

The Tribulation and Great Tribulation

This period is Biblically referred to as the "time of Jacob's trouble" and the "70th week of Daniel". During the Tribulation period, the false prophet will set up an image of the Antichrist and make people bow to it. If they do not worship the image, they will be put to death. During that same Tribulation period, the entire world will become a fiery furnace. Psalm 97:3 says, "A fire goeth before Him." Ezekiel 20:47 reads, "The flaming flame shall not be quenched." Zephaniah 1:18 tells us, "The whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy." Malachi 4:1 reads, "The day cometh that shall burn as an oven."

The Great Tribulation is going to be a horrendous time for Earth's inhabitants. But remember, the three Hebrew children went through their fiery trial unscathed. Their clothes were left intact, and not even a hair on their heads was singed. There was no smell of fire or smoke on their bodies. This is all a dramatic picture of the remnant of Jews who are going to be spared during the Tribulation hour, as well as millions of newly converted Christians. God always has, and always will, have a way of protecting His own. There is a terrible time coming. Jeremiah 30:7 says, "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." That's the good news. In Daniel 12:1 we also read: "There shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book."

Yes, this will be a time of great difficulty for the Jews, but there are also two great statements of encouragement: "they shall be saved out of it" and "thy people shall be delivered." Jesus said in Matthew 24:22, "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." This is a key verse because of the word "elect". Some Christians believe the Church will be compelled to endure the Tribulation hour because the elect are present. But it's important to determine which group of "elect" God has in mind. The elect group mentioned here is that group meeting on the Sabbath day, in synagogues, and fleeing from Judea to the mountains of Petra. This cannot be a reference to Christians, but rather to the Jewish elect, referred to in Isaiah 42:1, 45:4, 65:9, and 65:22. Yahweh is speaking here about His wife Israel. They are going to be spared the wrath (of Yahweh) of the Great Tribulation period.
