

Group Study #3 Tribulation

The Purpose of the Great Tribulation

1. Revival- God will select 144,000 Jewish witnesses to help in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. There will be multitudes saved during the tribulation time. There will be multitudes that are martyred.

- Rev. 6-7. Nations of believers are saved, and multitudes are martyred.
- No one ever discusses how many people are not martyred and remain until Jesus' return. A lot!
- How many people on the earth will be caught up together with Jesus in the clouds? A lot!
- We long for revival. We pray for it. We look for it. Why would we want to miss it?

2. Judgment- Upon the ungodly, especially those whose agenda aligns with Satan. Ones whose whole life has been in alignment with killing, stealing, and destroying. Rev- 14:19-20, Rev- 19:15, Winepress of the fury of the wrath of God.

3. Babylon The Great is Destroyed- Rev. 18. This is a time of incredible rejoicing for the righteous.

4. Like in the Days of Moses- The great story of the Old Testament is the Exodus of God's people out of Egypt. God proved that He can bring judgment upon an entire nation while, at the same time, protecting His holy people. Many of God's people were persecuted, hated, and even killed by the Egyptians during God's 10 plagues of judgment. Ultimately, God delivered His people out of Egypt and took them to the Promised Land. God can protect His people while bringing wrath and judgment upon the whole earth.

5. Miracles, Signs and Wonders, the Great Harvest, All Israel Being Saved, Victory in Jesus! People only think about the wrath of God and tribulation. Believers will not experience wrath. We get to exercise our faith and total dependence upon God. We will be like the great cloud of witnesses, accomplishing even greater things than Jesus and those before us. I cannot wait! Come Lord Jesus!

Warnings on Interpreting Prophetic Scripture:

1. Be careful to not assign current people to end time events. (Like Putin is the Anti-Christ)
2. Ask if the prophecy has already happened, is happening now, or is a future event.
3. The consumption of End Times Studies is a multimillion-dollar industry in the USA.
4. People disagree on the TIMING of End Times, and Jesus says don't focus on the timing.
5. There are many prophecies about the End Times that no one fully understands, and we will not know until it happens and is over. It's okay to say, "I don't know" and "We will see."

6. Everyone has been wrong on assigning a date to the return of Jesus. Jesus probably will not come back in our lifetime. Every generation has believed that Jesus was returning in their generation.
7. The Rapture of the Church is not an absolute truth even though people teach it as an absolute.

Question: Will the Church go through the Great Tribulation or be Raptured before it?

Scripture #2: 1 Corinthians 15:50-53 (NASB) Now I say this, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Practice Interpreting this Passage of Scripture: (Answers found on the next page)

1. **CONTEXT-** What is the main point of this passage and overall theme of the surrounding verses?
2. **AUTHOR'S INTENT-** Why did the author write this? What was the original purpose?
3. **AUDIENCE'S UNDERSTANDING-** What did they understand? How did they teach it to others?
4. **MISINTERPRETATION-** What is this passage not talking about?

Answers:

1. **Context:** The Resurrection. Jesus was resurrected from the dead. Our natural body will die and we will receive a spiritual body at the resurrection. Christians who are alive at Jesus' return will be changed in a moment from a perishable (Flesh) body to imperishable (Spiritual) body.
2. **Author's Intent:** Explaining Jesus' resurrection, the resurrection of believers from the dead, and the change in bodies of believers who are still alive at Jesus' return.
3. **Audience's Understanding:** The resurrection is real- Jesus proved it! The resurrection is real to those who have already died. It is real to us who will remain at Jesus' return. We receive spiritual, imperishable bodies at the resurrection. They understood there will be believers upon the earth at Jesus' return.
4. **Common Misinterpretation:**
 - Does this passage of Scripture discuss the Rapture of the Church before the Great Tribulation?

- o Answer: No. The early church readers would never have read this Scripture and thought the Church would be raptured to heaven before the Great Tribulation.
- What time-frame does this passage discuss?
 - o Answer: These events happen at the last trumpet. What is the last trumpet? The end.
 - o Answer: People misinterpret this passage because they break one of the rules in hermeneutics. They make the Scripture say something the author never intended. This passage only deals with the resurrection. No original reader or listener of this passage would conclude that the Church is Raptured before the Great Tribulation. One must “Jump Through Hoops” to find the Rapture of the Church here. This is a classic example of taking the Scripture out of context.
 - o If you disagree with this interpretation, feel free to share your thoughts with me by emailing Joey.White@StoneWaterChurch.com

CONCLUSION: This passage brings great hope that all believers will receive an eternal body that will never perish. Our flesh body will die because it is perishable. Every believer who is alive when Jesus returns will receive an imperishable body “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.” One cannot use this passage as a proof-text of the rapture of the Church before the Great Tribulation. It’s simply not there.