

## Great Tribulation and The Day of the Lord's Wrath Are NOT the Same (even though 'mid-Acts' charts show them so).

In His sermon on the mount (Matt 5: 1-9), Jesus taught His disciples to be 'glad' and endure through persecution from the world:

**Matt 5:10-12** Blessed are they  
which are **persecuted for righteousness' sake:**  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
11 Blessed are ye, when men shall **revile** you,  
and **persecute** you,  
and shall **say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.**  
12 **Rejoice, and be exceeding glad:**  
**for great is your reward in heaven:**  
**for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.**

Just before Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven, that He finished the work God gave Him to do (John 17:4) .... He told His disciples not to be discouraged because of the tribulation they would experience in the world, but to be happy since He had victroy over the world.

**John 16:33** These things I have spoken unto you,  
that **in me** ye might **have peace.**  
**In the world ye shall have tribulation:**  
but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Just after Paul was stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:19), he revived and left the following day with Barnabas to preach the gospel in other cities (Acts 14:20-21). Every where they went, they encouraged the **disciples** to **persevere** and understand that they would suffer **tribulation** for the sake of God's kingdom:

**Acts 14:22** Confirming the souls of the disciples,  
and exhorting them to continue in the faith,  
and that **we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.**

When Jesus' disciples asked Him about the sign of His coming and the end of the world (Matt 24:3, Mark 13:3-4), He prophesied and warned them that they would have **tribulation from religious people** ....

but God would keep record and hold it against their persecutors:

**Mark 13:9** But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and **in the synagogues ye shall be beaten:** and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, **for a testimony against them.**

True believers will be put to death .... in the name of God --- but not the TRUE God. The murderers will be deceived into doing the will of the devil, the god of this world (also see John 8:44):

**John 16:2** They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever **killeth you** will think that he doeth God service.

When the 5th seal is opened, the martyrs will cry to the Lord for vengeance .... but they will have to wait until other saints are also killed. The time will come when anyone who will not worship the beast will be killed (Rev 13:15). Anti-Christ will make war with the saints (Dan 7:21, Rev 13:7), and he will persecute Israel (Rev 12:4,13; Luke 21:23):

**Rev 6:9-11** And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar **the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:**

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, **How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?**

11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, **until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.**

Yes, the saints who endure tribulation for Christ's sake ....

will share in His glory when He comes:

**Rom 8:17** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; **if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.**

Those who suffer for Christ's sake .... will reign with Him in glory:

**2 Tim 2:12** **If we suffer, we shall also reign with him:**  
if we deny him, he also will deny us:

Just as Christ suffered, and was glorified .... so also will be His followers:

**2 Cor 1:7** And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing,  
that as **ye are partakers of the sufferings,**  
**so shall ye be also of the consolation.**

Just like Paul said, Peter also testified about the glory

awaiting the righteous .... who have suffered for Christ:

**1 Peter 4:12-19** Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as **ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings;**  
**that, when his glory shall be revealed,**  
**ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**

14 **If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye;**  
**for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you:**

on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16 Yet **if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed;**  
**but let him glorify God on this behalf.**

17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? **(Peter asked the question - Paul answered it, 2 Thess 1:7-9)**

18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved,  
where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

19 Wherefore **let them that suffer according to the will of God**  
**commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing,**  
**as unto a faithful Creator.**

John also was a 'fellow-sufferer' for the witness of Christ:

**Rev 1:9** I John, who also am your **brother**,  
and **companion in tribulation**,  
and in **the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ**,  
was in the isle that is called Patmos,  
**for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

Jesus sent a message to encourage the church to persevere unto the end. They will be jailed and offered a little time to recant .... then killed:

**Rev 2:9-10** I know thy works, and **tribulation**, and poverty,  
(but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them  
which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.  
10 **Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer:**  
behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried;  
and **ye shall have tribulation ten days:**  
**be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

"When there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people" (Luke 12:1), .... Jesus told His disciples first of all, not to be scared of their executioners:

**Luke 12:4** And I say unto you my friends, **Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.**

God's people are appointed to afflictions (1 Thess 3:3). Believers who have a testimony for Christ .... will suffer tribulation (1 Thess 3:4).

**2 Tim 3:12** Yea, and **all** that **will** live godly in Christ Jesus **shall suffer persecution.**

**Tribulation and persecution for the cause of Christ .... are different .... than God's wrath against unbelievers:**

**Mark 8:35** For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall **lose his life for my sake and the gospel's**, the same shall save it.

Jesus revealed to Saul (Paul) what desperation he would have to endure:

**Acts 9:16** For I will shew him **how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.**

Paul reminded the saints in 'the body of Christ' **of the prophecy that was recorded about their doom.** Paul applied this prophecy to them:

**Rom 8:36** **As it is written, For thy sake we are killed** all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. (Psa 44:22)

Paul taught the saints to be willing to die anytime for Christ's sake:

**2 Cor 4:11** For we which live are **always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake,** that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. (also Col 3:3)

**God's saints suffer tribulation -- but that is entirely different -- from God's wrath, which is stored up for His enemies:**

**Nahum 1:2** God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and **he reserveth wrath for his enemies.**

The wicked will be the ones who get God's wrath .... not the righteous:

**Job 21:30** That **the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.**

God's wrath is against the sinners .... not the saved:

**Isa 13:9** Behold, **the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath** and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and **he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.**

John the Baptist warned the 'religious snakes' of his day about God's wrath:

**Matt 3:7** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, **O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?**

## God's wrath is against the unbelievers .... NOT the believers:

**John 3:36** He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:  
and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life;  
but **the wrath of God abideth on him.**

God's wrath is waiting for the hypocrites (Matt 23:13, Job 27:7-8,  
Rom 2:1-4) who judge others and do the same things themselves:

**Rom 2:5** But after thy hardness and impenitent heart  
**treasurest up unto thyself wrath** against **the day of wrath**  
and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

God's wrath is against the disobedient (2 Thess 1:8; Rom 2:8, 10:16;  
1 Pet 4:17) .... not the obedient (Rom 6:17, 15:18; 1 Pet 1:13):

**Eph 5:6-6** For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person,  
nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom  
of Christ and of God.

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things  
**cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.**

**Col 3:5-6** Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth;  
fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and cov-  
etousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things' sake **the wrath of God cometh on the children of  
disobedience:**

Jesus was the perfect example for His brethren .... of obedience to God:

**Heb 5:8-9** Though he were a Son, yet **learned he obedience by the  
things which he suffered;**

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of **eternal salvation  
unto all them that obey him;**

Paul was thankful for the saints that did obey .... because everyone  
that hears does not obey the gospel (Rom 10:15-18):

**Rom 6:17** But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but **ye  
have obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine which was delivered  
you.

Because we trusted Christ's death .... God's wrath is appeased for us:

**Rom 5:8-9** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.**

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, **we shall be saved from wrath through him.**

We are saved from God's wrath .... by the blood of the Crucified One:

**1 Thess 5:9-10** For **God hath not appointed us to wrath,** but to obtain **salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**10 Who died for us,** that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

God's wrath is not against His saints .... who turned to Him from idols to serve Him. They are the ones He will deliver from His wrath:

**1 Thess 1:10** And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even **Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.**

God's wrath is stored in 7 vials to be poured out on the earth (Rev 16:1):

**Rev 15:1,7** And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for **in them is filled up the wrath of God.**

7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels **seven golden vials full of the wrath of God,** who liveth for ever and ever.

God's wrath will be in full force upon anyone and everyone who worshipped Anti-Christ or got his mark. They will never ever get any relief of it:

**Rev 14:9-11** And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, **If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,**

**10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone** in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

**11** And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, **who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.**

When the 7th angel blows 'the last trump' (1 Cor 15:52, 1 Thess 4:16)

.... and Christ appears to raise the dead (1 Cor 15:20-24) .... and judge and establish His kingdom (2 Tim 4:1). Then His saints will get glory .... and the destroyers will be destroyed:

**Rev 11:15,18** And the seventh angel sounded;  
and there were great voices in heaven, saying,  
The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord,  
and of his Christ;  
and he shall reign for ever and ever.

18 And the nations were angry, and **thy wrath is come,**  
and the time of the dead, that they should be judged,  
and that thou shouldst **give reward**  
**unto thy servants the prophets,**  
**and to the saints,**  
**and them that fear thy name, small and great;**  
**and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.**

Paul said nothing shall separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8:39) .... not tribulation ... not persecution:

**Rom 8:35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?  
shall **tribulation,** or distress, **or persecution,**  
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**What should be our response to tribulation?**

Paul repeatedly taught that **saints patiently suffer tribulation,**  
**even glory in it** (2 Cor 1:3-7, 7:4; 1 Thess 3:2-4):

**Rom 5:3** And not only so, but **we glory in tribulations** also: knowing that **tribulation worketh patience;**

Paul also taught the saints to be long-suffering through their trials:

**Rom 12:12** Rejoicing in hope; **patient in tribulation;**  
continuing instant in prayer;

Peter gave instructions about how to handle it:

**1 Peter 3:14-16** But and if ye **suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye:** and **be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;**

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

Paul used his personal experience to inspire the saints:

**2 Cor 12:10** Therefore **I take pleasure** in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, **in persecutions,** in distresses **for Christ's sake:** for when I am weak, then am I strong.

As Nehemiah told the people (Neh 8:10),

"The joy of the Lord is your strength."

On 'mid-Acts-hyper-dispensational' charts .... tribulation and wrath are shown together during Daniel's 70th week. They believe that saints who have been saved from reading PAUL's writings will be raptured into heaven several years BEFORE the 70th week begins, thus escaping tribulation and wrath for those 7 years. They do not believe 'the last trump' is the last trump in Revelation. The charts divide the saints in time past and ages to come .... from the saints in 'but now' --- even though God's word says there is one body (Eph 4:4). They think the one body only pertains to people who have been saved through PAUL's writings --- and no one else. 'Mid-Acts-ers' are very wrong. *This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"*