



# Major Bible Themes

52 VITAL DOCTRINES OF THE SCRIPTURE  
SIMPLIFIED AND EXPLAINED

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REVISED BY

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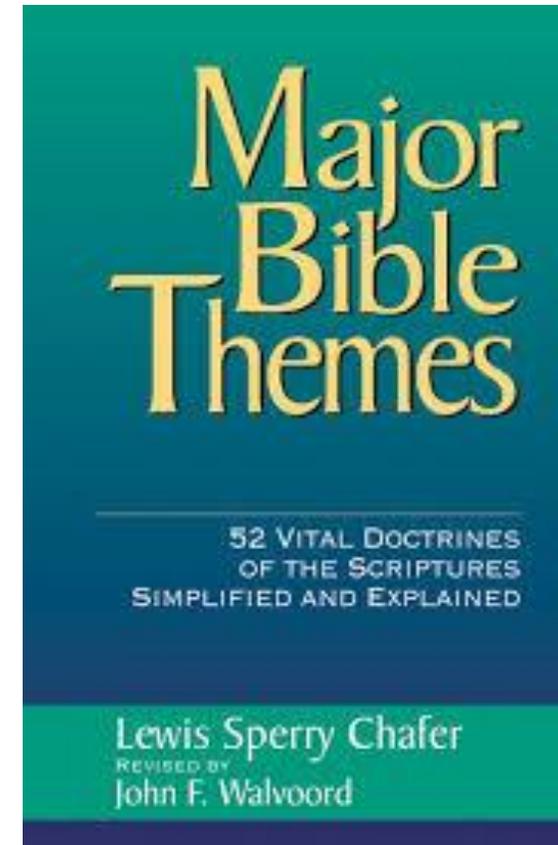
## Chapter Forty-Five

# The Great Tribulation

# Step # One

## Chapter Forty-Five The Great Tribulation

### Find the Outline



# Chapter Forty-Five

## The Great Tribulation

- A. Great Tribulation **contrasted** with General Tribulation
- B. **Old Testament Doctrine** of the Great Tribulation
- C. **New Testament Doctrine** of the Great Tribulation

## Understand It



# Chapter Forty-Five

## The Great Tribulation

A. Great Tribulation **contrasted** with General Tribulation  
Much confusion has arisen in the doctrine of the Great Tribulation because of failure to distinguish between the general trials and sufferings of the people of God and the specific period of the Great Tribulation described in the Old and New Testaments

The trials of Job in the Old Testament and the problems of Paul with his thorn in the flesh in the New Testament are symptomatic of the human race constantly in trouble and bearing many types of affliction. These have characterized the human race since Adam and will continue to some extent until human history has run its course.

# Understand It



In contrast with these general intimations of trial and trouble as they afflict the race, Scripture speaks of a special time of trouble at the end of the age, specifically a time of great tribulation which will continue for forty-two months leading up to the second coming of Christ

## **B. Old Testament Doctrine** of the Great Tribulation

As early as Deuteronomy 4:29-30 Israel was warned to turn to the Lord when she was in her time of tribulation in the latter days.

## Understand It



In Jeremiah 30:1-10, he predicts that this time of trouble will be preceded by a partial return of the children of Israel to their land: "For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it" ( v. 3).

Immediately following, in verses 4-7, is described the period of trouble which will come upon them after they have returned to the land. Israel will be in travail as a woman giving birth to a child. The time of tribulation is described specifically in Jeremiah 30:7: "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it."

## Understand It



Israel is given the promise that, though she will endure this great time of trouble, God will eventually break her yoke of bondage and she will no longer serve the Gentiles. Instead, according to verse 9, "they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them."

Israel is given reassurance not to be dismayed; it is God's purpose that eventually "Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid" ( v. 10).

## Understand It



The time of Jacob's trouble, or the Great Tribulation, is in view in Daniel 9:27 after the covenant is broken. Here it is revealed specifically that it will be half of the seven-year period, or three and one-half years. "The prince that shall come" (Dan. 9:26) "shall confirm the covenant with many for one week" (v. 27), that is, will make a covenant for seven years. He will break the covenant in the middle of the week - that is, after three and one-half years - and "he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease" and will bring about the abomination of the Temple.

## Understand It



Daniel 12:11 adds the information, "And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred ninety days." This is approximately three and one-half years with a few days added for the cleansing of the temple.

Accordingly, the time period for the Great Tribulation is specified as forty-two months, or three and one-half years.

The Great Tribulation clearly will end with the second coming of Jesus Christ.

## Understand It



### C. New Testament Doctrine of the Great Tribulation

When asked by His disciples when His second coming would occur and the age would end, Christ gives to them first of all a series of signs which have been for us, for the most part, already fulfilled, events and situations which characterize the age between the first and second comings of Christ. (Matt. 24:3- 14).

Then, in Matthew 24:15-29, Christ, in answer to their question about specific signs, describes the Great Tribulation itself.

## Understand It



He warns that it will begin when men see "the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place" (v. 15), referring to the desecration of the Temple and the Mediterranean ruler's putting himself in God's place in the Temple. He warns the children of Israel that when this event occurs, which will apparently be identified as a specific event on a given day, they are to flee for their lives to the mountains.

Christ declares in Matthew 24:21-22, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

## Understand It



In the verses which follow, our Lord describes some of the characteristics of this period. There will be false prophets and false christs (Matt. 24:23-24). There will be false reports that Christ has come secretly ( v. 26). He warns His disciples that no one should be deceived at that time, for the second coming of Christ will be a public event as the *lightning shines out of the East even unto the West* (v. 27). He warns His disciples that no one should be deceived at that time, for the second coming of Christ will be a public event as the lightning shines out of the East even unto the West (v. 27). The Tribulation itself is also described in verse 29 as a time when "*the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.*"

## Understand It



These signs will be followed by the return of Christ.

Additional information about the Tribulation is given in Revelation 6 - 18. A scroll with seven seals, is unrolled in chapter 6.

As each seal is broken, great catastrophes begin to overtake the world. This begins with the first seal, describing world government (Rev. 6:1-2). This is followed by war (vv. 3-4), famine ( vv. 5-6), and the death of the fourth part of the earth ( vv. 7-8). The fifth seal represents the martyrs who die in that period ( vv. 9-11), and great disturbances in the heavens - including the stars falling from heaven and a great earthquake on the earth, with the sun becoming black and the moon like blood (vv. 12-14).

## Understand It



The impressive display of divine power in the world inspires fear on the part of unbelievers, who call on the mountain to fall on them to save them from "the great day of his wrath" (vv. 15-17).

When the seventh seal is broken (8:1), there comes out of it another series of seven described as trumpets of the angels ( Rev. 8:2-9:21; 11:15-19). These great judgments for the most part are catastrophes upon the natural world which result in great loss of life, with the third part of the earth consumed with fire, a third part of the sea becoming blood and destroying a third part of the creatures in the sea, and stars from heaven falling upon a third part of the rivers (8:7-11).

## Understand It



The fourth trumpet concerns the stars; a third part of the sun, moon, and stars is darkened, and prediction is given of the terrible disasters which will follow with the next three trumpets.

The fifth trumpet (9:1-12) pictures unsaved men tormented by demons for five months in terrible agony, but unable even to take their own lives. The sixth trumpet (9:13-21) relates to the great army which comes from the Orient and crosses the River Euphrates to participate in the great war at the end of the tribulation period. The seventh trumpet (11:15) is near the end of the period and anticipates the coming of Christ and the establishment of His kingdom

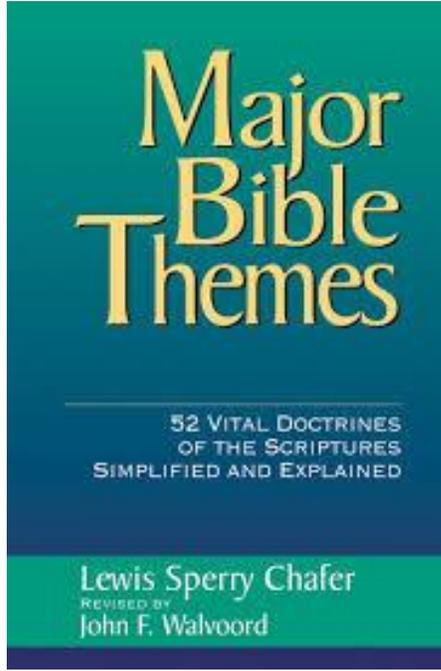
## Understand It



The seventh trumpet, however, issues into another series of seven judgments which fall in rapid succession, described as vials or bowls of the wrath of God in Revelation 16. Each of these is even more destructive than the trumpet judgments, and they constitute the final outpouring of the wrath of God upon the earth, preparatory to the second coming of Christ Himself.

The final vial, described in Revelation 16:17-21, consists of a great earthquake which levels the great cities of the world and brings Babylon into judgment and causes islands and the mountains to disappear'. The world is in chaos and in destruction and in war at the time of the second coming of Christ.

# The next principle is to build a physical file cabinet



Mike Borland

What does the Bible  
teach about The  
Great Tribulation

Chapter 44 : The Great  
Tribulation

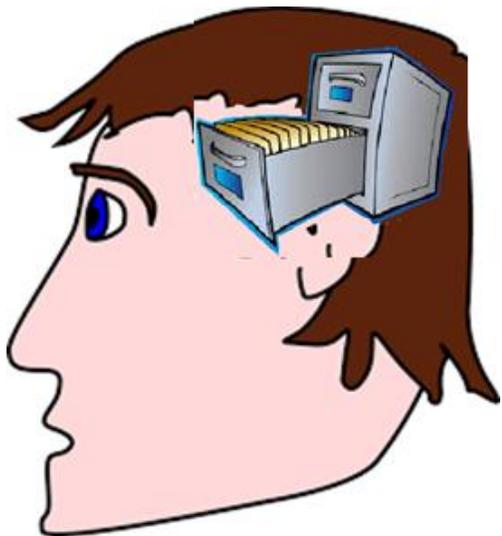
Using Major Bible Themes  
write a study about the  
Great Tribulation

# Memorize it



## Chapter Forty-Five The Great Tribulation

- A. Great Tribulation contrasted with General Tribulation
- B. Old Testament Doctrine of the Great Tribulation
- C. New Testament Doctrine of the Great Tribulation



# Chapter Forty-Five

## The Great Tribulation



A. Great Tribulation contrasted with General Tribulation **Write it Down**

B. Old Testament Doctrine of the Great Tribulation



C. New Testament Doctrine of the Great Tribulation **Underline Main Words...**



# Step # Two

**Read the Section and look up the passages**



# Chapter Forty-Five

## The Great Tribulation

A. Great Tribulation **contrasted** with General Tribulation  
*Job said...*

**Job 5:7**, *"Man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward."*

*Christ assured His disciples...*

*John 16:33*, *"in the world ye shall have tribulation."*

B. **Old Testament Doctrine** of the Great Tribulation

**Deu 4:29-30** *But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art **in tribulation**, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the **latter days**, if thou **turn to the LORD** thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;*

In Jeremiah predicts this time of trouble

**Jeremiah 30: 3** *"For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it"*

Israel will be in travail as a woman giving birth to a child.

**Jer 30:5-6** *For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether **a man doth travail with child?** wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?*

**Jeremiah 30:7:** *"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of **Jacob's trouble**; but he shall be saved out of it."*

This time of trouble will be preceded by a partial return of the children of Israel to their land:

**Jer 30:11** *For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet **will I not make a full end of thee**: but **I will correct thee in measure**, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.*

God will eventually break her yoke of bondage and she will no longer serve the Gentiles.

**Jer. 30: 9** *"they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them."*

Israel is given reassurance not to be dismayed

**Jer. 30:10** *"Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid"*

The Great Tribulation comes at the last 3 ½ years

**Dan 9:27** *And he shall confirm the covenant with many **for one week:** and in the **midst of the week** he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

**Daniel 12:11** *"And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate set up, there shall be **a thousand two hundred ninety days.**"*

This is approximately three and one-half years with a few days added for the cleansing of the temple.

The Great Tribulation ends with the Son of Man coming from heaven

**Dan 7:13-14** *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the **Son of man** came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was **given him dominion**, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

The end time will be characterized religiously by an atheistic religion headed up by the world ruler.

**Dan 11:36-38** *And the **king shall do according to his will**; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. **Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers**, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he **honor the God of forces**: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.*

## C. **New Testament Doctrine** of the Great Tribulation

Events and situations which characterize the age between the first and second comings of Christ

**Mat 24:3-8** *And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For **many shall come in my name**, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of **wars and rumors of wars**: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For **nation shall rise against nation**, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be **famines**, and **pestilences**, and **earthquakes**, in divers places. **All these are the beginning of sorrows.***

Christ, in answer to their question about specific signs, describes the Great Tribulation.

**Mat 24:15-16** *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea **flee into the mountains:***

The Lord describes the deception.

**Mat 24:24-26** *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.*

The second coming of Christ will be a public event

**Mat 24:27-29** *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the **moon shall not give her light**, and the **stars shall fall** from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

Then the Lord will return

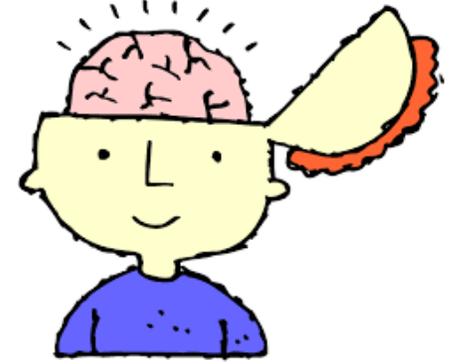
**Mat 24:30** *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the **Son of man coming in the clouds** of heaven with power and great glory.*

# Step # Three

## Memorize one Passage per section

Learn general and specific later.

- Highlight key words
- Understand difficult words and the meaning



Read out loud 5 times what you are trying to memorize



Write the verse on paper or put the verse into you phone



# **Step # Four      Take the Test at the end of the chapter**

## **Chapter Forty-Five    The Great Tribulation**

1. Distinguish between tribulation in general and the Great Tribulation.

The trials of Job in the Old Testament and the problems of Paul with his thorn in the flesh in the New Testament are symptomatic of the human race constantly in trouble and bearing many types of affliction. These have characterized the human race since Adam and will continue to some extent until human history has run its course.

In contrast with these general intimations of trial and trouble as they afflict the race, Scripture speaks of a special time of trouble at the end of the age, specifically a time of great tribulation which will continue for forty-two months leading up to the second coming of Christ

2. What is the first reference in Scripture to the future time of the Great Tribulation?

As early as Deuteronomy 4:29-30 Israel was warned to turn to the Lord when she was in her time of tribulation in the latter days.

3. What is the order of events at the end of the age, according to Jeremiah 30:1-10?

1) In Jeremiah 30:1-10, he predicts that this time of trouble will be preceded by a partial return of the children of Israel to their land: "For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it" ( v. 3).

**2)** Immediately following, in verses 4-7, is described the period of trouble which will come upon them after they have returned to the land. Israel will be in travail as a woman giving birth to a child. The time of tribulation is described specifically in Jeremiah 30:7: "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it."

**3)** Israel is given the promise that, though she will endure this great time of trouble, God will eventually break her yoke of bondage and she will no longer serve the Gentiles. Instead, according to verse 9, "they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them."

**4)** Israel is given reassurance not to be dismayed; it is God's purpose that eventually "Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid" ( v. 10).

4. How does the Great Tribulation relate to the prophecy of Daniel 9:27?

The time of Jacob's trouble, or the Great Tribulation, is in view in Daniel 9:27 after the covenant is broken. Here it is revealed specifically that it will be half of the seven-year period, or three and one-half years. "The prince that shall come" (Dan. 9:26) "shall confirm the covenant with many for one week" (v. 27), that is, will make a covenant for seven years.

5. What event signals the breaking of the covenant and the beginning of the Great Tribulation?

He will break the covenant in the middle of the week - that is, after three and one-half years - and "he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease" and will bring about the abomination of the Temple.

6. What will characterize the religion of the Great Tribulation?

The Harlot of Revelation 17 will collect all of the false religions and later the Anti-Christ will demand worship.

7. Describe the war at the end of the Great Tribulation according to Daniel.

**Dan 7:13-14** *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the **Son of man** came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was **given him dominion**, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

**Dan2:45** *Forasmuch as thou saw that the **stone was cut out of the mountain without hands**, and that it **brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold**; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.*

8. What event will bring the Great Tribulation to a close, according to Daniel?

According to Daniel 7:13-14, the period concludes with the Son of Man coming from heaven and all nations coming under His dominion. The wicked king and government which precede the second coming of Christ will be destroyed (Dan. 7:26), and the everlasting kingdom will be brought in which will, of course, be characterized first by the millennial kingdom, then by the ultimate government of God in the new heaven and the new earth.

9. According to Christ, what event begins the Great Tribulation?

**Mat 24:15-16** *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:*

10. What is Israel to do in the period of the Great Tribulation, according to Christ

**Mat 24:15-16** *When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea **flee into the mountains:***

11. What would happen, according to Christ, if the Great Tribulation were not terminated by His second coming?

The Tribulation will be so severe that unless it is shortened (literally, terminated), no human being would be left alive upon the earth. This does not imply, as some have taken from the word "shortened," that it will be less than forty-two months. It simply means that unless it were terminated by the Second Coming, the Great Tribulation would exterminate the entire human race. "For the elect's sake" - whether referring to saved Israel or saved Gentiles or both- Christ's return, while a time of judging for the world, will be a time of deliverance for the saved.

12. What are some of the events and situations immediately preceding the second coming, according to Matthew 24?

**Mat 24:3-8** *And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For **many shall come in my name**, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of **wars and rumors of wars**: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For **nation shall rise against nation**, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be **famines**, and **pestilences**, and **earthquakes**, in divers places. **All these are the beginning of sorrows.***

13. How is the second coming of Christ itself described in Matthew 24?

**Mat 24:27-29** *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

14. According to Revelation 6: 1 - 8: 1, what events are related to the breaking of the seven seals?

As each seal is broken, great catastrophes begin to overtake the world.

15. According to Revelation 8:2-9:21, what events are related to the sounding of the seven trumpets?

When the seventh seal is broken (8:1), there comes out of it another series of seven described as trumpets of the angels ( Rev. 8:2-9:21; 11:15-19).

These great judgments for the most part are catastrophes upon the natural world which result in great loss of life, with the third part of the earth consumed with fire, a third part of the sea becoming blood and destroying a third part of the creatures in the sea, and stars from heaven falling upon a third part of the rivers (8:7-11).

The fourth trumpet concerns the stars; a third part of the sun, moon, and stars is darkened, and prediction is given of the terrible disasters which will follow with the next three trumpets.

The fifth trumpet (9:1-12) pictures unsaved men tormented by demons for five months in terrible agony, but unable even to take their own lives. The sixth trumpet (9:13-21) relates to the great army which comes from the Orient and crosses the River Euphrates to participate in the great war at the end of the tribulation period. The seventh trumpet (11:15) is near the end of the period and anticipates the coming of Christ and the establishment of His kingdom

16. What is the situation described by the outpouring of the seven vials in Revelation 16?

The seventh trumpet, however, issues into another series of seven judgments which fall in rapid succession, described as vials or bowls of the wrath of God in Revelation 16. Each of these is even more destructive than the trumpet judgments, and they constitute the final outpouring of the wrath of God upon the earth, preparatory to the second coming of Christ Himself.

17. Describe in detail the results of the seventh vial being poured on the earth.

The final vial, described in Revelation 16:17-21, consists of a great earthquake which levels the great cities of the world and brings Babylon into judgment and causes islands and the mountains to disappear'. The world is in chaos and in destruction and in war at the time of the second coming of Christ.

18. How does the description of the seals, trumpets, and vials demonstrate that the postmillennial view of a world gradually getting better and better is not supported in Scripture?

Scripture describes the world in an awful climax of wickedness and rebellion against God, headed by a world ruler who is an atheist, a blasphemer, and a persecutor of all who are identified with God.

19. How will the righteous kingdom of God be accomplished in the world?

Through Christ's return

20. How do the graphic judgments of the Great Tribulation support the doctrine of the Rapture as a preceding event which provides comfort and inspiration to Christians?

Thank God we won't go through it!