

## TRIBULATION INCREASING

1. Tribulation comes upon nations and individuals; it is a state of distress, a time of great affliction and severe testing; Deut. 4:30-31; Rev. 2:10, 22; Matthew 24:21
2. Jesus told us to expect tribulation in this world, but to be of “good cheer”; John 16:33; 1 Thess. 3:4. We enter the Kingdom through much tribulation; Acts 14:22
3. Tribulation comes upon the just and the unjust; Rev. 2:10, 22
  - a. God permitted the adversary to test the accusations against Job; Job 1:9-12; 2:4-7
4. We must be patient, prayerful through tribulation; Rom. 12:12. God takes us from “strength to strength”; Ps. 84:7, from “faith to faith”; Rom. 1:17, from “glory to glory”; 2 Cor. 3:18
5. The serpent has steadily increased in his influence of deception; he has enlarged to become the “dragon”. Formerly he was a serpent, but he has grown in strength, and has changed his form into a dragon; Genesis 3:1-5; Revelation 20:2; John 8:44
  - a. Deception is a major factor (sign) prior to the return of Jesus; Matt. 24:4, 5, 11, 24
  - b. Laodicea, being built upon marketing/entertainment is deceived, needs to repent; Rev. 3:17
6. God touches the land and it “melts” (causing it to soften and dissolve, and those within it to be “poured out”); Amos 9:5; Jer. 48:11-12. He “melts” (as a Refiner) individuals and kingdoms to separate them from the “dross” (impurities within the metal); Ezek. 22:18-22; Jer. 9:7
7. Tribulation comes as God pleads with humanity; Jer. 25:31; Is. 43:26; Ezek. 20:35-36
  - a. Judgment begins in God’s house; 1 Pet. 4:17. He warns of false prophets/teachers who apply “untempered (unseasoned, not properly balanced) mortar” (whitewash, plaster) to flimsy walls.
  - b. Pagan practices, vain visions, idolatry and compromise contaminates God’s house, and those who are given to fleshly ease and personal indulgence are coming down; Ezek. 13:3-23
8. God’s sons discern the purpose of tribulation; they have waited for divine judgments because they are designed to teach the inhabitants of the Earth about God’s righteousness; Isaiah 26:8-9
9. When there is great sin upon the land, four severe judgments will be sent; Ezekiel 14:13-23; 33:27-29, but the righteous ones (like Noah, Daniel and Job) are delivered in tribulation:
  - a. the sword - war, invasion, upheaval, martial law, tyrannical legislation, police state
  - b. the famine - caused by disease, extreme weather conditions leading to loss of crops, livestock
  - c. the noisome beast - demons of chaos, paranoia, hate, anger, rage, murder, depression, suicide
  - d. the pestilence - plagues, viruses, disease, environmental toxins, poisoning, nuclear fallout
10. The plagues in Exodus and Revelation are similar; Exod. 9:14-16; Matt. 24:7; Rev. 15:1, 8
11. The “four horsemen” of the Apocalypse riding through the Earth are evidence of increasing tribulation; Revelation 6:1-8; Zechariah 6:1-5
12. The “Woman clothed with the sun”; Rev. 12:1-2, and the “Harlot” are both present in the Earth during tribulation; Rev. 17:1-18. The beast system emerges for a season, but Jesus said, concerning His Church, “the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it”; Matthew 16:18
13. The world admires Babylon, the “city” that man has built, but God has said that “Babylon” is fallen; Rev. 18:2, 10. He has also said that He is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory; Jude 24. The Lord is our Keeper; Ps. 121:3-5
14. The righteous are spared and vindicated, but concerning the wicked God said:
  - a. Fear, the Pit and the Snare shall come upon them; Is. 24:17-18; Ps. 7:11-16; Est. 7:4-10
  - b. I will meet them as a lion, as a leopard, as a bear (as a wild beast); Hosea 13:7-8
  - c. God uses wicked kings and nations to bring chastening; Dan. 7:3, 17; Is. 7:17-20; 10:5-6
15. Tribulation is not the same as “wrath”; God’s faithful people are not appointed unto wrath; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; Romans 5:9

## TRIBULATION

The Greek word for TRIBULATION: Strong's: #2347 "thlipsis" means: "pressure; affliction; anguish; burdened; persecution; trouble"

Webster's Dictionary: "to afflict, oppress; threshing sledge; misery; distress as from oppression; deep sorrow; something that causes suffering or distress"

Matthew 13:21 – "Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while; for when TRIBULATION or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended."

Matthew 24:21 – "For then shall be great TRIBULATION, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

John 16:33 – "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have TRIBULATION: be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Acts 14:22 – "Confirming the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much TRIBULATION enter into the kingdom of God."

Romans 5:3 – "And not only so, but we glory in TRIBULATIONS also: knowing that TRIBULATION worketh patience."

Romans 8:35-36 – "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall TRIBULATION, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

2 Corinthians 1:4 – "Who comforteth us in all our TRIBULATION, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

2 Corinthians 7:4 – "Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our TRIBULATION."

Revelation 1:9 – "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in TRIBULATION, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ..."

Revelation 2:10 – "Fear none of those things which thou shall suffer: the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have TRIBULATION ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Revelation 2:22 – "Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great TRIBULATION, except they repent of their deeds."

Revelation 7:14 – "...These are they which came out of great TRIBULATION, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

