

Will the Church Go Through the Tribulation?

Purpose of this lesson: To show the Church will not go through the Tribulation.

A LOOK AT THE OUTLINE OF REVELATION (1:19)

1. *The things which you **have seen*** – **The vision of Christ (ch. 1)**
2. *The things which **are*** – **The church age (ch. 2-3)**
3. *The things which will take place **after this (Gr. Meta tauta)*** – **After the church**

Ch. 1 – Vision of Christ judging the churches

Ch. 2-3 – Church on earth

Ch. 4 & 5 – Church in Heaven

Ch. 6-18 – Tribulation judgments

Ch. 19 – The second coming of Jesus Christ & Armageddon

Ch. 20 – The Millennium

Ch. 21-22 – The New Jerusalem / The New Heaven & the New Earth

THE CHURCH AGE (*the things which are*)

1. EPHESUS = left their first love
2. SMYRNA = martyred church
3. PERGAMOS = married to the world
4. THYATIRA = corrupt
5. SARDIS = spiritually dead
6. PHILADELPHIA = Church at the end of this age
7. LAODICEA (rights of the people) = Final apostasy at the end of this age

NOTE: Vision of Christ as a High priest & judge over the churches **(1:12-16, 20)**

THE CHURCH IS CAUGHT UP TO HEAVEN (4:1)

- **John 14:1-3**
- **I Thes. 4:14-17**
- **I Cor. 15:52**

8 REASONS THE CHURCH WILL NOT GO THROUGH THE TRIBULATION

1. The outline of the Book of Revelation shows the church in Heaven during Trib.

- *Write the things that shall take place after this (Rev. 1:19)*
 - *After this = after the church age (Gr. meta tauta)*
- The church is mentioned 19 X before chapter 4. It isn't mentioned *after this* until after the Tribulation (22:16).

2. The judgments of the Tribulation are for unbelievers, not believers

- To try men who dwell on the earth (Rev. 3:10)
- To pour out His wrath upon the wicked (Rev. 15:7)
- To destroy them that destroy the earth (Rev. 11:18)
- The Tribulation a time of testing to prepare Israel to receive Christ

Mal. 4:5-6: *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

3. God does not judge the righteous with the wicked

- **Gen. 18:23** – *Will you also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?* God did not judge Sodom until Lot was out of the city.
- **Luke 17:29** – *In the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.*
- **Enoch is a type of the rapture of the church.**
- **II Pet. 2:9** – *The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation and to reserve the unjust unto the Day of Judgment to be punished.*

4. Believers are exempt from wrath

- **I Thessalonians 1:9-10** – *...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven (rapture)...even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*
 - **I Thessalonians 5:9** – *God has not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - **WRATH = 13 times in Revelation between chapter 6-19**
5. The restraining work of the HS will be removed with the church before the Tribulation
- **II Thes. 2:3-12** – all hell will break loose morally & spiritually
6. The Tribulation is the fulfillment of the “Times of the Gentiles” & has nothing to do with the church
- **Daniel 9:24-26** has nothing to do w/ the church
 - The tribulation is the last 7 years of Daniel’s 70 weeks
 - The church is not in the OT.
 - The church is a NT mystery
- Ephesians 3:9** – *To make all to see what the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Jesus Christ our Lord.*
7. The Spirit can’t be upon Israel until the Church age ends
The anointing can’t be on the Church and the 144,000 at the same time.
- **Jer. 3:10** – The time of Jacob’s trouble
 - **Rev. 13** – Antichrist will break treaty w/ Israel, mark of the beast
8. The Spirit won’t be on Israel and the church at the same time
- a. On one king at a time
 - b. On Israel in OT
 - c. On church in NT

- d. On 144,000 in Tribulation (Jewish remnant)
- e. On all Israel at the coming of Christ
 - **Ezek. 39:27-29** – *When I have brought them again from the people and gathered them out of their enemies' lands and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen, but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them anymore there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my Spirit upon the house of Israel said the Lord.*
 - **Zech. 12:9-10** – *And it shall come to pass in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*
 - **Ezek. 36:27** – *I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall keep my judgments and do them.*
- f. The Spirit will be poured out on all flesh when Jesus Christ returns to earth
 - **Acts 2:17-21** (quotation of Joel 2:28-32)
 - **v. 21** – *Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved*

THE POINT: After the rapture of the church the 144,000 will be sealed by the spirit until Israel is converted. Then all flesh will receive the Holy Spirit

During the Millennial reign of Christ the HS will be on all who are saved