



# Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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## THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Two eschatological dispensations will occur after the Rapture of the Church: the Tribulation and the Millennium. Eschatology is the study of future or final events. They are prophecies yet unfulfilled to anticipate history's finality. These two eschatological events will occur after the Church is completely formed and transferred to heaven, the eternal and permanent residence of all Christians.<sup>1</sup>

The eschatological dispensations are separated from the Church because they are presented in the OT (Isaiah 34:1-6, 63:1-6, Daniel 11:40-45), while the Church was undisclosed in the OT.

The Tribulation precedes the founding of God's promised kingdom on earth, which is Israel. These seven years of dramatic events will start immediately after the Rapture of the Church and will terminate with the second advent of Christ. The Jews called it "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7). It is also called the time of Satan's desperation because of the violent power struggle that will take place (Revelation 12:12).

The first half of the Tribulation will be a time of relative prosperity and overt world peace. Satan will attempt to create his own "millennium" to prove that he is equal with God (Isaiah 14:14). Satan will simply use mankind to justify his rebellion against God. He will manipulate people to gain his own selfish interest. Behind the scenes, Satan will be pressing down the people to obey his ruthless rule.

He will be clamping the human race in tyranny through power politics and religious manipulation, the worse kind of tyranny. It will be a ruthless form of government without respect for human life, privacy, freedom and personal property.

Tribulation will be a period of total evil, unopposed and unrestrained by God. The outbreak of evil will reveal, through contrast the historical impact and importance of mature believers as channels for divine blessing. The absence of the spiritual pivot will give Satan free hand. At the beginning of the Tribulation, there will be no believers on earth. The restraining influence of the true invisible Church will be gone from the face of the earth.

As the devil is left alone to do his devious strategy, the world situation will turn grim. The false peace and prosperity of the first 3 ½ years will deteriorate into horrible disaster. The arrogance of Satan will be exposed in his incompetence and it will become known that he cannot rule the kingdom he grabbed from Adam.

The Tribulation will be an era of human and satanic failures. Satan will rule the world with total corruption and bad decisions. A larger portion of earth's population will destroy itself

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<sup>1</sup> See page 132

because of greed (Revelation 6:1-). His utopian government will be marked with coercion, slavery and violence. He cannot create a politically and socially perfect world. He will be a total failure and but will insists on his desires. The last 3 ½ years of the tribulation will witness the unprecedented violence of satanic machinations disentangle and doomed to failure but still struggling to retain his rule over the world.

Satan will obligate his united forces to exterminate all the Jews (Revelation 12:17), in order to eliminate the beneficiaries of God's unconditional covenants to Israel. Satan will pursue this heinous policy in an attempt to prove God unfaithful to His promises. He will kill the Jews in the name of world peace. Satan is thinking that if God could not fulfill His unconditional covenants, His character would be flawed, and Satan would have grounds for demanding dismissal of all charges against him and the fallen angels.