



Surviving the Tribulation

The Bible tells us about a time of tribulation such as this world has never seen. The Battle between God and evil is an issue of worship. All mankind will have to choose a side. There will be those that have the mark of the beast and those that have the seal of God. Those who have the seal of God will find protection and those who have the mark of the beast will face the wrath of God as His angels pour out the seven last plagues upon planet earth.

- I. Once before plagues were poured out. In Exodus we find ancient Israel and Egypt going through ten plagues.
 - A. The plagues that fell on Egypt were as follows:
 - i. Water to blood. Exodus 7:20,21
 - ii. Frogs. Exodus 8:2
 - iii. Lice. Exodus 8:16
 - iv. Flies. Exodus 8:24
 - v. Disease of cattle. Exodus 9:3,4
 - vi. Disease of man. Exodus. 9:10
 - vii. Hail. Exodus 9:14,15,18,23-26
 - viii. Locust. Exodus 10:4-16
 - ix. Darkness. Exodus 10:21-23
 - x. Death of first-born. Exodus 11:5
 - B. Most of the Egyptians still determined to oppose God.
 - C. Literal Israel was still in Egypt during the plagues. They were not delivered until after the plagues.
 - D. God fought the battle for them. God destroyed the Egyptian army in the Red sea. Israel did not fight with its army. Exodus 14:28
 - E. Those in Israel who chose to follow the commands of the God of heaven were protected. Exodus 12:13
- II. At the end of time. After the judgment has been completed. There will again be a time of trouble. A time of plagues. A time that will end in the deliverance of God's people. This time ends with the first resurrection and Christ's second coming.

- A. Daniel describes this time as a time of trouble, such as the world has never seen. Daniel 12:1
 - B. Those who have their names in the book of life will be delivered at the end of the seven last plagues. Daniel 12.1
 - C. Those who receive these plagues will be those who, “worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead or in his hand...” Revelation 14:9
- III. For the seven last plagues to fall only on those who have received the mark of the beast, the judgment will have to already have come to an end. The time of probation, the time to choose, will be over. Revelation 22:11
- A. Christ’s work as our High Priest in heaven will have ended. Every case will have been decided.
 - B. The time for mercy is over. The command for the plagues to be poured out is given. Revelation 16:1
- IV. What are the seven last plagues, the time of trouble, this terrible time of tribulation?
- A. “And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisesome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.” Revelation 16: 2
 - B. “And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man; and every living soul died in the sea.” Revelation 16:3
Imagine the smell, imagine the thirst. Praise God the righteous are protected. Isaiah 33:16
 - C. “And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.” Revelation 16:4. Man has become blood thirsty. They have shed the blood of saints and prophets. Revelation 16:6
Again God’s people are protected. Isaiah 33:16
 - D. “And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.” Revelation 16:9 Sun scorches the earth. It is interesting to note that sun worship and Sunday worship both have their history in paganism.
 - E. “And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain. And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and

repented not of their deeds.” Revelation 16:11 The beast has attempted to keep man in the dark. The beast has desired that man not see the true light of God. Now they are truly in the dark.

- F. “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.” Revelation 16: 12-16
- i. In ancient Babylon, Darius and Cyrus, the kings of the east, dried up the Euphrates and entered Babylon and took over the kingdom. This resulted in the deliverance of God’s people who later returned to Israel. Isaiah 44:24-30; 45:1-4; Jeremiah 50:35-39 Jesus in the last days will deliver his people from the confusion that Babylon teaches.
 - ii. Some say the battle of Armageddon is the sixth plague but notice it is the drying up of the Euphrates. The result is man prepares for war against one another and against truth.
 - iii. The false will unite to do battle against the genuine. God versus evil, the genuine versus the false.
 - iv. Some scholars suggest the three unclean spirits are the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. Certainly we know that these powers try to kill those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus.
 - v. False teachings are spread by mouth. Speech includes the use of our tongue. False teachings are spread by the tongue as a frog catches its prey by use of its tongue.
 - vi. Rather than a literal battle taking place, God’s people are delivered.
 - vii. “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations....He himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” Revelation 19:11-15

G. “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, ‘It is done.’ And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake...And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.” Revelation 16:17-21

- i. Most scholars place the weight of a talent at about 57 pounds.
- ii. The earth shakes and there is a great hail storm.
- iii. This is the beginning of the second coming of Christ. Jesus comes to deliver His people.
- iv. Sin is ended. The righteous are caught up in the air to meet Jesus with those that are saved that are asleep in their graves.
- v. The wicked are killed by the brightness of his coming.
- vi. The righteous begin the 1000 year reign in heaven with God.

V. How to be sure you survive the tribulation. You can have the assurance that the God of Hope is your hope.

A. Accept Jesus as your Savior and follow His teachings. Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23

B. Be sealed by God before it is too late. Receive God’s protection now. John 3:16; John 14:15; Revelation 14:12; Revelation 22:11; Isaiah 33:16; Psalm 91

C. Do not receive the mark of the beast. Revelation 14:9-10; Revelation 22:11