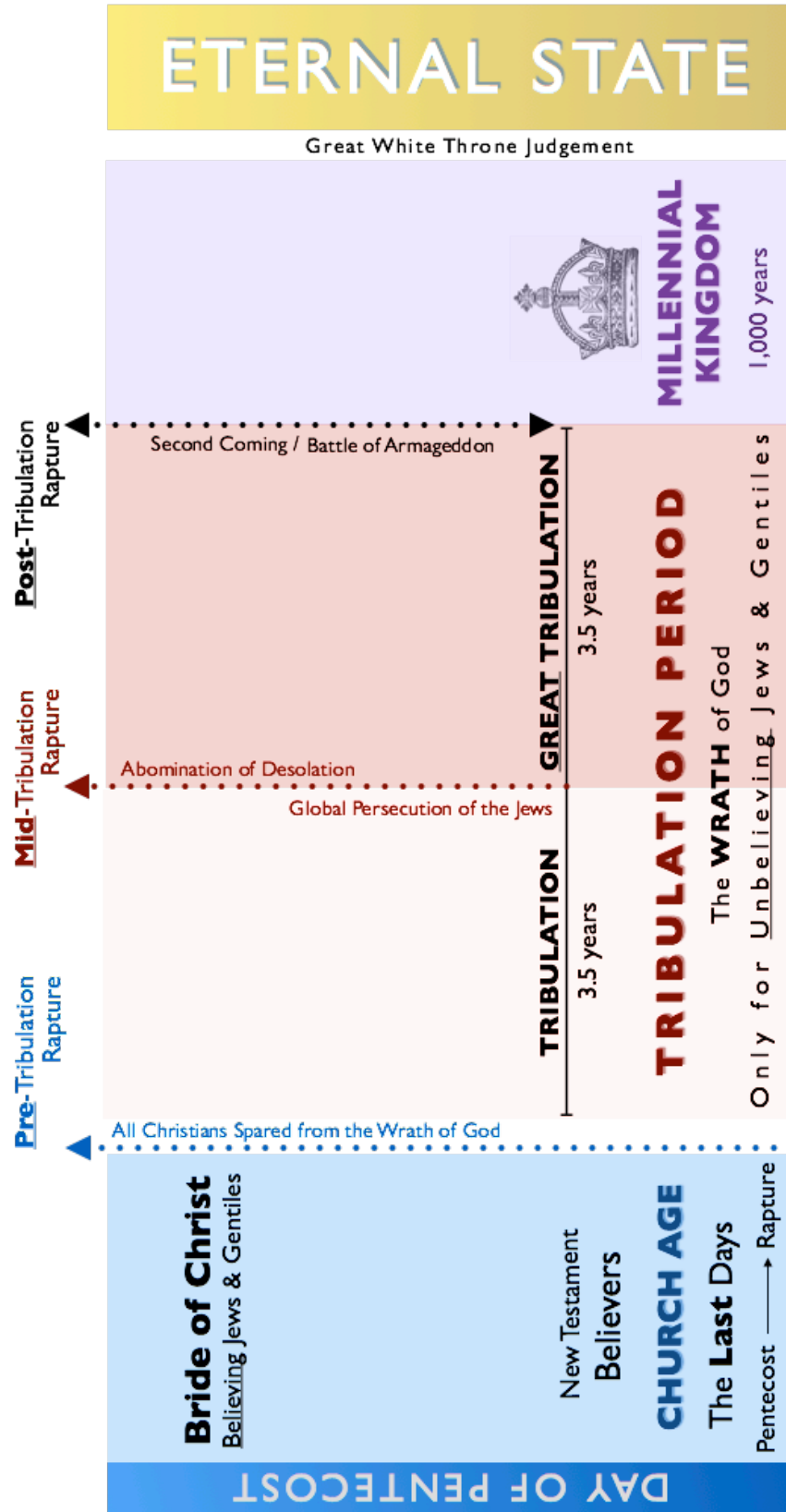
“Darkness”

“Gloominess”

¹ All Scripture is quoted from the NIV94 unless otherwise noted.

The Rapture of the Church

Three Views



II. HOW TO INTERPRET BIBLE PROPHECY

1. The _____ Interpretation is **based** upon the common **rules** of **language**, the **historical** and cultural **backgrounds**, and the **Scriptures context**.
2. The _____ Interpretation is based upon an **assumed** deeper meaning of the text and considers a literal approach as **secondary** or not at all.

*“All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*
2 Timothy 3:16-17

*“Above all, you must understand that **no prophecy of Scripture** came about by the prophet’s **own** interpretation. For prophecy **never** had its **origin in the will** of man, but men **spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**”* 2 Peter 1:20-21

“Bible passages should be interpreted by the grammar, the history, the social context, and the religious background—that is, **in a normal and literal way**. When we come to a prophetic passage, our commitment **must be to understand that passage according to the accepted laws of language and not to seek some mystical or figurative interpretation**. It is essential, therefore, to have this literal mind-set as we approach the prophetic Word of God.”

-Tim Lahaye: *The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy*, 149-50.

“Those who spiritualize prophecy work on the principle that these portions of the Bible have a hidden meaning. They **assume** that the literal approach **obscures** the real, deep meaning of the passage. However, **abandoning the literal as the primary meaning is a terribly arbitrary way to approach the prophetic Scriptures.**”

– Dr. Paul Benware: *Understanding End Times Prophecy*, 27.

III. THREE REASONS FOR A PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

REASON #1: The Bible teaches that the _____ of the Tribulation is not for Church-age believers.

GROUP #1: THE NATION OF ISRAEL

*“How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a **time** of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.”* Jeremiah 30:7

*“‘I am with you and will save you,’ declares the LORD. ‘Though I completely **destroy** all the nations among which I scatter you, I will **not** completely **destroy** you. I will **discipline** you but only with **justice**; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.’”* Jeremiah 30:11

It's also important to note that the phrase **"The Day of the Lord"** is used **nineteen** times in the Old Testament and **ALWAYS** refers to the **Nation of Israel during** the Tribulation period.

GROUP #2: THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH

“inhabitants of the earth” appears **seven** times in the book of Revelation: 6:10, 8:13, 11:10; 13:8; 13:14; 17:2 and 17:8 and **refers** to **unbelievers** who persecute and martyr those who come to faith during the Tribulation. (cf. Isaiah 24:1,5,6 & 26:9)

*“Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the **Valley of Jehoshaphat**, for **there I will sit to judge** all the nations on every side. Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow— so great is their wickedness. ‘Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For **the day of the LORD** is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will be **darkened**, and the stars no longer shine. The **LORD** will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the **LORD** will be a **refuge** for his people, a **stronghold** for the people of Israel. Then you will know that I, the **LORD** your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her.”*

Joel 3:12-17

REASON # 2: The Bible teaches that Church-age believers are _____ from the wrath of God.

*“The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achai—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who **rescues** us from **the coming wrath**.”* 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10

"Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that **the day of the Lord** will come like a **thief** in the night. While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. **For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath** but to **receive salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9

"**Whoever** believes in the Son has **eternal life**, but whoever **rejects** the Son will not see life, for **God's wrath remains** on him." John 3:36

"Since we have now **been justified** by his blood, how much more shall we be **saved from God's wrath** through him!" Romans 5:9

"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's **wrath** comes on those who are **disobedient**." Ephesians 5:6

"Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is **going to come** upon the **whole world** to test those who **live on the earth**." Revelation 3:10

REASON #3: The Bible teaches that Jesus is coming back for His _____ : all Church-age believers.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ **loved the church** and **gave himself up for her** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to **present her to himself as a radiant church**, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless . . . This is a **profound mystery**—but I am talking about **Christ and the church**"

Ephesians 5:25-27, 31

"Let us **rejoice** and be glad and give him glory! For the **wedding** of the **Lamb** has come, and his bride has made herself ready." Revelation 19:7

"Do not let your **hearts** be **troubled**. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to **prepare** a place for **you**. And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back** and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:1-3

IV. GUIDELINE FOR LIVING

GUIDELINE #5: Make _____ a priority.

"And let us **consider** how to **stir up** one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging** one another, and all the more as you see **the Day** drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)

1. _____ development.

"...stir up one another to **love**..."

"As Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

2. _____ growth.

"...stir up one another to . . . **good works**."

". . . **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2

3. _____ .

"...**encourage** one another..."

"**Love** one another. As I have **loved you**, so you must **love** one another."
John 13:34