

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE -NOW-

[PART 30]

WHY IS IT CALLED THE
GREAT TRIBULATION?

Reading: **Revelation 7:9 - 14**

Introduction

- All believers should have a clear understanding of what is to happen in the **'last days.'**
- Unfortunately a belief system called **'dispensational futurism'** has muddied the waters.
- Futurism is the deceitful **'brainchild'** of the Jesuits to undo the Reformation.
- Futurism claims the **'Rapture'** will be secret in nature.
- That it will commence **'Daniel's 70th week'** or a period of 7 years.
- During those 7 years, antichrist emerges and the **'great tribulation'** occurs.
- We have previously seen Futurism is wrong on the Rapture and **'antichrist.'**
- Futurism says that **'the great tribulation'** is future and will **NOT** affect the church.

1 Letting The Scriptures Speak

- Consider [John 16:33].
- The word **'tribulation'** comes from Greek word **'thlipsis'** and **'pressure'** and **'affliction'** and **'distress'** are also translated from it.
- Consider also: [Acts 14:22], [1 Thessalonians 3:4], Revelation 1:9], [2 Thessalonians 1:4].
- According to Greek expert, Henry Alford the word **'great'** means great extensively due to the great expanse of time it covers.
- It covers the entire church age from Stephen in [Acts 7] and James in [Acts 12] right up until Jesus returns.
- Do the pages of history confirm this?

2 Tribulation Caused By Jewish Hands

- Consider [Acts 8:1 & 3].

3 Tribulation By Pagan Roman Hands

- Pagan Rome was the 4th great Gentile power represented on the great image in [Daniel 2].
- In the first 3 centuries the church endured 10 separate periods of tribulation under 10 different Caesars.
- Historians estimate some 12 million Christians were martyred in arenas.

4 Tribulation Caused By Papal Roman Hands

- After the emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and made Christianity the state religion, popes eventually took the place of Caesars.
- The church had prayed for peace from persecution.
- Over time the church became the persecutors of those who refused her superstitions.
- Burnings at the stake were common during this era history calls, **'the Dark Ages.'**
- Historians estimate some 52 million Christians were martyred by the papal church.
- Try telling these martyrs that the tribulation was future and the church would not go through it.

5 Tribulation Caused By Communist And Muslim Hands

- In todays world, tribulation is mostly from Communist and Muslim quarters.
- According to **'Open Doors'** in the 10 most dangerous countries to be a Christian in, 9 of them are Muslim.
- 1 in 7 Christians are persecuted worldwide today.
- 1 in 5 Christians are persecuted In Africa today.
- 2 in 5 Christians are persecuted in Asia today.
- In 2023 some 4998 Christians were martyred for their faith and nearly 15000 churches attacked.
- **Question:** What do you think they'd say if you told them we are not to go through the Tribulation?
- The Tribulation is great in a bad way because of how long it has continued and because of the millions of martyrs it has made.
- Every martyr was a precious soul **"of whom the world was not worthy."** [Hebrews 11:38].

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