

Tribulation ? Wrath ? What's the Difference?

Tribulation and wrath are, on their own, 'big' subjects, so in this message, we will examine them pertaining to the issue of the last days.

First we will look at verses dealing with **tribulation** -- then we'll read about **wrath** and you can compare to see if they are **the same or different**.

The Greek word <**thlipsis**> (Strong's # 2347) is a **noun** used in the KJV 45 times.

It is translated

- **tribulation - 21 times**
- **affliction - 17 times**
- **to be afflicted - 1 time**
- trouble - 3 times
- persecution - 1 time
- anguish - 1 time
- burdened - 1 time.

It is a pressing together pressure, oppression, distress.

A similar Greek word <**thlibo**> (Strong's # 2346) is a **verb** used in the KJV 10 times.

It is translated

- trouble - 4 times
- **afflict - 3 times**
- **suffer tribulation - 1 time**
- narrow - 1 time
- throng - 1 time (like being squeezed in a crowd or mob)

It is to press hard upon (as grapes are compressed), straitened, contracted.

In this study, we will see that both believers and unbelievers will have **tribulation** but from different sources and for different reasons.

When Jesus told His disciples that He would be leaving them, He also told them that they would have **peace in Him -- but tribulation in the world:**

John 16:22,33 And ye now therefore have sorrow:
but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice,
and your joy no man taketh from you.

33 These things I have spoken unto you,
that **in me ye might have peace.**

In the world ye shall have tribulation <thlipsis>:
but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Paul preached the gospel of peace (Eph 6:15, Rom 10:15), as did Isaiah (Isa 52:7, 57:19). **Paul was no stranger to tribulation either.** His accusers thought they had killed him yet, he got up and continued preaching the gospel encouraging saints to understand that **tribulation** is the channel through which one must go to get into God's kingdom:

Acts 14:19-22 And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having **stoned Paul**, drew him out of the city, **supposing he had been dead.**

20 Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

21 And when they had **preached the gospel** to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

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

Likewise, in his epistle to the church of the Thessalonians, Paul wrote:

1 Thess 3:1-4 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;

2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in **the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:**

3 That no man should be moved by these **afflictions <thlipsis>:** for yourselves know that **we are appointed thereunto.**

4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that **we should suffer tribulation <thlibo>;** even as it came to pass, and ye know.

There again Paul wanted them to be **established and comforted during their tribulations** when the truth of Jesus' words were experienced.

Paul reminded the Thessalonian saints again in his 2nd letter to them: The persecutions and tribulations that the saints endure are an obvious sign that they are the ones that are suffering for God's kingdom and they are the ones that God will avenge when He returns from heaven:

- 2 Thess 1:3-10** We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet (**fitting, proper**), because that your **faith groweth** exceedingly, and the **charity** of every one of you all toward each other **aboundeth**;
- 4 So that we ourselves glory in you in **the churches of God** for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations **<thlipsis>** that ye endure: (That is **tribulation** the saints have brought on by the unbelievers)
- 5 Which is a manifest token of the **righteous judgment of God**, that ye may be counted worthy of **the kingdom of God**, for which ye also suffer:
- 6 Seeing it **is a righteous thing** with God to recompense tribulation **<thlipsis>** to them that trouble **<thlibo>** you; (That will be **tribulation for the unbelievers**, when Christ comes back)
- 7 And to **you who are troubled <thlibo>** rest with us, (When will that rest from trouble come?) **when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed** from heaven with his mighty angels,
- 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that **obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ**:
- 9 **Who shall be punished** with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;
- 10 **When he shall come <erchomai>** to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) **in that day.**

That was **all ONE sentence!** We ought to leave it that way rather than **wrongly divide it** up! The saints will be glorified with resurrection bodies unto eternal life and the unbelievers who persecuted them will be destroyed in 'that day'. What day? the day when Christ comes, the day of Christ, the day of God, the day of the Lord, the day of the Lord Jesus Christ, **THAT day!**

Remember that we read about **tribulation for 2 different groups:**

tribulation the saints will get from the unbelievers (2 Thes 1:4,5) and

tribulation the unbelievers will get from God when He comes (2 Thes 1:6-9)

2 Thess 1:3-10 teaches several of the same doctrines as Rom 2:5-11.

Notice Paul's warning that

- God's **WRATH** is being stored up against the unbelievers and
- **GOD** is going to **repay / avenge** the unbelievers with **tribulation**

in the DAY of wrath
in the DAY He is revealed:

Rom 2:5-11 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;

6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

7 To them who by **patient continuance in well doing**
 seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

8 But unto them that are contentious,
 and **do not obey the truth**, but obey unrighteousness,
 indignation and **wrath**,

9 **Tribulation <thlipsis>** and anguish, **(notice tribulation and wrath are both together right here in store for the unbelievers)**
 upon **every soul of man that doeth evil**,
 of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

10 But glory, honour, and peace,
 to **every man that worketh good**,
 to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

At the revelation of Jesus Christ He will come to judge and make war (Rev 19:11) and be glorified in His saints (2 Thes 1:10).

Those passages we just read that Paul wrote go along with what

Peter wrote about believers suffering at the hands of unbelievers.

The saints will have **tribulation** because they will be persecuted by the unbelievers:

1 Pet 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**, (that's when He comes) **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? (That question was answered by Paul in Rom 2:9,10 and 2 Thes 1:8,9 that we already read.)

18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, **where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?** (They will get **God's wrath and tribulation and vengeance and punishment with everlasting destruction.**)

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.

In the previous chapter, Peter wrote of suffering for the right cause:

1 Pet 3:17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that **ye suffer for well doing**, than for evil doing.

Paul encouraged believers to patiently continue too, waiting for the reaping:

Gal 6:7-9 Be not deceived; God is not mocked:

for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit **reap life everlasting.**

9 And let us **not be weary in well doing:**

for **in due season we shall reap**, if we faint not.

2 Thes 3:13 But ye, brethren, **be not weary in well doing.**

We already read in **1 Pet 4:12** that the saints' faith will be tested:

1 Pet 1:6-9 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through **manifold temptations**:

7 That **the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be **tried with fire**, might be found unto praise and honour and glory **at the appearing of Jesus Christ**:

8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye **rejoice with joy** unspeakable and full of glory:

9 **Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**

James also told believers that their faith would be tried, but to be patient in temptations waiting for deliverance and salvation, when Christ returns:

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all **joy**

when ye fall into **divers temptations**;

3 Knowing this, that **the trying of your faith worketh patience.**

Paul instructed believers to rejoice and be patient

and to wait on God's punishment of the wicked:

Rom 12:12,19 **Rejoicing in hope**; **patient in tribulation <thlipsis>**;
continuing instant in prayer;

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, **Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.**

Peter assured believers God would deliver them and avenge their enemies:

2 Pet 2:9 The Lord knoweth **how to deliver the godly out of temptations**,

and to **reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished**:

Tribulations and temptations will abound in the last days, when anyone will be killed for not worshipping the beast or taking his mark (Rev 13:13-17):

Rev 2:10 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 <thlipsis>** ten days: **be thou faithful unto death**, and I will give thee a crown of life.

People will be tempted to save their own life by taking the mark:

Rev 3:10-11 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from **the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.**

11 Behold, **I come quickly**: hold that fast which thou hast, **that no man take thy crown.**

God promised a crown to those who would be faithful unto death:

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that **endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life**, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

If one has eternal life then physical death is not to be feared:

Matt 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

In that time of temptation and tribulation many will deny and fall away:

Matt 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but **dureth for a while: for when tribulation <thlipsis> or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.** (also see **1Cor 15:2**)

Luke 8:13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which **for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.** (like Paul described in **2 Thes 2:1-5**)

The ultimate test of one's faith is physical death. Do you really believe?

Luke 17:33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

At that time, evil men will kill the righteous in the name of God:

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.**

Great tribulation not **'the'** great tribulation will come in the middle of Daniel's 70th week but it will be cut short before the end of it.

Then will be the absolute worse time ever in the history of the world:

Matt 24:21-22 For then shall be **great tribulation <thlipsis>**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
 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.**

God will shorten those days so that **ALL** of His saints will not be killed.

In the 5th seal, the martyred saints will cry out for God's vengeance:

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 fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.**

The days of great tribulation are NOT the wrath to come that John the Baptist warned about because **the wrath to come** is when God will burn up His enemies with unquenchable fire:

Matt 3:7-12 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?**

8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you** with the Holy Ghost, and **with fire**:

12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but **he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**

It is clear that **God's saints will be saved from His wrath:**

Rom 5:8 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.

Again, God will not pour out His wrath on His saints who serve Him:

1 Thess 1:9-10 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

10 And **to wait for his Son from heaven**,
whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, (umm, that would be the **same Jesus Who died for us, which Paul preached**)
which **delivered us from the wrath to come <erchomai>.**

That's how we can **comfort** one another with these words of His coming:

1 Thess 4:13-18 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, **that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain (that have not been killed during great tribulation) unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: **(the last trump, as identified in 1 Cor 15:52)** and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore **comfort one another with these words.**
(Keep reading as if there was no chapter division in the same context.)

(The Lord is going to return to earth in HIS day to judge His enemies and be glorified in His saints. Both chapters 4 and 5 happen together.)

1 Thess 5:1-11 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord** so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when **they** (that's the unbelievers them that do not obey the gospel) shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon **them**, as travail upon a woman with child; and **they** shall not escape.

4 But **ye**, brethren, are not in darkness, that **that day** (What day? the day of the Lord, the day of Christ, the day of God, the day of the Lord Jesus Christ, the day of His coming, etc.) should overtake **you** as a thief. (see 2 Pet 3:10, Matt 24:42-44, Rev 3:3,16:15)

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let **us, who are of the day**, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, **the hope of salvation.**

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, (umm, that would be the **same Jesus** Who was raised from the dead, which Paul preached that he wrote of earlier in this same epistle in **1 Thess 1:10**)

that, **whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.**

11 Wherefore **comfort yourselves together**, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

The day of the Lord will bring glory and redemption of our bodies to us.

God comforts us with hope -- through our tribulations knowing the end:

2 Cor 1:3-7 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and **the God of all comfort;**

4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation <thlipsis>, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble <thlipsis>, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

5 For as **the sufferings of Christ abound in us,** so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

6 And whether we be **afflicted** <thlibo> ,

it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual
in the **enduring of the same sufferings** which we also suffer:
or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.

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.**

It is great **comfort and consolation** to know that no matter what **trials**
we have, we can face them by God's love. Even if unbelievers condemn us
to death for our testimony of Jesus Christ we are justified by God:

Rom 8:33-39 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?

It is God that justifieth.

34 **Who is he that condemneth?**

It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even
at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?**

shall **tribulation** <thlipsis> , or distress, or **persecution**, <diogmos>
(defined by Webster's 1828 Dictionary as infliction of pain, punishment, or
death upon others unjustly, particularly for adhering to a religious creed, in
order to compel them to renounce their beliefs)

or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (These threats will be preva-
lent and intensified in the last days when saints will be hunted and killed.)

36 As it is written, For thy sake **we are killed** all the day long;

we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, **in all these things we are more than conquerors**
through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither **death**, nor life, nor angels, nor princi-
palities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to sepa-
rate us from the love of God**, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul had trials to shut up and not speak his faith, but he was **prepared to**
die for his testimony of Christ. He knew **payday** was coming **'that' day**:

2 Tim 4:5-8 But watch thou in all things, **endure afflictions**, do the
work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

6 For **I am now ready to be offered**, and the time of my departure is at
hand.

7 **I have fought a good fight**, I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me **at that day**: and not to me only, but unto all them also that **love his appearing**.

When the Lord comes (2 Thes 1:10) He will be glorified in His saints:

Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear,
 then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

We can glory when we **suffer tribulation and even death**

for our faith and not be ashamed or embarrassed by it. We can patiently endure it knowing that when Jesus appears from heaven our **hope of eternal life** will be realized and **those that were responsible for persecuting God's saints will get God's tribulation and His wrath:**

Rom 5:1-5 Therefore being **justified by faith**,
 we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:**

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein **we stand**, and **rejoice in hope of the glory of God**.

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

4 And **patience**, experience;
 and experience, **hope:**

5 And **hope maketh not ashamed;** (Remember **1 Pet 4:16** not to be **ashamed of suffering for Christ**) because **the love of God** is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

God delivers saints from death not physically but spiritually:

2 Cor 1:8-10 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our **trouble <thlipsis>** which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that **we despaired even of life:**

9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that **we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:**

10 Who **delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;**

Jesus Christ, Himself, became a man and suffered death:

Heb 2:9-10 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels **for the suffering of death**, crowned with glory and honour; **that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.**

10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Christ will deliver His saints from death by giving them life eternal:

Heb 2:14-15 Forasmuch then as the children are **partakers of flesh and blood**, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

15 And **deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

Because of sin, we are all under the curse of death, the bondage of corruption. Our **hope**, our **deliverance**, our **salvation** will come at the resurrection when Christ appears and gives us a new body that will not die:

Rom 8:18-25 For I reckon that **the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because **the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.**

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, then **do we with patience wait for it.**

Paul taught believers to patiently wait for Christ to come

Who will bring them eternal life and glory (Rom 2:7 and 2 Thes 1:3-10):

2 Thes 3:3-5 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and **keep you from evil.**

4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

5 And the Lord direct your hearts into **the love of God,** and into the **patient waiting for Christ.**

James, as well as Paul, also wrote to patiently wait for Christ:

James 5:7-8 **Be patient** therefore, brethren, **unto the coming of the Lord.** Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

8 **Be ye also patient;** stablish your hearts: **for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.**

The Greek word for wrath is <orge>.

It is used in the KJV **36 times** and translated **wrath - 31 times,** anger - 3 times, indignation - 1 time, and vengeance - 1 time.

God's wrath will be against His enemies not His saints:

Eph 5:5-8 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 **<erchomai>** **the wrath of God** upon the children of **disobedience.**

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

8 For **ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:**

God's wrath will be coming on those who **do not obey the gospel:**

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

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

Job prophesied God's wrath will come on a wicked man not a just man:

Job 20:28-29 The increase of his house shall depart,
and his goods shall flow away **in the day of his wrath.**
29 **This is the portion of a wicked man from God,
and the heritage appointed unto him by God.**

Job asked the question Do ye not know their tokens

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

Repeatedly, the scriptures confirm God's wrath will be against unbelievers:

Psa 21:8-9 Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies:
thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee.
9 Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven **in the time of thine anger:**
the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath,
and the fire shall devour them.

The righteous will witness God's vengeance on the wicked:

Psa 58:9-11 Before your pots can feel the thorns, **he shall take them
away as with a whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath.**
10 The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance:
he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.
**11 So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the right-
eous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.**

God will judge the wicked for their killing of the righteous:

Psa 79:1-3,6,10 O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy
holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps.
2 The dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat unto the
fowls of the heaven, the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth.
3 Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and there
was none to bury them.
6 **Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee,
and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name.**
10 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God? let him be
known among the heathen **in our sight by the revenging of the blood
of thy servants which is shed.**

Just as **1 Thess 5:3** showed, so Isaiah prophesied:

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Isa 13:6-11 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

7 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:

8 And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.

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.

10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

Over and over God's wrath is said to be on His enemies, not His friends:

Nah 1:2, 6 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.

6 Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

It will be horrible for the sinners Money won't buy them out of it:

Zep 1:14 The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.

17 And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.

18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

The apostle Paul makes reference to the saints being able to **stand in the evil day**:

Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

The only other time that phrase 'the evil day' is used in scriptures is:

Amos 6:3 Ye that **put far away the evil day,**
and cause the seat of violence to come near;

I believe that great tribulation will be shortened just **before the opening of the 6th seal** because of the common details of events:

Matt 24:29 **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:

Rev 6:12-17 And I beheld when he had **opened the sixth seal**, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and **from the wrath of the Lamb:**

17 For **the great day of his wrath is come <erchomai>;**
and who shall be able to stand?

The Greek word <erchomai> is a form of a verb 'come' that is used:

In Eph 5:6 and Col 3:6 for 'cometh'.

In 1 Thes 1:10, for 'to come'.

In 2 Thes 1:10, for 'he shall come'.

In Heb 10:37, for 'and He that shall come'.

In 1 John 4:3, for 'it should come'.

Therefore, I understand Rev 6:17 to mean God's wrath is ready to come

and men are very scared of what 'is coming' upon them:

Luke 21:24-33 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, **until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.**

(also Rev 11:1,2 -- I believe this will be the end of Daniel's 70th week.)

25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for **looking after those things which are coming on the earth:** for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. (This seems to me to be the 6th seal. Out of the 7th seal come the 7 angels with 7 trumpets which sound. At the last trump (the 7th one), Christ will descend from heaven in the clouds and resurrect the dead saints and what saints are still alive will go up in the clouds after them to meet the Lord in the air and ever be with the Lord - 1 Thes 4:14-18)

27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

28 And **when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.**

29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; 30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

31 So likewise ye, **when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.**

32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

When the 7th angel begins to sound

is when God will take over Planet Earth:

Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, **the mystery of God should be finished**, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

When the 7th angel sounds it will be the day of Christ the Lord God:

Rev 11:15 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.

As I understand the scriptures it will be **after** the 70th week of Daniel is over and **after the last trump** when the resurrection of the dead saints occurs that **God's wrath against His enemies will be poured out from the 7 vials:**

Rev 14:9, 10, 19 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:

19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of **the wrath of God.**

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.

Rev 16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and **pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.**

Lots of times I have heard 'grace preachers' say you cannot mix prophecy with mystery. Well, that is a paradine and a pre-supposed forcing of the scriptures. I would rather read verses, and find other verses that speak of the same things instead of allowing a man to tell me what I can or can't do to understand my Bible.

A sad thing is that the very same men who tell others not to mix are guilty themselves of using the word 'pastor' to describe their office in the church. The correct KJV word for the office is a 'bishop' (1 Tim 3:1,2; Tit 1:7, Phil 1:1) The word 'pastor' means 'shepherd' (which they claim not to even be) and it is used in 8 times in the book of Jeremiah (7 times in the plural, 1 time in the singlar) and 1 time in Paul's epistle to the Ephesians. By sheer number of times 'pastor/pastors' is used, the **weight** of that **mixing** is quite heavy!

You have a choice to make.

If you **will** live godly then you **shall** suffer.

In the end time to the point of death.

If you won't live godly then maybe no one will suspect you
are a Christian and you won't be persecuted:

2 Tim 3:12-13 Yea, and all that **will** live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer **persecution** <dioko>. (that is to pursue or flee physical suffering, bodily harm not slander)

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse,
deceiving, and being deceived.

In conclusion our original message title question

Are tribulation and wrath the same thing or different?

From what I understand

Saints experience tribulation but NOT the wrath of God.

Unbelievers will get tribulation pay-back from Almighty God
when He comes and they will get God's wrath, too.

Rom 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"