

How Long is the Tribulation?

There is only one word which explains why so many in the Church of God are deceived. Their eyes have been closed to the scriptures because they have chosen instead to believe that a man could not be wrong. As a result, many are totally and fatally confused about the End-Time because scripture is more important than any man!

We all know that the *last* 3½ years of this age are the Tribulation. That is true, but more specifically *they* are the 'Great Tabulation' and they are *preceded* by 3½ years of what Matthew calls the 'tribulation of those days' in Matthew 24:29, "Immediately after **the tribulation of those days** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken." The 'tribulation of those days' comprises the first 5 Seals of Revelation chapter 6, which Christ had just explained in verses 5-9 of Matthew 24.

If we examine **Daniel 9:27**, we see that after the "Beast" invades Israel **fully**, Daniel 9:27, "He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the **middle** of the 'seven' **he will put an end to sacrifice and offering**. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

The Beast actually **begins** his invasion with a **token** force on the fall of the US and UK, at the **2nd Seal**: 'And from the time that an alliance [of protection] is made with him he shall act deceitfully, and he shall become strong with a **small people**.' Daniel 11:23. His covenant with Israel was made at the *start* of the 7 years, as he begins his ride, at the **1st Seal!**

God refers to the US and UK as 'Babylon' in Revelation 14 because they have acted like Babylon when He gave them power. 'Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is **Babylon the great**, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.'" Revelation 14:8. Notice they fall *early* in the 7 years, at the 2nd Seal, long before the Great Tribulation and Armageddon, verses 18-20. This *commercial* Babylon of Revelation 18 is not to be confused with the *religious* Babylon of Revelation 17, which falls *at the end* of the Great Tribulation!

The Beast introduces the abomination of desolation at Jerusalem, stops the sacrifice there, and claims to be God half-way through the 7 years, in 2 Thessalonians 2:4, 'who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, **proclaiming himself to be God**.'

In Matthew 24, we see that Jesus Christ mentions this event which is directly followed by a few verses beginning with 'Then', 'And', 'But' and finally, "For then shall be great tribulation..." These intervening *verses* all take place immediately after the Beast's blasphemy, along with other others of great significance, all during the same period around the half way point in the 7 years, as we will see!

Those few verses tell us of God's servants who have been carrying out God's command in Jeremiah 31:6-7, who then flee from Jerusalem, '...then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the housetop come down to retrieve anything from his house. And let no one in the field return for his cloak. How miserable those days will be for pregnant and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not occur in the winter or on the Sabbath.'

They are pursued by the Beast's army, which has just arrived in Israel, Revelation 12:15-17, 'Then from the mouth of the serpent spewed water like a river to overtake **the woman** and sweep her away in the torrent. But the earth helped the woman and opened its mouth **to swallow up** the river that had poured from the dragon's mouth. And the dragon was enraged at the woman, and went to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.' The pursuers are swallowed by the earthquake, and he is afraid to send another in pursuit to Jordan and turns on the remnant of God's US and UK Church in their captivity.

It is at this same time that the Heavenly Signs take place, which also mark the half-way point in the 7 years. Matthew 24:29-30, "Immediately after the **tribulation of those days** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, 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."

These are the same Heavenly Signs of the 6th Seal, Revelation 6:12-14, 'And when I saw the Lamb open the sixth seal, there was a **great earthquake**, and the sun became black like sackcloth of goat hair, and the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth like unripe figs dropping from a tree shaken by a great wind. The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place.'

And also Joel 2:31-32,
'The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and awesome Day of the LORD.
And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD
will be saved for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there will be deliverance, as the LORD has promised,
among the remnant called by the LORD.'

They are coincident with the arrival of Christ, in Matthew 24:30-31, 'Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, 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. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and **they will gather his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.'

And with Revelation 6:16-17, 'calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and **hide us** from the **face of him who is seated on the throne**, and from the wrath of the Lamb,' for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" Notice Christ does not set foot on the Earth! They remember the warning of the First Angel, 3½ years ago, to repent before the Great Tribulation, but they have not repented! (Revelation 14:6-7)

Once we **see from scripture** that these Heavenly Signs and the arrival of Christ are virtually concurrent, we understand that all these events are part of the 6th Seal. **The 6th Seal is the First Resurrection!**

We gain more information about the resurrection of those fleeing from Jerusalem at the half-way point, in Zechariah 9:14-16, 'And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the **Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet**, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.'

The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the

corners of the altar. And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, **lifted up** as an ensign upon his land.

Notice that the church has been forced by false teaching to disbelieve God's words. **God blows the trumpet** at this resurrection. (Compare 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Zechariah 9:14). When Christ *returns* from Heaven with His Bride, **an angel blows that trumpet!** (Revelation 11:15) but the Church compounds these 2 events and so has to reject God's vital commands which do not fit into their shortened false scenario! Read of the Church's error in W. E. Vine's definition of 'Trumpet'.

And Psalm 18: 6,8,10,14-19, a psalm and vision of David, picturing these events.

'In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears. Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. He rode on a cherub and flew; he came swiftly on the wings of the wind. And he sent out his arrows and scattered them; he flashed forth lightnings and routed them. Then the channels of the sea were seen, and **the foundations of the world were laid bare** at your rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of your nostrils. He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters. He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. He brought me forth also into a large place; **he delivered me**, because he delighted in me.'

The apostle John saw this in vision, too. Revelation 14:14-16.

'And I looked and saw a white cloud, and **seated on the cloud** was One like the Son of Man, with a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.

Then another angel came out of the temple, crying out in a loud voice to the One seated on the cloud, "Swing Your sickle and reap, because the time has come to harvest; for the crop of the earth is ripe." So the One seated on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.' Notice in this important chapter that this is BEFORE the 'great winepress of the wrath of God', when the grapes of the [whole] *earth* are fully ripe, "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?", as it says at the **end** of the 6th Seal. Revelation 6:17.

We have seen that this occurs at the halfway point in the 7 years, (above and Daniel 9:27) not at the *end* of the Great Tribulation, the 7th Seal, where the false Church **tradition** places it! Notice too that Christ does not set foot on the earth at this time, but on his *return* from Heaven with His Bride, Zechariah 14:4-5, **On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem... Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.**

And so God's faithful elect are gathered by the angels from around the world, some of whom are those who, at that time, are rescued from the beast's pursuing army and carried to Christ in the clouds, Matthew 24:30-31, 'And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.' From there they are taken to the Sea of Glass, before their Father's Throne in Heaven. Rev. 14:1-5, Hebrews 12:22, Rev 15:2)

Revelation 14:1-5,

'Then I looked, and behold, **on Mount Zion** stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they were singing a new song **before the throne** and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for

they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind [**Greek ‘from the men’**] as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.’

Hebrews 12:22, ‘But you have come to **Mount Zion** and to the city of the living God, **the heavenly Jerusalem**, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering.’

Revelation 15:2, ‘And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.’

How long are they on the Sea of Glass in Heaven, being spiritually fed by Christ with the same education He provided His disciples? We have already seen they are taken there. But there is another group who flee Jerusalem with them, who do not quite qualify for the First Resurrection. Revelation 12:14, ‘But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent **into the wilderness**, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.’ This ‘mixed multitude’ of faithful believers, who had supported God’s work in Jerusalem are, after the Resurrection has taken place, taken safely across the Jordan valley to a place of safety called Petra, (Read ‘Division of the Saints’ on the ‘End Time’ tab). Both groups are prepared for their role in God’s Kingdom for **the same amount of time – 3½ years**. On the final return of Christ *with* His Bride, the first thing He does after Armageddon is to go there, rescue them, and bring them safely to Jerusalem. Read ‘Christ Goes to Petra’, Page 1, Articles.

So, apart from this, we have seen that all these events take place close together, at the **6th Seal**, directly following the “**Tribulation of those days**”, the first 5 seals. According to Daniel 9:27 together with Matthew 24:15, these events are at the halfway point in the last 7 years, and culminate with the First Resurrection, **completely destroying the false and quite unbiblical concept of a 3½ year Tribulation with the Resurrection towards the very end!**

If you can find any error in the above, please let me know. If you cannot, then please realise that the deception means that, when the First Angel of Revelation 14:6-7 flies with his message for all the world, at the **1st Seal**, it will be too late to organise to fulfil God’s commanded End-Time instructions before the world war of the **2nd Seal** prevents any escape from the invasion and captivity of the Tribulation.

For a deeper understanding, see the time charts under ‘End Time’ tab.

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