

TRIBULATION (IV) Jeremiah 30:7

THE PEOPLE AND PURPOSE

Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:24-27 Within these verses there is enough proof texts for us to determine the main group of people that will be living and suffering during the tribulation period are the Jews.

Deuteronomy 4:29-30; Jeremiah 30:3-11; Zechariah 12:8-10 The bible teaches us that the tribulation is a time of preparation for Israel's restoration and conversion.

Daniel 9:24, 26-27 Tribulation is a time for Daniel's people (the Jews), it concerns the "holy city" (Jerusalem) and a false Messiah ("the prince that shall come").

Matthew 24:14-15, 20 Tribulation talks of salvation by another gospel (the gospel of the Kingdom), it tells of an "abomination of desolation" in "the holy place" (temple).

Revelation 7:3-8; 11:3 Tribulation speaks of the twelve tribes of Israel and the two Jewish witnesses.

Isaiah 13:9-11; 26:20-21 The sinners and lost people of the world are also targeted by God for punishment during this terrible time of wrath and judgment.

Revelation 9:20-21 People that are unrepentant, serving devils and worshiping idols, murderers, adulterers, and those that are involved in witchcraft and thieves will suffer God's wrath.

II Thessalonians 2:10-12 People that have heard the gospel of grace and refused to be saved and are alive during the tribulation will suffer throughout the tribulation and have no hope of heaven.

PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

In the study of bible prophecy, or eschatology, most Christians and scholars agree on these three things: 1) There is coming a time of such tribulation and wrath from God that the world has never seen. 2) After the tribulation Christ will return to earth and set up His millennial Kingdom, 3) There is going to be a rapture, a catching away, of Christians both dead and alive someday. The question everyone wants to know is when will the rapture take place in relation to the tribulation and the Kingdom.

Matthew 16: 1-4; 24:3-33; I Cor. 1:22 It is well documented throughout the O. T. and N. T. that the "Jews require a sign" for proof. Jesus gave signs that needed to come to pass before tribulation.

John 14:1-3; John 21:22-23; I Cor. 15:51-52; I Thes. 4:13-18 It is obvious after reviewing these scriptures that 1) No sign is needed and nothing needs happen before this rapture event takes place. 2) It is evident by reading what John and Paul wrote that they fully expected it to happen in their life time.

Tribulation Judgments- Within the context of the tribulation and the wrath of God, the church is not mentioned one time during the Seal Judgments, the Trumpet Judgments or the Vial Judgments.

Revelation 3:10 John writes to the church of Philadelphia (representing Christ's church) and promises the church will be kept from the tribulation period.

I Thessalonians 1:10 Early in his ministry Paul not only anticipated Jesus coming during his life time but he exhorted the believers at this church "to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us (past tense) from the wrath to come."

Romans 5:9 Because we are justified by His blood "we shall be saved from wrath through Him."

John 3:18; 5:24; Rm. 8:1, 35-39; Eph. 1:5-7; Col.1:12-14 Within these few scriptures believers are promised by God that we are not condemned and cannot be separated from Jesus because we are His family and have been purchased by His finished work on the cross. Our sins have all been washed away so why would God put His children through punishment, terrible wrath and terror when the tribulation period is for punishing lost sinners and bringing them to repentance? Hasn't Jesus already paid for our sins? Are we not clean and pure in God's sight because of our faith in Jesus? Will believers have to saved again under the "gospel of the Kingdom"?