

You have no doubt heard the warnings about the great tribulation which they say will last seven years. Is that a Bible fact or not? It's a popular belief. But in this brochure, I have gathered evidence from the Bible to show you that there is not going to be a seven year tribulation. None! Nada!

## The timing

A fact that is commonly overlooked or explained away is about the time of the great tribulation that Jesus warned about in Matt. 24:21. That terrible period took place before the end of the first century. We know this from a statement John made in Rev. 1:9. In addressing his brothers he said he was a "companion in tribulation" Also the very first Christians, the "firstfruits" of the early church, "came out of great tribulation." Every one of the thousands and thousands of conversions that we read about in Acts up to Cornelius in the tenth chapter, were all Jews. Then in Rev. 14 we learn that these were the first converts because of that word "first fruits," all 144,000 of them. Rev. 7:14; 14:1, 4. God put that word "firstfruits" in there and we must not try to put it into any other time frame than in the early church. Nothing is said to indicate they are yet to be converted. Rev. 14:4, "These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." Notice that It does not say they will be, but

that they were already redeemed ~ in the early church! James addressed "the twelve tribes ... scattered abroad" and said they were "firstfruits." They were "scattered abroad" because of the tribulation. The "great persecution" began when Stephen was stoned. Acts 8:1, James 1:1, 18. These people are with the Lord now. They "follow" Him everywhere He goes. Rev. 14:4. They will be among the armies of heaven following Jesus when He comes to "judge and make war." Rev. 19: 11-14.

It will be similar to a story of Elisha. II Kings 6:13-17. A huge army of men had come to capture him. His servant was scared! Elisha answered, "Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." Elisha prayed, "Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see." And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man and he saw that the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. Invisible heavenly armies could have defeated earthly warriors.

## The Seven Seals

In Rev. 5: 1-2, a book with 7 seals is introduced. In chapter 6, the first one is opened. These seven seals are a time line of the Kingdom from Acts 2 to the time when Jesus gives it back to the Father (I Cor. 15:24-28). Many attempts have been made to put this puzzle together. But in reading some of these, it is obvious they

have tried to force the pieces. It doesn't work! The way I present them here they fit together perfectly. Seal one, white horse, Jesus our King. Time period, the early church. Seal two, red horse, the great tribulation, 70 A.D. Seal three, black horse, dark ages, Roman domination. Seal four, Pale horse, no Christian leaders. Seal five, an awakening, a calling on God. Seal six, the cleansing of the earth, the Day of judgment, Satan removed, then the millennium. Seal seven comes after the 1000 years and includes all seven trumpets. Satan is let loose for a short time. The final trumpet is the end, and death is no more. Rev. 11:15-18 and I Cor. 15:52, 54.

## The letters to the churches

If you believe that the letters to the churches, Rev. 2-3, represent time periods, you will notice that the second one, 2:9-10, mentions tribulation. (This one is not real clear.)

## Seven Years?

Where did the idea of the "seven years" come from? Well, that gets a bit complicated. Let's see if I can shorten and simplify it. The seven years of tribulation comes from the assumption that the promised Kingdom did not take place on time. God had to stop the clock, so they say. In Daniel chapter nine there is a prophecy about "Seventy Weeks" which actually meant 490 years, each week being

seven years. The prophecy was all fulfilled right on time. Jesus said so in Mark 1:15, “The time is fulfilled, the Kingdom of God is at hand.” However, since Jesus went back to heaven instead of sitting on a throne in Jerusalem, the scholars assume it must have been postponed. They figure that the last “week” or seven years, is yet to be fulfilled. That is the time of the great tribulation, which they say comes right after the saints are taken out with the “rapture.” That is the popular opinion, but it’s not a Bible fact.

## It’s a Spiritual Kingdom

The pre-millennial package of opinions is mostly based on the assumption that the kingdom was postponed. Jesus did not set up His Kingdom and rule from Jerusalem, but went back to heaven. They say that He is coming back to set up His throne there in Jerusalem. The many prophecies that say He will reign from Jerusalem are all taken as proof that He will be here in a bodily form for the thousand years. The fact that He is reigning now from heaven and will not return to earth until all enemies have been put down is something they can’t comprehend. Matt. 22:44. There seems to be a lack of understanding of the spirit world. The Kingdom is a spiritual one, Luke 17: 20-21, and will never be otherwise. When we see Jesus we will be like Him. I John 3:2.

## In His Saints

One reason this view is rejected is that there are so many indications of the reign from Jerusalem, which is yet to come. The rule from Jerusalem will begin when the Jews as a Nation accept Jesus as Messiah. That will take place from the day of wrath. Ezekiel 39:22, From that day and forward. The Lord will be glorified IN HIS SAINTS, 2 Thess 1:6-10. Notice in this verse that there will be tribulation from God on the evil ones but this is not the one Jesus was talking about in Mt. 24. That one was against Christians from the enemies of the Church.

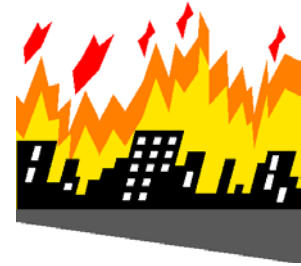
Are you still looking for a physical Jesus? He said that He could not send the Holy Spirit until He left, John 16:7. So if Jesus were on earth physically, would we lose the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit? According to what Jesus said, we can’t have both. Jesus said in that verse that it is better for Him to leave. Having the Holy Spirit is better than having a physical Jesus. For more on this, get the C.E. Koerner book. Click on *Rapture II*.

## The Day of the Lord

A common mistake is to think that the references to this Day are the tribulation. No, they are not the same. See my brochures called *The Rapture to read* about The Day.

# Seven years of TRIBULATION?

Bible fact ~ or theory?  
What does the  
Bible really say?



A Mini Bible Study  
By Cheryl Boone