

Tribulation Versus the Great Tribulation

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By [Nathan Jones](#)

Vic: Today we're going to be talking about this incredible topic of the Tribulation vs the Great Tribulation. But it's one that many people get confused about. So I'd like to ask you Nathan, if you happen to have your Bible in hand could you read for us from Matthew 24:21?

Nathan: I'd be happy too. I'll be reading out of the New King James, "For then there will be great Tribulation such as not seen since the beginning of the world until this time know forever shall be."

Vic: Wow, that's incredible. And Nathan, would you explain to us what the Tribulation is exactly? And in particular, the difference between the first and second time periods of the Tribulation.

Nathan: Sure, Vic. Matthew 24:21 says that the Tribulation is going to be the worst time in human history. God is going to bring judgment upon this earth and it will be so bad like nothing seen before in human history. It reminds me of the Terminator movies with the machines crunching over skulls and the nukes landscape and everything is dead and humanity's on the brink of extinction. Just look at our society today. We are obsessed with movies that talk about the apocalypse, the end times, the end of humanity. And in fact, a lot of those ideas are based on what the Bible teaches, not that we're terminators running around, but the fact that we're going to get to that point in human history, a post-apocalyptic era. And the Bible calls it the Tribulation which is a seven year time period coming upon this earth.

Vic: You're right Nathan. It's almost as if the world is being prepared for such things. Because we see all these movies coming out about zombies and vampires and stuff.

Nathan: Another interesting fact is that just recently there was a survey done of teenagers today. And it asked them, "What is your biggest fear of the future?" You would think they'd would have said jobs or uncertainty about college. But no, their number one fear is of an apocalypse coming. So it makes you wonder, because you know a lot of these kids aren't schooled in the Bible. It makes you wonder where they are getting this idea that the end of the world is coming. And I believe you're right, Pastor Vic, even though Hollywood and books and TV are obsessed with the idea of the end of the world, it's a biblical event. They reinterpret it of course, but the Bible teaches that there's a great Tribulation coming upon the world, an apocalypse, an end time almost destruction of humanity.

Vic: That's an excellent point. And that's why we want to clarify this event called the Tribulation. Nathan, please continue sharing with us about the Tribulation and then maybe talking to us about what's going to happen in the first part of the Tribulation and then the second part called the Great Tribulation.

Nathan: In the Bible, Daniel talks about how God's end times are involved of seventy weeks. He calls it the seventy weeks of seven years so 490 years. 483 of those years would be up to the time that Jesus came and did His triumphal entry into Jerusalem and when He was to save the world and He did spiritually, but He hasn't taken His kingdom yet and that will happen after the final seven years, which will happen at the end times. Now for the last 2,000 years we've been going through the church age, but the signs of the times show that the Lord is coming back soon and therefore we're getting real close to that time of the Tribulation. Now for you believers in Christ out there, the Bible promises the Rapture of the church. 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15 and other verses, like in the book of John for instance, talk about Jesus's return to take the church, believers in Christ, up in the Rapture to Heaven so they will not have to endure the seven year Tribulation. God promises that we are not destined for the wrath of God so don't get freaked out when Vic and I start teaching you about the Tribulation. But there's a seven year Tribulation coming upon the world and we know its seven years divided into two sections of 42 months each and that's 30 day months. So we can calculate exactly from the beginning of the Tribulation, which Daniel tells us, is when the Antichrist, a one world ruler will come on the scene and he will make a peace covenant with Israel and the day that he makes his peace covenant with Israel, is the count down to the end of the Tribulation. And the end of the Tribulation ends with Jesus Christ coming back to defeat evil and rule and reign. So don't lose heart because of how terrible the Tribulation is because even though it's going to be the worst time in human history, it also starts the greatest time period in all of human history, which is the Millennial Kingdom where Jesus Christ comes to rule and reign.

Vic: That's awesome. And Nathan, you referenced that from Daniel chapter 9?

Nathan: Yes, Daniel 9:24-27.

Vic: And I know there's a lot of other passages that talk about this, but that was a great reference and I believe it's important for individuals out there to check these references out in the Bible for themselves.

Nathan: All throughout the prophets in the Old Testament are references their to the Day of the Lord which is another name for the Tribulation. Daniel is like the revelation of the Old Testament and Zephaniah is totally about the Tribulation. The book of Zephaniah is a little minor prophet which most people don't even read. And in the last chapter of Amos he talks about the Day of the Lord, this time of judgment coming upon the earth. This time of judgment has three purposes and we can read in Jeremiah 30:7, that it's going to be a time of great distress for Israel. For the last 2,000 years God's focus has pretty much been on Gentiles coming to know Jesus as their Savior through the activities of missionaries through the church. But God isn't done with Israel He has a redemptive plan for them. Which is why He's regathered them back into the land of Israel. It's amazing that after 19 years, Israel is a nation again.

Vic: Yes, so amazing.

Nathan: That has never happened before. You don't see the Hittites coming back and starting a country or the American Indians creating their own nations again outside the reservation. But when Israel happen is brought back their land, it means something. Because they are important

and Jesus, in Matthew 24 said that when we see Israel brought back as a nation again, then the Tribulation will come.

Vic: That is amazing. And we know that Dr. Reagan has a great love for Israel. In one of your conferences you talked about the many pilgrimages that you and he have made to Israel so that people could see the truth of this great miracle there. I think you mentioned something like six million Jews have returned to the land since 1948.

Nathan: Yeah. There's about 12 ½ Jews worldwide and now half of them live in Israel. And it's interesting because Zachariah prophesied again and again that Israel would be the center of the world's attention and that people would be consumed with who gets to control Jerusalem. All you have to do is turn on the news and everything's about Israel. It's Israel this or Israel that and of course right now Israel is having to deal with Gaza. And the fact that Gaza is a nation once again plays into Bible prophecy because in Psalm 83 it prophesies that Israel will have to subdue their hostile neighbors and maybe that's what's happening in Gaza right now, the beginning of that Psalm 83 war that the Bible prophesied would happen right before the Tribulation. It's just incredible that we're seeing all these things that the Bible prophesied come true. So we know the Tribulation is about bringing the Jews to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and that a third of the Jewish People who survived the Tribulation, will come to know Jesus as their Savior as well as many Gentiles from every tribe, tongue, nation and people. The Bible says they will accept Jesus as their Savior during that time period.

Vic: And that's why you mentioned that it's not all doom and gloom. God has a plan for the nation of Israel and we see that salvation is going to come and the Holy Spirit is going to be poured out upon them.

Nathan: Oh, yeah. The church won't be there to witness because we'll be raptured out, but He leaves 144 thousand Jewish evangelists on the earth and sends an angel to share the gospel throughout the entire world. The second purpose of the 21 judgments that will befall this world and devastate the economic, the social, the ecological and the human population, is to bring people down to their knees to accept Jesus as Savior. And the third purpose is Jesus's return to defeat evil and set up His kingdom. So the whole reason for the Tribulation is to bring people to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and to rescue their souls for eternity. So as terrible as that sounds, sometimes that's what it takes. Sometimes you just have to bring people to their knees, before the

Vic: And that's why we're telling people to come to a saving knowledge today, so they won't have to suffer the Tribulation, right?

Nathan: Right. The Rapture of the church is an imminent event, which means it could happen at any moment. And after that you're left behind and you will then have to endure the Tribulation. You'll see the Antichrist, this one world ruler arise out of Europe and he will make a peace treaty with Israel. Revelation divides the judgments of the Tribulation into three groups of seven. The Seven Seal Judgments, the Seven Trumpet Judgments and the Seven Bowl Judgments. The first one starts with the Antichrist conquering the world, as they cry out for a one world ruler to fix all their problems and their gonna one, but they're not gonna like the person that they get. Initially, he'll be a great orator and a great politician. It says he conquers with a bow, but he has

no arrows, in other words he doesn't need war to conquer. But as soon as he sets up that peace treaty with Israel according to Daniel 9, that's when the Seven Year Tribulation begins.

Vic: The old saying is true, "We get what we ask for."

Nathan: Oh, yeah. Just look at the former head of the UN who said how much the world needs a one world ruler and that it could care less whether it was a god or a demon, either way we would accept him. And that's what they're gonna get, the Antichrist is a monster of a person. He'll plunge the world into World War III. We read in the second seal judgment how the world is plunged into war as he conquers the different nations. His peace treaty with Israel protects Israel for the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation. So we know from Revelation then and also Daniel that the Israel will be at peace for the first 3 ½ years. But the Antichrist will then use that time to conquer the rest of the world and we know that a quarter of the world population will die in that war, which is 1.5 billion people in today's numbers.

Vic: Wow. And Nathan, we know that all this is right around the corner in a sense compared to the thousands of years that we've waited for Israel to become a nation again. And these other events can literally, unfold in the very near future.

Nathan: Yes and Jesus said that as we get closer and closer to the end times, then the signs of the end times that He gives us in Matthew 24, will become more frequent and more intense. So the natural disasters, though we've always had them, they will become more frequent and more intense. And the fragility and the politics of the world will become more frequent and more intense. And the wars and rumors of wars will become more frequent and more intense and we are seeing this happening every day. Just watch the news and you'll see how the world is ratcheting up for something big and in the center of it all is Israel, just like God said. He said that Israel would be the center of the world's attention. And the world blames Israel for all its problems, for its financial problems and for the political situation in the Middle East. Anti-Semitism is on the rise so we know that prophecy is being fulfilled, that Jesus is coming back soon. And after all of this then the Seal Judgments will come bringing famine and disease and then another quarter of the world's population will die. So just in the first year or two of the Tribulation, half the world's population will die from war, famine and plague.

Vic: Wow. What a sound of the alarm that should be. So Nathan, in the first half of the Tribulation it seems that everything is peaceful, right?

Nathan: Well, for the Jews it is. They are behind a peace treaty with the Antichrist so they're protected, but there's another war talked about in Ezekiel 38 and 39, the Gog and Magog war. That's where all the Islamic nations are coming against Israel, along with Russia, but God steps in and destroys them. Just think of Russia and the Middle East no longer being a player in world politics, that is a huge change. So Israel will be at peace, but the rest of the world will be at World War. Now some people that the first half of the Tribulation is peaceful and the second half of the Tribulation is all war and destruction, but that's far from the truth. Just read the about the first four Seal Judgments and you'll see the whole world is plunged into war, except for Israel. Getting back to Matthew 24, we read, "Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place, whoever reads let him understand. Let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains let him who are on the housetops not go down

to take anything out of his house. Let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes, but whoa to those who are pregnant, to those who are nursing babies in those days and pray that your flight may not be during winter or Sabbath."

In the middle of the Tribulation the Antichrist will come to Jerusalem. And there will be their two witnesses for the first 42 months which we read about in Revelation 11, "Preach the good news to all the people of the world from Jerusalem." And the Antichrist hates them, but they're indestructible until their time is done and their time is done when the Antichrist shows up. So he kills the two witnesses and then goes into the temple which the Jews rebuilt and he'll go in there and desecrate it by setting up a statue of himself. And he'll then declare himself to be God and make everybody bow down and worship him. And we read in Matthew 24 that a remnant of the Jews will then flee out of Jerusalem and they'll go to southern Jordan which we then know is the cause of Psalm 83 that they will have conquered Jordan at some point and have control of it. And they'll go to Jordan and stay there and they will be protected by God. Then the Great Tribulation will begin. So the Tribulation lasts for Seven Years, but once the Jews are being persecuted by the Antichrist, it starts the Great Tribulation, the last half of the Tribulation. And the last half will include the seventh trumpet judgment and the Seven Bowl Judgments.

Vic: Nathan, what a great point you made. Many people are mistaken thinking that the first 3 years of the Tribulation everything is going to be peaceful, because the Bible says otherwise. It says that there's going to be a major earthquake that is felt around the world and many other terrifying events.

Nathan: Yeah. The Tribulation pretty much begins with an earthquake that's so bad that it levels the mountains. It says that the rulers of the world will hide in caves and cry out for the wrath of the Lord to stop. Then we get to the Seventh Trumpet Judgment in the middle of the Tribulation, which begins the Great Tribulation and we read in Revelation chapter 11, it says that the temple of God was open in Heaven and the Ark of His Covenant was seen in His temple. Hey, you want to know where the Ark is? The ark was seen in His temple. And there's lightning, noise, thunder, earthquake and great hail. So the Great Tribulation starts out with the Antichrist declaring himself to be God, Satan possessing the Antichrist and ruling directly through Satan and another great earthquake beginning the next series of judgments.

Vic: Wow, that's amazing! And we just wanna offer some hope to everyone because a lot of what Nathan is sharing with us is something that is for the future, but we believe that time is wrapping up quickly. Nobody promises us tomorrow, therefore we need to be ready today. So Nathan, I wanted to see if maybe you could shout out a word of encouragement to someone that's out there who may not have a relationship with the Lord?

Nathan: Certainly, certainly. The reason that God tells us about the future is because He wants us to know what's gonna come so that we have a chance to ask for forgiveness of our sins and to accept Jesus as our Savior. Jesus died on the cross for you because He loves you and He wants you to be saved. He wants you to be free of your sins and the guilt and burden that you carry. So you have to surrender your life to Him, in your heart pray, "Dear Jesus, please forgive me of my sins and be my Savior." And Jesus promises to forgive you of your sins and to rapture you up with the church before the Tribulation and to give you eternal life with Him. But the rest

of the world will suffer the Tribulation and many will turn to Jesus as their Savior then. Don't be one of those people who has to survive through the Tribulation because many will not survive. Most people will die and there will be very few left by the end of the Tribulation. And we haven't even talked about the Bowl Judgments in Revelation 16, where most of the world is utterly destroyed, there's very few people left by the end. That's why this is the time to give your heart to Jesus Christ and avoid all that, but also be free of your sins.

Vic: Amen. And Nathan, maybe for that person who doesn't know how to pray, could you read a prayer to show how they can begin that relationship with Jesus?

Nathan: Sure, Vic. It all comes down to a decision of faith and it's trusting that Jesus died for your sins. For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. Jesus wants to give you eternal life and all you have to do in your heart is put your faith in him and pray, "Dear Jesus, please forgive me of my sins and be my Savior." And He does promise to forgive you and to give you a new life and be the Lord of your life and direct you in your paths throughout the rest of your life and give you eternal life.

Vic: Amen. Thank you so much. And Nathan, again thank you for being part of this program. It's always a pleasure to have you on and thank you for all the wonderful information that you just filled our hearts and our brains with.

Nathan: Oh praise the Lord. I hate to leave such a burden on people, but it's important to know that the Lord wants us to know what's coming down and it's so important that we give our lives to Jesus Christ.

Vic: Amen. Thank you. Again you're tuned into the Truth Will Set You Free Bible Prophecy Edition, Vic Batista and Nathan Jones. And of course you can always reach out to us here at TWave.org or simply by calling 305-992-9537. May the Lord bless you!

End of Program