

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

II Thessalonians 1:5-10 Rev. Brian W. Secor
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When I began to plan for this Advent season, it seemed wise to talk about the second coming of Jesus Christ.

1. Eschatology is the study of the _____ things. Bible emphasizes it in Old & New Testament. Often hear it referred to as the _____ Hope. My view of eschatology is eclectic.

Eschatology teaches us that this world is not our _____ & that a world is coming.

1. The first thing that must happen for this new world to come is that the church & the Holy Spirit must be removed from the world. That happens at _____ of the Church.
2. When that occurs, God's _____ will be poured out upon this world yet men & women will choose to follow the Antichrist rather than submit to Jesus Christ as their Lord.

I. A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE GREAT TRIBULATION

A. When it begins — _____ years before the millennium, when Antichrist takes over world government.

B. Who is here — Have been three historical perspectives:

1. Rapture of Church occurs at _____ of tribulation so no Christians are left to go through it. Basis: Rev. 4:1 & Romans 5:9.
2. Rapture of Church occurs in _____ of Great Tribulation. Daniel & Revelation use phrases to indicate time frame of 42 months or 3 ½ years to explain time. Rev. 7:3 & 9:3-4. Rev. 14:14. Rev. 15-16.
3. Rapture of Church occurs at _____ of Great Tribulation. This view sees Church present until very end of time.
4. Which view do I hold? I want the Rapture to be pre-tribulation; think it is probably mid-tribulation and sure hope it isn't post-tribulation.

C. What its purpose is --- Purpose is to rightly _____ the earth's rebellious inhabitants & those who would follow Antichrist.

D. When it will end — Great Tribulation ends when _____ returns with his saints & all the armies of heaven to usher in the millennial age.

E. The impact of the Gospel during the Great Tribulation --- Two views:
1. If church gone & Holy Spirit gone, _____ one is saved during Great Tribulation. No one here to proclaim & make the Gospel effective.
2. Because Church remains, is _____ of being saved until it is taken out, especially in first half of tribulation.

II. WHAT THE GREAT TRIBULATION TEACHES US.

A. God is _____

1. _____ has no mercy — all about justice & works righteousness

2. Our God is a God of _____ & _____.

- a. Right now this world is beneficiary of his great grace & mercy.
- b. We like to think this grace & mercy will last forever. It will not. There is coming a day of _____ wrath for those who have persisted in unbelief & hatred of Jesus Christ. It is really what Great Tribulation is

all about. For centuries, humanity has been heaping up its blasphemies & curses versus God; its hatred of the Church & Christian people; its denial of Biblical truth. _____ is coming--- the Great Tribulation. Rev. 16:17-21. Seven bowls complete the wrath of God.

3. His wrath is _____. Let us make every effort to flee God's wrath to come by responding positively to Christ in this time of grace & mercy. Now is the day of salvation. Now is the accepted time. Turn to Jesus & live & escape the wrath to come

B. Humanity is _____ against God.

1. In Adam's fall, we sinned _____. Our race, the human race for we are all of one blood in the human family, our race has perfected the art of rebellion versus God. Romans 1:18-20; 28-32; 2:5-8.

- a. _____ persons have an opportunity to acknowledge God as God.
- b. But we don't. We _____ the truth by our wickedness for to how to the real God of heaven & earth & not to one of our own making.
- c. We not only suppress the truth & engage in wickedness, we _____ others to do the same & go further by inventing more & more ways to be perverse.

d. We go so far as to call _____, bad & _____, good. God is _____. He must deal with the rebellious human race by his wrath & he will in the Great Tribulation.

C. We need to _____ others that God's wrath is for real.

1. Word "wrath" occurs 47x in 45 passages in NT. 26x refers to wrath of God. In Revelation, occurs 12x with God being active agent of wrath.
2. We need to warn others to _____ from the wrath to come. John 3:16 & John 3:36. Romans 5:8 & Romans 5:9.
3. We have so watered down the Gospel to keep away from what we think will offend people that we scarcely believe, let alone mention the extreme positive benefits of knowing Christ. We are saved from the _____ of God to come! Outside of Christ, there is nothing to look forward to accept falling into the hands of a wrathful God & that is a fearful, fearful thing that we would wish for no one. But how shall they know, how shall they hear unless we share with them the blessed Gospel of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ?

D. We need to be prepared to _____ for Christ's sake.

1. All around this world today, brothers & sisters in the faith are suffering because they believe in Jesus Christ & call him Lord.
2. It may be that we will be called upon to suffer for Christ. If it happens, we should not be surprised & we should determine ahead of time that we will not renounce _____. If the Bible is true, there is too much at stake for our eternal souls to give up Christ to gain a temporary advantage. We may find ourselves facing Antichrist & his wicked laws. If we do, let us resolve to never give up our _____ in Christ for it alone has the power to save us from the wrath to come.

With all God's people we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus. Come!