

Doctrine of Tribulation

1. The word *tribulation* is found twenty-two times in the Authorized Version. The word *tribulations* is found four times.
2. To suffer tribulation (Greek, *thlipsis*) is to suffer affliction, to be troubled, to suffer due to the pressure of circumstances, or the antagonism of persons.
3. In examining the passages that speak of tribulation it becomes evident that all God's people in all ages have known emotional, spiritual, and physical affliction.
 - The Exodus Generation. *Deuteronomy 4:30* *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;*
 - The Post Exodus Generation. *Judges 10:14* *Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation.*
 - *1 Samuel 26:24* *And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.*
 - *1 Samuel 10:19* *And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.*
 - Professing Believers. *Matthew 13:21* *Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.*
4. Tribulation also comes to those who are not God's people in the form of Divine discipline.
 - *Matthew 24:21* *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. Matthew 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: (cf. Mark 13:24).*
 - *2 Thessalonians 1:6* *Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;*
 - *Romans 2:9* *Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;*
5. Of particular concern is the Christian and tribulation. The Bible clearly makes the following statements.

- The disciples of Christ, for as long as they are in the world shall have tribulation. *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.*
- Only through much tribulation will the saints enter into the 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.*
- The value of tribulation is that it works patience. *Romans 5:3nd not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;*
- To endure tribulation is not to be loved less by Christ for nothing shall separate us from His faithful love. *Romans 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?*
- God finds a special way to comfort the saints who suffer. *2 Corinthians 1:4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*
- Paul could find reasons to rejoice in the very midst of tribulation and therefore did not want anyone else to worry on his behalf.
 - ❖ There was spiritual growth in the saints at Corinth. *2 Corinthians 7:4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.*
 - ❖ There was personal growth in patience. *Romans 5:3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*
 - ❖ Faith was being increased. *2 Thessalonians 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:*
 - ❖ There was a bond of unity being experienced. *Ephesians 3:13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.*
- When believers at Thessalonica were surprised at the suffering they had to endure, Paul reminded them he had taught that Christians must suffer. *1 Thessalonians 3:4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.*

- John on the isle of Patmos does not divorce himself from tribulation nor does he ever say of himself that he represents those who shall not suffer tribulation. On the contrary, John considers himself at the moment of his writing to be a companion in suffering. *Revelation 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.*
 - The tribulation of the saints is well known to the Lord and is for a stated purpose. *Revelation 2:9 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.*
 - Always, God's people emerge victorious out of tribulation no matter how great. *Revelation 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*
6. In all the Biblical passages there is not a single word that God will spare His people from the purifying effects of tribulation. Just the opposite is stated and demonstrated time and again.
 7. The story of the Old Testament, the writing of the New Testament, the documentation of 2,000 years of history testifies to the blood of the saints in the church.
 8. Any teaching which seeks to exempt God's people from tribulation during any period of human history will not find support from the 26 passages that uses this word.