

The Wrath of God and the Tribulation Period

Major Point #1

1. General Truths About the Wrath of God.

1st. General Truth

a. God is the one who chose to make His wrath known.

Rom. 1:18 - For the wrath of God is revealed **from heaven** against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

Mankind did not invent the truth that God is a God of wrath, He revealed it about Himself. Some see this side of God as inconsistent, but it's necessary for Him to possess this attribute.

How would God display His intense, (yet controlled) anger and hatred for sin without displaying His holy wrath? God's wrath is always manifested as a result of man's sin of ungodliness and unrighteousness.

2nd. General Truth

b. God's wrath has been seen in the past, it's currently being seen, and it will be seen in the future.

Examples: The Angels who sinned - 2 Pet. 2:4
The Worldwide flood - Gen. 6:11-13
The Destruction of Sodom - Gen. 19
The Rebellion of Korah - Num. 16
The Cross of the Messiah Jesus - Isa. 53
God's wrath currently abides on all lost people - John 3:36
The Future Tribulation Period - Rev. 6-19
The Second Coming of Christ - Rev. 19:11, 15
The Great White Throne Judgment - Rev. 20:11-15

These are just a small sampling of verses that speak of God's wrath. **Throughout the Word of God we see that God dispenses His wrath because of sin.**

Col. 3:5-6 - Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. **6** For it is because of these things that the **wrath of God** will come upon the **sons of disobedience**.

Eph. 2:1-3 - And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature **children of wrath**, even as the rest.

Major Point #2

2. The uniqueness of God's wrath in the tribulation.

Although we can point to some horrendous times in the history of mankind, the seven year Tribulation period (and especially the last 3 1/2 years) will be unique in its intensity and devastation. There has never been, nor will there ever be a time like this.

Matt. 24:2 - For then there will be a great tribulation, **such as has not occurred** since the beginning of the world until now, **nor ever will.**

Jer. 30:7 - Alas! for that day is great, There is **none like it**; And it is the time of Jacob's distress, But he will be saved from it.

Dan. 12:1 - ...And there will be a time of distress **such as never occurred** since there was a nation until that time.

Joel 2:2 - A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness... There has **never been anything like it**, Nor will there be again after it.

One of the main characteristics that will distinguish the Tribulation period from all other times of persecution and suffering is, that while other calamities were localized in various places, the Tribulation period will be worldwide. The effects of the tribulation will surround the planet.

Major Point #3

3. Some passages that describe and characterize the tribulation

There are multitudes of passages from the Old Testament that clearly portray what this period is going to be like. With just a small sampling, you'll see how terrible this time will be.

Isa. 13:6-7 - Wail, for the day of the Lord is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. **7** Therefore all hands will fall limp, And every man's heart will melt.

Isa. 13:10-11 - For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not flash forth their light; the sun will be dark when it rises and the moon will not shed its light. **11** Thus I will **punish** the world for its **evil** and the wicked for their **iniquity**; I will also put an end to the **arrogance of the proud** and abase the **haughtiness** of the ruthless.

These two verses in Isaiah clearly present some of the purposes for the tribulation. Evil, wickedness, iniquity, pride and haughtiness (feelings of superiority) will be dealt with during this time.

Zeph. 1:15 - A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness.

Matt. 24:22 - Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

One of the major purposes for the tribulation period is to bring Israel to their knees in repentance. For thousands of years, Israel has been described by God as a stiff-necked people, but they will clearly be brought to the place where God will save them by His grace. Read Jeremiah 30.

Jer. 30:11 - 'For I am with you,' declares the Lord, 'to save you; For I will destroy completely all the nations where I have scattered you, Only I will not destroy you completely. But I will chasten you justly And will by no means leave you unpunished.'

The tribulation period will lead the remnant of Israel to what we read in Rom. 11:26-27.

Rom. 11:26-27 - and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob." **27** "This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

Major Point #4

4. The way to escape God's wrath!! GET SAVED!!!!

The great news is, God has provided a way to escape the tribulation period! I know that not all Bible teachers believe this, but when the Scriptures are taken literally, this is the conclusion you will reach.

a. Blessings for the believers.

If you go home to be with the Lord before the rapture, you will miss the tribulation, and if the rapture takes place while you are still alive, you will also miss the tribulation period. Either way we will not experience God's wrath.

But, how do we know that the rapture takes place before the tribulation begins? Because the Bible teaches that church saints are not destined for God's wrath.

1 Thes. 5:9 - For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thes. 1:10 - and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

Rom. 5:9-10 - Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.