

Will The Church Be On The Earth During The Great Tribulation?

Introduction

Have you ever considered that the terms “the church age” and “the tribulation period” aren’t found in the bible yet have become foundational building blocks in pre-tribulation rapture teaching?

Does it matter that two terms at the heart of church teaching on the Lord’s return aren’t found in the bible? Possibly not: if they can be defined through the scriptures to correspond with the meaning that teachers have given them. An example of a term of this nature is “the rapture” which can be defined using the scriptures as the supernatural gathering of the church to the Lord in the air.

On the other hand, if terms like “the tribulation period” or “the church age” can’t be defined using the scriptures, they’re proven to be false additions. False additions become confusing sources of division in the body of Christ until discarded.

Could popular false terms within the church be demonically inspired language possessing the power required to deceive and divide the church? Isn’t the devil’s agenda still to kill, steal, and destroy? Isn’t the strategic misuse of scripture still one of his best weapons? (Matthew 4:6-7; Job 1:6-12; John 10:10; 1 Peter 5:10)

This study will prove that the commonly accepted definitions of “the tribulation period” and “the church age” can’t be accurately supported from the scriptures. It also presents the biblical meaning of the rapture, restrainer, the revealing of Antichrist, the abomination of desolation, the great tribulation and the day of the Lord.

overview of pre-tribulation rapture teaching

According to Dr. Tim LaHaye and other pre-tribulation rapture teachers, Daniel 9:27 teaches that the event marking the beginning the seven year tribulation period is a seven year covenant Antichrist makes with Israel. This covenant is said to be established sometime following the rapture of the church triggering God’s prophetic clock giving man only seven years left on earth.

According to pre-tribulation rapture bible teaching, the first 3 ½ years of the period includes the Seal Judgments of Revelation 6 and the Trumpet Judgments of Revelation 8-9. The arrival of Antichrist; war, famine and economic depression on a world-wide scale; great Christian revival; the subsequent martyrdom of these tribulation saints; supernatural catastrophes and plagues and the destruction of the

ecumenical church of Revelation 17 are said to characterize the first 3 ½ years of the 7 year Tribulation Period. It's during this period that Antichrist is said to be gaining control of world government.

According to this line of teaching, at the 3 ½ year midpoint of the tribulation, Antichrist breaks his seven year covenant with Israel claiming to be God. The false prophet leads the world to worship him. The world's population and economy is controlled by his mandatory mark. The Bowl Judgments of Revelation 15 and 16 are then sent by God upon Antichrist's world-wide kingdom.

Revelation 18 is said to describe the destruction of Antichrist's physical kingdom. The seven year tribulation period is said to end with the return of the Lord Jesus Christ in power and glory to Jerusalem to establish His 1000 year kingdom.

Dr. LaHaye and many other bible prophecy experts teach that if you are a member of the church (the body of Christ); that is you've personally invited Jesus Christ into you're heart as they put it, you will not enter the tribulation period. This is because they believe that the "church age" ends with the rapture of the church which occurs just before "the tribulation period" begins.

the church age

The "church age" is defined by pre-tribulation rapture teachers as that "parenthesis" of undefined time duration occurring between the 69th week of Daniel 9:25 when Jesus Christ was crucified and the 70th week of Daniel 9:27. The 70th week of Daniel 9:27 marks the beginning of the seven year tribulation period following the rapture of the church. In other words, the "church age" is the parenthesis of time which began at Pentecost with the birth of the church recorded in Acts 2 and ends with an imminent rapture. In the rapture, the church is suddenly removed from the earth to meet the Lord in the air before the seven year tribulation Period or 70th week of Daniel 9:27 begins. When the church leaves the earth in the rapture, the church age is considered complete.

the parenthesis

All that's necessary to prove the "church age" isn't a parenthesis of unknown time length beginning at Pentecost and ending with the rapture of the church before the tribulation period is to find one instance in the scriptures in which the church is present while Antichrist is in power on earth.

Dr. LaHaye and other pre-tribulation rapture teachers teach that the church isn't mentioned anywhere in the Book of Revelation in chapters 6-18 which they teach

covers the tribulation period. They believe that this is proof that the church isn't on the earth during the tribulation period. Is this thinking biblically correct?

Dr. LaHaye is correct that the word *church* isn't literally mentioned once in chapters six through chapter 18 of the book of Revelation. However, the word church isn't used in the books of 2 Timothy, Titus, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John and Jude either. Yet, we'd never consider thinking that these books didn't contain teaching regarding the church would we? No, because we recognize that the **biblical concept of the church** exists within each book even though the books don't contain the word church. The presence of the biblical concept of the church within each book is proof that the church is a part of the message of the books. Let's look at the proof of this from scripture.

the biblical definition of the church

First, consider the biblical definition of the **church**.

The Greek word translated church in English is *ekklesia*. In context, *ekklesia* is a gathering or assembly of citizens called together, marked off and separated from the rest of humanity, in united worship of the living Head of the church, Jesus Christ. The following scriptures define this biblical term. (Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 1:22-23)

The church is composed of all people from all nations who have turned to God from false gods or idols in order to serve the only living and true God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Like Israel was specially chosen by God to be the holy nation of God as promised in the Abrahamic Covenant; individuals from all nations chosen as believer's in the Lord Jesus Christ become a holy nation. They become Abraham's seed, the people of Israel of God in the New Covenant. (Exodus 19:3-6; Deuteronomy 26:16-19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Galatians 3:26-29, 6:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 2:4-10)

the church in Revelation chapters 6-20

According to Dr. LaHaye, a person is a member of the church, the body of Christ, if they've personally invited Jesus Christ into their heart. Please notice that we find people fitting this definition of the church in Revelation chapters 6-20:

- Revelation 6:9-11 (souls, fellow servants and brethren slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held)
- Revelation 7:3-8 (144,000 servants of our God from all of Israel's tribes sealed in the forehead. Jewish people from the tribe of Judah who receive Jesus Christ)

become equal members of his body, the church, according to Galatians 3:27-29)

- Revelation 7:9-17 (an uncountable number of people from all nations and nationalities who were made white in the blood of the Lamb (the body of Christ, his church) and were now comforted in God's presence after suffering great tribulation. This huge group includes Gentile believers, not just Jewish members of the body of Christ, the church.)
- Revelation 12:10-17 (The wrath of the devil or Satan's war with the seed or offspring of Israel's Messiah, Jesus Christ, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.)
- Revelation 13:7,10 (Antichrist's war of victory over the saints. **Saints** or *hagios* is used 61 times in the New Testament referring to members of the church or the body of Christ.)
- Revelation 14:6-13 (The everlasting gospel is preached to all nations and nationalities. Saints with the faith of Jesus who obey him exhorted to patience during the reign of the beast. The dead which die in the Lord henceforth is mentioned in verse 13.)
- Revelation 17:6 (martyred saints of Jesus in Babylon the Great)
- Revelation 18:4,24 (God's people, the church, called out of Babylon the Great before her destruction.)
- Revelation 20:4 (faithful martyrs for Jesus beheaded by the beast Antichrist)

Is Dr. LaHaye correct in reasoning that the church won't be on the earth during the period he defines as the tribulation period? Haven't we just read, however, that the church, **by its biblical definition**, is on the earth during the reign of Antichrist?

Yes, we've just seen in the scriptures an uncountable number of people **fitting the biblical definition of the church** present on earth while the Antichrist wars with them.

Revelation 7:9-17 teaches that a great multitude, a large uncountable crowd **from all nations** came out of "great tribulation" (Revelation 7:14). This white robed multitude from all people groups suffered physically at the hands of men for their commitment to obey God's word. (Revelation 6:9-11; 7:9-17)

the church in Daniel 12:1

Daniel 12:1-2 describes a time of trouble or great tribulation during the time in which **God's people** (his church) will be **delivered** (escape, slip away or be saved) or "raptured" as the New Testament teaches in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:9 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-53. "**Thy people**" in Daniel 12:1 are God's people. They are defined within this scripture as "every one that shall be found written in the book". The book is the **book of life** containing the names of all Jews and Gentiles which belong to the true church according to 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Galatians 3:26-29, 6:15-16 and Ephesians 2:11-22. Philippians 4:3 and Revelation 3:5,13:8,17:8, 20:12 and 20:15 speak of the book of life.

Jewish gospel?

The period described in Daniel 12:1-2 is said to be a time of trouble greater than anything the world had ever seen up until that time of trouble. Matthew 24:21 and Mark 13:19-20 describe the same time period in similar words.

Pre-tribulation rapture teachers teach that Matthew is the Jewish gospel written by a Jew to Jews. They use verses unique to Matthew to say that Matthew's "Jewish gospel" is further proof that only Jewish believers will go through "the tribulation period". Note, however, that Mark teaches the same truth in a gospel never said to be a "Jewish gospel".

- *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. (Matthew 24:21-22)*
- *For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days. (Mark 13:19-20)*

Do you recognize now that it's an innumerable number of people from **all nations and nationalities** who will become saved members of the church out of great tribulation? When one recognizes that it's not just Jews from the nation of Israel that become saved members of the church out of great tribulation; doesn't the salvation, persecution and martyrdom of "the tribulation saints" need to be placed within a "church age" or "age of grace" dispensation? Shouldn't this "age" be placed within the final seven years? Doesn't it become clear that the church is present on the earth during great tribulation?

The restraining of the Holy Spirit

Pre-tribulation rapture teachers tell us that the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world restrains Antichrist from being revealed. They teach that the Holy Spirit is the

restrainer that must be removed from the world before Antichrist can be revealed. If the Holy Spirit is removed from the earth before the final seven years; how do the innumerable number of people from all nations and nationalities spoken of in Revelation 7:14 become saved members of the church out of great tribulation?

revealing of antichrist

2 Thessalonians 2:3 tells us that there's coming a specific point in the world's future that the man of sin, the son of perdition, or antichrist will be **revealed**.

*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be **revealed**, the son of perdition;*

Revealed is the greek verb αποκαλυφθη from the root verb *apokalupto*. It's Strongs #601 meaning to take off the cover or disclose.

The revealing of antichrist is described in the next verse.

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

Antichrist will be revealed to the world as he proclaims and displays himself as the Supreme Deity or Divinity in the central sanctuary of the temple at Jerusalem.

Pre-tribulation rapture teaching says that the Holy Spirit or "restrainer" is removed from the earth at the rapture of the church before the final seven years. They believe that once the restraining power of the Holy Spirit is removed, antichrist can be revealed to the world. An in-depth analysis of the biblical text underlying this interpretation, however, reveals another scenario.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8

In order to make it easier to understand this study of 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8, the biblical text with it's corresponding Strongs Concordance numbers is shown in the original Greek Textus Receptus from which the King James English (KJ) version of the scriptures was translated.

2:6 And²⁵³² now³⁵⁶⁸ ye know¹⁴⁹² what withholdeth²⁷²² that he⁸⁴⁶ might be revealed⁶⁰¹ in¹⁷²² his¹⁴³⁸ time.²⁵⁴⁰

2:7 For¹⁰⁶³ the³⁵⁸⁸ mystery³⁴⁶⁶ of iniquity⁴⁵⁸ doth already²²³⁵ work:¹⁷⁵⁴ only³⁴⁴⁰ he who now letteth^{2722, 737} will let, until²¹⁹³ he be taken¹⁰⁹⁶ out of¹⁵³⁷ the way.³³¹⁹

2:8 And²⁵³² then⁵¹¹⁹ shall that Wicked⁴⁵⁹ be revealed,⁶⁰¹ whom³⁷³⁹ the³⁵⁸⁸ Lord²⁹⁶² shall consume³⁵⁵ with the³⁵⁸⁸ spirit⁴¹⁵¹ of his⁸⁴⁸ mouth,⁴⁷⁵⁰ and²⁵³² shall destroy²⁶⁷³ with the³⁵⁸⁸ brightness²⁰¹⁵ of his⁸⁴⁸ coming:³⁹⁵²

The original Greek Textus Receptus text for these verses with it's greek parsings is as follows:

2:6 και²⁵³² CONJ νυν³⁵⁶⁸ ADV το³⁵⁸⁸ T-ASN κατεχον²⁷²² V-PAP-ASN οιδατε¹⁴⁹² V-RAI-2P εις¹⁵¹⁹ PREP το³⁵⁸⁸ T-ASN αποκαλυφθηναι⁶⁰¹ V-APN αυτον⁸⁴⁶ P-ASM εν¹⁷²² PREP τω³⁵⁸⁸ T-DSM εαυτου¹⁴³⁸ F-3GSM καιρω²⁵⁴⁰ N-DSM

2:7 το³⁵⁸⁸ T-NSN γαρ¹⁰⁶³ CONJ μυστηριον³⁴⁶⁶ N-NSN ηδη²²³⁵ ADV ενεργειται¹⁷⁵⁴ V-PMI-3S της³⁵⁸⁸ T-GSF ανομιας⁴⁵⁸ N-GSF μονον³⁴⁴⁰ ADV ο³⁵⁸⁸ T-NSM κατεχων²⁷²² V-PAP-NSM αρτι⁷³⁷ ADV εως²¹⁹³ CONJ εκ¹⁵³⁷ PREP μεσου³³¹⁹ A-GSN γενηται¹⁰⁹⁶ V-2ADS-3S

2:8 και²⁵³² CONJ τοτε⁵¹¹⁹ ADV αποκαλυφθησεται⁶⁰¹ V-FPI-3S ο³⁵⁸⁸ T-NSM ανομος⁴⁵⁹ A-NSM ον³⁷³⁹ R-ASM ο³⁵⁸⁸ T-NSM κυριος²⁹⁶² N-NSM αναλωσει³⁵⁵ V-FAI-3S τω³⁵⁸⁸ T-DSN πνευματι⁴¹⁵¹ N-DSN του³⁵⁸⁸ T-GSN στοματος⁴⁷⁵⁰ N-GSN αυτου⁸⁴⁶ P-GSM και²⁵³² CONJ καταργησει²⁶⁷³ V-FAI-3S τη³⁵⁸⁸ T-DSF επιφανεια²⁰¹⁵ N-DSF της³⁵⁸⁸ T-GSF παρουσιας³⁹⁵² N-GSF αυτου⁸⁴⁶ P-GSM

These verses teach **the antichrist is now restraining himself from revealing himself** until out of the midst of the mystery of iniquity antichrist is born or comes into being. (reference 2 Thessalonians 2:7 in greek: μονον³⁴⁴⁰ ο³⁵⁸⁸ κατεχων²⁷²² αρτι⁷³⁷ εως²¹⁹³ εκ¹⁵³⁷ μεσου³³¹⁹ γενηται¹⁰⁹⁶)

Mystery is the greek word Strongs #3466 μυστηριον (mysterion). It carries with it the idea of silence imposed by the initiation of occult religious rites. This could be indicative of the hidden underworld secrecy of the Luciferic occult orders which conspire in the unseen spiritual world to accomplish their Lord Satan's will in the world. These are the evil forces of conspiracy whose purpose is to destroy true Christianity and God's eternal covenant with his people.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:10-12)

The key phrase in 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 includes Strongs #2722 and #1096 translated **"taken out of the way"** from the Greek root *ginomai*. *Ginomai* means "to be born".

Strongs #2722 **letteth** in verse 7 is translated **withholdeth** in 2 Thessalonians 2:6.

*And now ye know what **withholdeth** that he might be revealed in his time.*

Withholdeth and **letteth** used in both verses 6 and 7 are from the same Greek root *katecho*. The Greek parsing of the verb indicates that both are present tense active voice participles in the accusative case.

The accusative case of this verb reveals that this verb functions as the object of this verb's action. The fact that the verb is in the active voice indicates that the subject is the agent that performs the action expressed in the verb. So in this case the subject of the verb, antichrist; not the Holy Spirit or restrainer, is performing the action of restraining and is also the object of the restraining action. The exegesis of this passage again confirms that the Holy Spirit isn't restrained during the final seven years.

Isn't it a timeless truth that it's only by God's grace through faith that anyone is ever saved? How then can the Holy Spirit be removed from the earth during a time in which an innumerable number of people from all people groups are being saved?

Isn't it only the Spirit of God that can convict any Jew or Gentile of sin and bring new spiritual life to them? Isn't the Holy Spirit the only one who can baptize or place anyone into the one universal body of Christ we know as the church? (John 6:63, 16:7-13; Ephesians 2:1-9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

Do you still believe that the Holy Spirit and the church are absent from the earth during the last seven years of earth's history? Haven't we just seen that according to the sound doctrine of the scriptures; the definition of the man-made term "church age" is incorrect? Haven't we just seen that the restrainer can't be the Holy Spirit and the church is present during the final seven years. If this is true, don't we need to either correctly redefine the "church age" according to biblical teaching or discard the term?

Common definition of the tribulation period

The next part of this study will examine the biblical definition of the tribulation period.

Do you believe that a strong defense is critical to victory in battle? Do you believe that the church has enemies in the spiritual realm that wrestle against her? Do you believe that the Spirit of God is the spirit of truth, that Jesus is the truth and that God desires us to live and worship in truth? If you answered yes to these questions, then wouldn't it be logical to believe that a true, biblical understanding of the tribulation period is critically important to the future life of the church?

the danger of anticipating a pre-tribulation rapture

Many U.S. churches that believe we live in the last days before the return of the Lord continue to teach a pre-tribulation rapture. This teaching has conditioned the church to believe that the rapture will occur before Antichrist is revealed. Many professing Christians believe that God would never leave them here to suffer under Antichrist's reign because their Pastor and or a prophecy expert has told them that God has promised to remove them from the earth before Antichrist is in power.

Isn't Satan a liar and the Father of lies? What if the pretribulation rapture teachers are wrong about the timing of the rapture? Couldn't their error be a strategic lie of Satan designed to pin many professing Christians to the mat in his wrestling match with them? Does it matter that many professing Christians could be deceived by the serpent's lies? Can you imagine the potentially disastrous effects upon the faith of those that have been conditioned for years to believe that they'll never suffer great tribulation when they suddenly realize that they must accept life on Antichrist's Orwellian terms or die?

Many professing Christians believe that following the rapture, the 70th week of Daniel or tribulation period begins with the signing of a Antichrist brokered peace treaty between Israel and her neighbors and ends seven years later with the return of the Lord. Is this truth the masses are being fed?

The 70th week of Daniel is described in Daniel 9:27 as follows:

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

We know from Genesis 29:27 that in the Hebrew language and culture, one week refers to a period of seven years. Thus, Daniel 9:27 is referring to a literal seven year period.

Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.

The word **confirm** used in Daniel 9:27 is *gabar*. It means to strengthen. The word **covenant** used in Daniel 9:27 is *beriyth*. Beriyth is used 254 times in the Old Testament. It means an alliance, pledge or agreement of friendship or peaceful coexistence between people or between people and God. Since the covenant is confirmed for seven years with many, the agreement is possibly one promising peaceful coexistence between the world's major religions centered in Jerusalem for a seven year term. The seven year term agreement is actually broken after about 3 ½ years when Antichrist stops the daily temple sacrifice according to Daniel 9:27 and 12:11.

The use of the word many in Daniel 9:27 implies an agreement that would possibly affect all nations including Israel. We know for certain that it's a covenant affecting the Jewish religion since Daniel 9:27 tells us that the Antichrist acts about 3½ years later to stop the daily temple sacrifices and offerings. Then, 1290 days (about 3 ½ years) after the temple sacrifice is stopped by Antichrist, Daniel 12:11 tells us that the “abomination that maketh desolate” is set up.

And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. (Daniel 12:11)

The revealing of Antichrist occurs when he proclaims himself to be God in the temple according to 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4.

Does Thessalonians 2:3-4 specifically mention the abomination of desolation? No it doesn't; so is it safe to assume that the revealing of Antichrist occurs during a seven year period we call the great tribulation?

Abomination of desolation

From examining the scriptures directly referring to the abomination of desolation in the context of great tribulation, **the abomination of desolation** is defined as **the surrounding of Antichrist's armies around Jerusalem**. This is seen in studying the parallel accounts regarding Jesus' teaching on the abomination of desolation and noticing the slight variation of Luke 21:20 compared to Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:9. Daniel 11:31-12:1 also sheds light on this topic.

According to the scriptures related to the abomination of desolation, Gentile armies commanded by Antichrist will bring great distress and wrath upon the land of Israel during this time of great tribulation. Many occupying the land of Israel at that time will be conquered and taken hostage to foreign nations as the scriptures below reveal.

***When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: **For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be**. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. (Matthew 24:15-22)*

***But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains: And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to*

take any thing out of his house: And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment. But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter. **For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.** And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days. (Mark 13:14-20)

And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. **For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.** But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! **for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.** (Luke 21:20-24)

And arms (forces) shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed. And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, **and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished:** for that that is determined shall be done... And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him. And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: **and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time:** and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. (Daniel 11:31-36, 45-12:1)

According to the scriptures we just read, great tribulation begins at the time the abomination of desolation is set up.

The scriptures never explicitly define the 70th week of Daniel as “the tribulation”

Do the scriptures ever explicitly define the 70th week of Daniel, the final seven years, as “the tribulation” or “the tribulation period”? No, remember that Daniel 9:27 states that the length of the covenant confirmed or strengthened by Antichrist with Israel is intended to be seven years.

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for **one week:** and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

According to Daniel 9:27, Antichrist breaks the covenant with Israel by ending the temple sacrifice “**in the midst**” or *approximately the middle* of the intended seven year long agreement after about 3 ½ years. Then, according to Daniel 12:11,

there's a 3 ½ year period (1290 days) from the point in time at which Antichrist breaks the covenant **until he sets up the abomination of desolation** spoken of in Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14 and Luke 21:20 which begins the period of great tribulation.

Daniel 12:11-12 tells us that 45 days (1335-1290=45 days) following the placing of the abomination of desolation, those that waited are blessed. The context of this promise is that God's people are living through the worst period of human history. They are waiting upon him to deliver them. The word waited, Strongs #2442, is used in Habakkuk 2:3 and Zephaniah 3:8 within the context of waiting for the time that the Lord returns. This blessing upon God's faithful elect closes the tribulation period for the sake of God's people who wait for him.

And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. (Daniel 12:11 -12)

So we see that the period of great tribulation begins when the abomination of desolation (the surrounding of Jerusalem by Antichrist's Gentile armies) is set up. Daniel 12:11-12 teaches that this period ends 45 days later with the return of the Lord to gather his saints and bring his wrath upon the armies gathered against Jerusalem and the world. (Zechariah 14)

The elect that have endured the 45 day period of great tribulation are blessed as the Lord gloriously returns to gather his church and unleash his wrath. This event describes the *blessed hope*, the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ spoken of by Paul in Titus 2:13.

the voice of the archangel and the trump of God

Daniel 12:1 tells us that at this time God's people; identified as those that are found written in the book of life, are delivered (*malat*) or saved as Michael the archangel stands up on their behalf. This salvation is described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 where Paul writes of the return of the Lord.

This return is accompanied by the voice of the archangel, the trump of God, the resurrection of dead believers and the rapture of the living remnant of the church to meet the Lord in the air. Jesus taught that the resurrection of his people would occur at the last day. (John 6:39-40)

Paul also linked the sounding of the trump of God with the resurrection of believers in 1 Corinthians 15:52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16. The sounding of the trump is also associated with the return of the Lord in Matthew 24:3, Isaiah 18:3, 27:13 and

Zechariah 9:14 confirming that great tribulation is cut short for the sake of the church just 45 days after the abomination of desolation is set up.

These scriptures teach that the church must endure a 45 day period described in Daniel 12:1 as the most troublesome time in the history of the world. Could it be that the Lord simply acts in mercy to end the tribulation by returning to save his people because in his omniscient sovereignty he knows that his people's faith wouldn't be able to endure great tribulation of this nature any longer?

Matthew 24:22 indicates that this period of **great tribulation** is ended for the sake of believers.

For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: **but for the elect's sake** (the church, believer's in Christ Jesus) those days shall be shortened. (Matthew 24:21-22)

If great tribulation is ended for the sake of believers, isn't it obvious that the church (the elect or believing Christians) has to be on the earth at that time?

“the tribulation” : the most troublesome time in the history of the world

The word **tribulation** (*thlipsis* in the original Greek) is used 19 times in the Textus Receptus Greek New Testament. Three times it's described as **great tribulation** or *me-gas thlipsis* in the original Greek. (Matthew 24:21; Revelation 2:22, 7:14)

Notice that Daniel 12:1-2, Matthew 24:9-22, Mark 13:19-20 and Luke 21:12-24 are all describing a period of time that is defined by them as the most troublesome time in the history of the world.

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted (Strong's 2347-thlipsis), and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: **For then shall be great tribulation (Strong's 2347-thlipsis), such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.** And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. (Matthew 24:9-22)

But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them. And the gospel must first be published among all nations. But when they shall lead you, and

deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains: And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house: And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment. But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter. **For in those days shall be affliction (Strongs 2347-thlipsis), such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.** And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days. (Mark 13:9-20)

But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls. And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. (Luke 21:12-24)

The day of the Lord

Is the **great tribulation** spoken of in the verses above the same period of time as the **day of the Lord**?

The **day of the Lord** is **the one day** the Lord returns to gather his church and bring vengeance and wrath upon his enemies. (Zechariah 14:7; Isaiah 10:17)

Is there any biblical reason to make that one day any more than a literal day?

The sign that this one day is about to occur are cosmic disturbances that occur immediately after the great tribulation of those days spoken of in Matthew 24:9-28; Mark 13:9-23; and Luke 21:12-24.

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 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 shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matthew 24:29-31)

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. (Mark 13:24-27)

The coming of the day of the Lord is signaled by dramatic changes in the solar system. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before** that great and notable day of the Lord come. (Acts 2:20)

On that day that the Lord gloriously returns, the army of his elect brings judgment upon the nations that are allied with antichrist against Him at Jerusalem. The following scriptures illustrate this truth.

*Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for **the day of the LORD** cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his way, and they shall not break their ranks: Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. **The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?...***

And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. **The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.**

*...Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. **The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.** The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. (Joel 2:1-11,30-31; 3:9-16)*

Howl ye; for **the day of the LORD** is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs

and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. 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. **For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.** And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. (Isaiah 13:6-11)

Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word. The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left. ... Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. **The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard,** and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited. **Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed,** when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously. (Isaiah 24:1-6, 17-23)

Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcases, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. **And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.** For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea. And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness. For it is **the day of the LORD'S vengeance,** and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion. (Isaiah 34:1-8)

And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord GOD. I will also vex the hearts of many people, when I shall bring thy destruction among the nations, into the countries which thou hast not known. Yea, I will make many people amazed at thee, and their kings shall be horribly afraid for thee, when I shall brandish my sword before them; and they shall tremble at every moment, every man for his own life, in the day of thy fall. For thus saith the Lord GOD; The sword of the king of Babylon shall come upon thee. By the swords of the mighty will I cause thy multitude to fall, the terrible of the nations, all of them: and they shall spoil the pomp of Egypt, and all the multitude thereof shall be destroyed. (Ezekiel 32:7-12)

And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: **The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:** (Acts 2:19-20)

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall **the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:** (Matthew 24:29)

But in those days, after that tribulation, **the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.** (Mark 13:24-25)

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. (Luke 21:25-26)

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and **the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth,** even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens 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 that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? (Revelation 6:12-17)

Footprint of great tribulation and the day of the Lord

The word for nation used in Daniel 12:1 is the Hebrew word *goy* which usually refers to Gentile nations.

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

The use of the word *goy* by no means supports the belief that this time of trouble is isolated within the land of Israel only. The scripture is clear that Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles during this period.

First, Revelation 3:10 states that this time will come upon the whole world.

"because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."

Second, consider that the effects of the fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel 9:24-26 regarding the first 69 weeks of Daniel weren't confined to Israel alone. Although the Lord Jesus Christ was revealed to Israel 483 years from the decree of King Artaxerxes

to rebuild Jerusalem as prophesied in Daniel 9:26; the first coming of Jesus Christ impacted the entire world. Likewise, the fulfillment of the 70th week of Daniel will have global impact.

Rather than being an event merely affecting the nation of Israel, the covenant affects “many” according to Daniel 9:27. Likewise, when the covenant is broken by Antichrist, “many” will be affected. The resulting great tribulation spoken of in Daniel 12:1, Matthew 24:29, Mark 13:19 and Luke 21: 21-24 which precedes the day of the Lord isn’t confined to Jerusalem; it’s **great** tribulation. Luke 21:24 says that during this period Jews in Jerusalem will be taken away as captives into all nations while Gentiles under the authority of Antichrist trample down Jerusalem.

Third, the word **great** used to describe this tribulation is the word *meegas*. *Megas* implies largeness in both intensity and scope. Daniel 12:1 and Mark 13:19 tell us that the magnitude of affliction suffered during this time is the worst the world will ever see!

Conclusion

According to the Bible, Antichrist’s war is with the saints. It lasts 3½ years and it’s attack is against those saints that choose to worship Jesus Christ rather than him. (Daniel 7:23-27; Revelation 12:17, 13: 7-15, 20:4) The persecution and hatred directed toward God’s people during this time is worldwide. Believers in Jesus Christ will be hated of all nations and of all men for the sake of Christ’s name according to Matthew 24:9; Mark 13:13 and Luke 21:17. There are no scriptures teaching that professing Christians living in the U.S. are exempt from the Satanic wrath to be directed against the church for 3 ½ years under the global dictatorship of Antichrist. (Revelation 12:12-17, 13: 3-18)

Although Antichrist’s wrath operates within the sovereign prophetic plan of God; the unholy, unjust wrath of the devil operative through Antichrist is a separate entity from the holy, just wrath of God intended for the antichristian world on the day of the Lord.

According to 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9, believers in Jesus Christ aren’t appointed to the wrath of God that occurs on the day of the Lord’s return. According to Philippians 1:29, however, all true believers are to expect suffering for the sake of Christ like the Apostle Paul did.

The Bible never states that the church will escape great tribulation. It does say the church won’t experience the wrath of God on the day the Lord returns but will be **“caught up”** to be with him. (1 Thessalonians 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:9) “Caught up” is translated from the Greek root word *harpazo*. It means to seize, snatch away or carry away by force and eagerly claim for one’s self. Rapture comes

from Latin translation of this word. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

As I currently understand the scriptures, this rapture occurs at the last day according to a synthesis of John 6:39-40; Matthew 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-28; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Daniel 12:1-2.

the Revelation 3:10 card

Dr. LaHaye and other pre-tribulation rapture teachers tell us that Revelation 3:10 means that the church will be delivered from the tribulation of the last seven years. Is this correct?

Revelation 3:10 states:

*“because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will **keep thee from** the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”*

In order to see if this verse is actually teaching that the church will be raptured before the beginning of the final seven years and its tribulation, we need to compare the phrase “keep thee from” used in Revelation 3:10 with “keep them from” found in John 17:15.

*“pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest **keep them from** the evil.” (John 17:15)*

In John 17:15, Jesus taught his disciples that although they won't be physically removed from the evil of the world, he will protect them spiritually within it. He taught this principle throughout his ministry in places like John 16:33 which reads:

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

Note that the words “**keep them from**” (keep⁵⁰⁸³ them⁸⁴⁶ from¹⁵³⁷) used in John 17:15 and the words “**keep thee from**” (keep⁵⁰⁸³ thee⁴⁵⁷¹ from¹⁵³⁷) found in Revelation 3:10 use the same Strong's identification numbers. This tells us that the meaning of these phrases is the same even though the KJV translation uses slightly different words in each.

Since Jesus in John 17:15 teaches the principle of spiritual protection, not physical removal from the evil and tribulation of the world; this principle would also apply in Revelation 3:10 since the same words keep and from are used in both verses.

In agreement with the principles Jesus taught in John 17:15; Revelation 3:10 teaches that Jesus promises to protect the Church of Philadelphia spiritually through

global tribulation in response to the church's perseverance. He will deliver them from the power of temptation and guard them from loss by keeping his eye upon them through fiery trial. This theology is consistent with the teachings of Jesus and his apostles found in scriptures such as John 16:33, Acts 14:22, Romans 5:3, Romans 12:12 and 1 Thessalonians 3:4.

Ezekiel 13 describes false prophets of Israel's past who were driven by selfish purposes and weren't being led by God's spirit. These men weren't intelligently interceding for national sin or courageously calling the nation to stop its wickedness. Instead, they were whitewashing over the wickedness of their homeland with false promises of a peaceful and prosperous escape from imminent judgment. This false prophecy only enabled Israel to become more idolatrous. Eventually the patriots were disappointed when God's righteous judgment occurred. The Judean people eventually lost their homeland security when Babylon took them captive. The useless predictions of the selfish shepherds were exposed in the Babylonian Captivity like a powerful storm destroys an improperly constructed wall. (Ezekiel 13:1-16)

Likewise, the vast majority of the American church is being promised an imminent escape from the great tribulation which Antichrist's terrifying global war of terror against the church will produce. (Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21; Mark 13:19; Revelation 7:14)

The promise of an imminent rapture to remove the church from the earth before Antichrist is revealed and God's wrath is poured out upon the world is being made in spite of the biblically based truth that God's judgment begins with his people. (1 Peter 4:1-7; Amos 3:1-8; Ezekiel 9:6; 1 Corinthians 10:1-12)

During the time in which the man of sin takes dominion over his global kingdom and is making war with God's kingdom, many confused and disillusioned professing Christians will fall away and join the kingdom of Antichrist. This apostasy is the logical outcome of being ill-prepared to face the powerful and seductive force emanating from the image of the beast that they'd been taught they'd never see. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Daniel 11:31-39, 12:7-12; Revelation 13:7-10)

During this time of great tribulation; the greatest time of trouble the world will ever see, Antichrist physically overcomes those martyrs that refuse total submission to his authority.

Can you imagine any true Pastor after Antichrist has been revealed teaching the church that they should give thanks for the higher power or government of Antichrist the beast 666?

Enemy combatants of 666 overcome Antichrist spiritually by remaining faithful to the word of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Daniel 7:21, 11:33-39; Revelation 6:7-11, 7:9-17, 12:7-17, 13:7-10, 14:9-13, 15:2, 20:4)

In suffering at the hands of Antichrist, the church is honored to be united with the sufferings of her Lord Jesus Christ who willingly suffered for her. (Acts 5:40-42; Philippians 1:29; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-5)

As he has done in the past, God is informing his servants of the future suffering they may endure. He isn't wanting his people to be in complete darkness where they will be vulnerable to the shock and awe of Satan's fiery darts during Antichrist's war against them. (Amos 3:7; Ezekiel 7-13; Luke 22:15, 31-34; John 9:16, 16:13; Revelation 2-3)

The Lord promises to be with his children as they walk through the valley of the shadow of death. As it is written, for thy name sake we are killed all the daylong; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:36-39)

It's my prayer that you will accept the truth of this message and begin to spread it throughout the body in a spirit of love in order to help prepare the church for the 70th week of Daniel and the terror of global dictatorship under Antichrist.