

GREAT TRIBULATION

The Final 3½ Years Before Christ's Return Tribulation (2½ Years) & Day of the Lord (1 Year)

Great Tribulation — The last 3½ years preceding Christ's return will be absolutely horrible! It will be so bad that humanity will be on the brink of total annihilation! (Matthew 24:21-22; Daniel 12:1)

Not just millions—but *billions* will die! Famine, disease, and war will be the culprits (Revelation 6:1-8; Ezekiel 5:12; Zechariah 13:8). And many will even become *slaves*! (Revelation 18:11-13)

The first 2½ years of this 3½ year period is called the “Great Tribulation” and is the wrath of Satan, while the last year of this 3½ year period is called the “Day of the Lord” and is the punishment of Christ upon a rotten, arrogant, and depraved world (Revelation 16:9, 11).

Matthew 24:21 — For then there will be *GREAT TRIBULATION, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

Matthew 24:22 — NIV — If those days had not been cut short, *no one would survive*, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

Daniel 12:1 — “At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince [archangel] who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be *a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.* And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.”

Jeremiah 30:7 — Alas! For that day is great, So that *none is like it*; And it is the time of *Jacob's trouble*, But he shall be saved out of it.

Jeremiah 30:7 — NLT — In all history there has never been such a time of terror. It will be *a time of trouble for my people Israel*. Yet in the end, they will be saved!

Ezekiel 5:12 — *One-third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst; and ONE-THIRD SHALL FALL BY THE SWORD all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out A SWORD AFTER THEM.*

Zechariah 13:8 — “And it shall come to pass in all the land,” says the Lord, “that *two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die*, but one-third shall be left in it.”

First 5 Seals of Revelation
= The Great Tribulation
(Begins 3½ Years Before Christ’s Return)

Rev. 6:1-2 — Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals [the **first seal**]; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.” And I looked, and behold, a *white horse*. He who sat on it had a *bow*; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to *conquer*.

Rev. 6:3-4 — When He opened the **second seal**, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.” Another *horse, fiery red*, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that *people should kill one another*; and there was given to him a *great sword*.

Rev. 6:5-6 — When He opened the **third seal**, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see.” So I looked, and behold, a *black horse*, and he who sat on it had a *pair of scales in his hand*. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of *wheat* for a de-

narius, and three quarts of *barley* for a denarius; *and do not harm the oil and the wine.*”

Rev. 6:7-8 — When He opened the **fourth seal**, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.” So I looked, and behold, a *pale horse*. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And ***power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.***

5th Seal: Great Multitude of Christians Martyred

Rev. 6:9-11 — When He opened the **fifth seal**, I saw under the altar the souls of *those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held*. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should *rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.*

Revelation 7:9-10, 13-14 — After these things I looked, and behold, a **great multitude** which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” [NLT:] And I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “**These are the ones who died in the great tribulation.** They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white.”

6th Seal: Signs Announcing the Day of the Lord

Matthew 24:29 — “Immediately after the tribulation of those days *the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven*, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”

Rev. 6:12-17 — I looked when He opened the **sixth seal**, and behold, there was a *great earthquake*; and the *sun became black* as sackcloth of hair, and the *moon became like blood*. And the *stars of heaven fell to the earth*, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and *every mountain and island was moved out of its place*. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from *the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come*, and who is able to stand?”

7th Seal: The Day of the Lord = 7 Trumpets
Begins 1 Year Before Christ’s Return
Begins on “Day of Trumpets”

Revelation 8:1-2, 6 — NLT — When the Lamb broke the **seventh seal**, there was silence throughout heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given **seven trumpets**. Then the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to blow their mighty blasts.

1st Trumpet

Revelation 8:7— NLT — The **first** angel blew his **trumpet**, and hail and fire mixed with blood were thrown down

upon the earth, and one-third of the earth was set on fire. *One-third of the trees were burned, and all the grass was burned.*

2nd Trumpet

Revelation 8:8-9 — NLT — Then the **second** angel blew his **trumpet**, and a great mountain of fire was thrown into the sea. And one-third of the water in the sea became blood. And *one-third of all things living in the sea died. And one-third of all the ships on the sea were destroyed.*

3rd Trumpet

Revelation 8:10-11 — NLT — Then the **third** angel blew his **trumpet**, and a great flaming star fell out of the sky, burning like a torch. It fell upon one-third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star was Bitterness. It made *one-third of the water bitter, and many people died* because the water was so bitter.

4th Trumpet

Revelation 8:12-13 — Then the **fourth** [trumpet] angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. *A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.* And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, “**Woe, woe, woe** to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”

5th Trumpet = 1st Woe

Revelation 9:1-12 — Then the **fifth** [trumpet] angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit

like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. *They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months.* Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. *Their power was to hurt men five months.* And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon [Destruction], but in Greek he has the name Apollyon [Destroyer]. **One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming** after these things.

6th Trumpet = 2nd Woe

Revelation 9:13-21 — Then the **sixth** [trumpet] angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released *to kill a third of mankind.* Now **the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million**; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates

of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three plagues **a third of mankind was killed**—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm. *But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent* of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And *they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

Revelation 11:7-14 — When they [*the two witnesses of God*] finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city [Jerusalem] which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these *two prophets* tormented those who dwell on the earth. Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. **The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.**

7th Trumpet = 3rd Woe
Contains 7 Last Plagues (Bowls)
Jesus Christ Returns On Day of Trumpets
As 7th Trumpet Sounds

Revelation 11:15-18 — Then the **seventh** [trumpet] angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, *“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”* And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because *You have taken Your great power and reigned.* The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.”

Revelation 14:14-20 — Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.” So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of *the*

wrath of God. [GNT:] The grapes were squeezed out in the wine press outside the city, and *blood came out of the wine press in a flood two hundred miles long and about five feet deep.*

Revelation 15:1 — Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the **seven last plagues**, for in them the *wrath of God* is complete.

Revelation 15:5-8 — After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. And out of the temple came the seven angels having the **seven plagues**, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels **seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God** who lives forever and ever. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

Revelation 16:1 — Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out the **bowls of the wrath of God** on the earth.”

1st Plague (Bowl)

Revelation 16:2 — So the **first** went and poured out his **bowl** upon the earth, and a *foul and loathsome sore* came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

2nd Plague (Bowl)

Revelation 16:3 — Then the **second** angel poured out his **bowl** on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and *every living creature in the sea died.*

3rd Plague (Bowl)

Revelation 16:4-7 — Then the **third** angel poured out his **bowl** on *the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood*. And I heard the angel of the waters saying: “You are righteous, O Lord, the One who is and who was and who is to be, because You have judged these things. *For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink*. For it is their just due.” And I heard another from the altar saying, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”

4th Plague (Bowl)

Revelation 16:8-9 — Then the **fourth** angel poured out his **bowl** on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And *men were scorched with great heat*, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and THEY DID NOT REPENT and give Him glory.

5th Plague (Bowl)

Revelation 16:10-11 — Then the **fifth** angel poured out his **bowl** on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became *full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain*. They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their *pains* and their *sores*, and DID NOT REPENT of their deeds.

6th Plague (Bowl)

Revelation 16:12-16 — Then the **sixth** angel poured out his **bowl** on *the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up*, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the *dragon*, out of the mouth of the *beast*, and out of the mouth of the *false prophet*. For they are spirits of *demons*, performing signs, which go out to the

kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the *battle of that great day of God Almighty*. “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame. And they gathered them together **to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon**.

7th Plague (Bowl)

Revelation 16:17-21 — Then the **seventh** angel poured out his **bowl** into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” And there were NOISES AND THUNDERINGS AND LIGHTNINGS; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. *Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell*. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then EVERY ISLAND FLED AWAY, AND THE MOUNTAINS WERE NOT FOUND. And *great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent [about 100 pounds each!]*. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.