

The Tribulation Period

Divine purpose #2- The Removal of the Wicked from Earth

Bible Study
Chart # 106

by Mike Wingfield

The Tribulation Period- “the day of the Lord”

“Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.”- Isaiah 13:9

“I will make a man more [rare] than fine gold.” - Isaiah 13:12

“Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty [depopulated], and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattered abroad the inhabitants thereof.”- Isaiah 24:1

“And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved.”- Jesus in Matthew 24:22

Seal Judgments

Revelation 6

¼ population dies

- Global wars
- Global lawlessness
- Global inflation
- Global famine
- Global pandemics
- Global earthquakes
- Global volcanoes

Trumpet Judgments

Revelation 8-9

Total = ½ population dies

- Volcanoes burn 1/3 global vegetation & marine life
- Asteroid impact poisons 1/3 of global fresh water
- Radical climate change, darkness of 1/3 of earth
- Demonic invasion of earth kills 1/3 of population

Bowl (Vial) Judgments

Revelation 16

Only a “few” left – Isaiah 24:6

- All the wicked infected with infectious boils
- All marine life dies
- All fresh water sources contaminated
- All earth suffers from deadly global warming
- All earth is covered in total darkness
- All nations deceived by demons to attack Israel
- Colossal global earthquake and electrical storm with massive hail

In a special 75-day interval after the Tribulation (see Daniel 12:11-12), the Lord will judge the remnant of wicked people who survived the Tribulation horrors in a special judgment mentioned in Matthew 25:31-46. These sinners will be judged based on how they treated the Jewish people. Those who are not saved will be cast into hell for the duration of the kingdom. The result will be that only the living saved Jews and Gentiles will enter the earthly Millennial Kingdom to live the entire 1,000 years. Only the saints of God possess the kingdom (Daniel 7:18, 22, 27).



Death – the King of Terror

There are many things that terrorize man. However, death itself is the king of all terrors. The Tribulation Period will surpass all records and images of death in history. The human mind cannot fathom how deadly the Tribulation Period will be. Perhaps this is one reason why people do not want to think about what lies ahead for our world as revealed in the prophetic Word of God. However, we must remember that God warned Adam and Eve that if they failed to obey Him and ate the forbidden fruit, they would die (Genesis 2:17). The biblical revelation of the Tribulation is a warning to all humanity! God has reported to us the gruesome revelation of earth's future so that it might motivate us to repent of our sins and obey Him. If we are conservative and conclude that only one out of the eight billion currently on earth will be raptured, that means that almost seven billion people will die during the 7-year Tribulation. That means 2.7 million people will die **each day** of this horrific time. The daily death toll will be so overwhelming that people will cease to bury the dead. Isaiah 26:21 says that the earth "*shall no more cover her slain.*"

The Deadly Reign of the Antichrist

In Daniel 7, the Lord caused Daniel to view the kings and kingdoms of this world to be like wild beasts. Centuries later, the Holy Spirit caused the Apostle John to use this same imagery in describing the Antichrist and his global kingdom. Throughout the book of Revelation, the Antichrist is repeatedly referred to as "*the beast*" (Revelation 11-20). This symbolic reference to the Antichrist and his kingdom indicates that the governments of this world at the end of this age will become like wild animals. They will be lawless, fierce, vicious, cruel, brutal, wild, savage, and merciless. Like wild beasts, these governments will have no morals or conscience. They simply want to satisfy their appetites. The Antichrist will be responsible for the deaths of millions of people.

The Tribulation Period will begin with the Antichrist forcing his agenda upon all the nations with bloody wars that will immediately bring death to one-fourth of the world's population. (Revelation 6:1-8). The Bible depicts the Antichrist and his kingdom as the culmination of all the previous evil and deadly empires of the past. This is symbolically depicted with the seven heads of the beast (Revelation 17:9-11).



The Wrath of God

The Bible declares, "*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*" (Hebrews 10:31). God is holy. He hates sin. All sin is deadly (Romans 6:23). In His grace, God restrains sin on this earth so that mankind might hear the gospel and be saved. When sin reaches the spiritual point of no return, mankind has seared his conscience. Then, God has ordained that it is time for His judgment to remove the wicked from the earth. This happened in the days of Noah (Genesis 6:3-13) and once again sin will reach its wicked climax during the days of the Antichrist (Daniel 8:23). The entire seven years of the Tribulation will be an expression of the wrath of God. God has declared, "*Vengeance is mine; I will repay*" (Romans 12:19). God has ordained that in His sovereign management of the ages, He will pour out His wrath upon the nations, and will hold them accountable for the sins against Him and His people, going back to the origins of the nations and especially the nation of Israel (Genesis 12:3). For example, see what Jesus said about His judgment upon His own people and the divine judgment that fell upon the Jewish people in 70 A.D. (Luke 11:50-51). See Revelation 6:17; 11:18; 14:19; 15:1, 7; 16:1; and 19:15. The final confrontation of Jesus with the nations at Armageddon will produce a carnage that will be unprecedented in human history. See Isaiah 34:2-3; Isaiah 63:1-6; Revelation 19:11-21.

The Wrath of Satan

God and His people celebrate life. However, Satan and his kingdom celebrate death. Jesus said that Satan "*was a murderer from the beginning*" (John 8:44). Near the mid-point of the Tribulation Period, God will allow Satan to release some of his most wicked and powerful demons from the bottomless pit (Revelation 9). These demons will appear and torment people, and ultimately kill one-third of the global population. Shortly after this, Satan and his demons will be finally barred from heaven. A voice in heaven will declare, "*Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he [knows that he has] but a short time*" (Revelation 12:12). After this, the devil will indwell the Antichrist and control him as his agent of death for the last half of the Tribulation (Revelation 13:1-7). It is chilling to think about the death march of this murderous person who will be known for brutal attacks upon the saints of God (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 5:9-11; 12:11; 15:2-3; 20:4).