

## **EIGHT REASONS WHY THE CHURCH WILL NOT GO THROUGH THE TRIBULATION**

I. The purpose of the tribulation is one of **Divine Judgment upon the Jewish nation.**

1. It is the *seventieth week* of Daniel and determined against "*this people*" --the Jews! (Daniel 9:24ff).
2. It is "the time of *Jacob's trouble*" (Jeremiah 30:7).

II. The nature of the tribulation is a **period of divine wrath and judgment.** The Scriptures teach that God's wrath is *not* directed against His Church!

1. I Thessalonians 5:9: "God hath not appointed us unto wrath, but unto the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."
2. Romans 8:1: "There is therefore now *no condemnation* to them who are in Christ Jesus..."

III. The Tribulation is a time of wrath and judgment throughout its seven years. It is inconsistent with the Scripture to subject the Church to the wrath of God *from which* she has been delivered: "...and to wait for His Son from Heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us *from the wrath to come*" (I Thessalonians 1:10).

IV. The Antichrist will reign during the Tribulation, according to Revelation 13:7. Everyone will be in subjection to him. If the Church were on Earth during that time, she would also be in subjection to him rather than unto Christ. Because of His union with His Church, Christ would then be in subjection to the Antichrist! Such is totally unthinkable --and impossible!

V. The New Testament Church is instructed (Romans 13, *et al*) to pray for those in governmental authority *and* to be subject to them. Revelation 13:4 states that the Tribulation government will be controlled by Antichrist and carry out his desires. The Church

could **NEVER** subject herself to such a government!

VI. The Thessalonians were in confusion regarding the resurrection. Paul wrote them that believers who were *alive* at Christ's coming for His own would have no advantage over believers who had died. If the Thessalonians had believed the Church would go through the Tribulation, they would either 1) have rejoiced that some had missed the Tribulation, or 2) have reasoned that it was better to be with the Father in Heaven than to suffer on Earth. Hiebert expresses it, "...if they had been taught that the church must go through the great tribulation the logical reaction for them would have been to rejoice that these loved ones had escaped that great period of suffering which they felt was about to occur."

VII. The New Testament epistles are amazingly silent regarding the Great Tribulation. This silence itself argues for the Church's absence during the Tribulation era.

VIII. The Tribulation foretold by the Old Testament prophets **ALWAYS** relates to Israel (Malachi 4:5-6). Note that the Fiery Furnace experience typifies the Great Tribulation --and only Jews were represented as being in the fire.

While unconverted, unbelieving Gentiles will doubtlessly experience the Great Tribulation along with the nation of Israel, Gentile absence in the fiery furnace experience of Daniel serves to emphasize that the Great Tribulation is *primarily a judgment upon the Jews for their having rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah!*