

- Doctrine of Tribulation
- tribulation *thlipsis*- a descriptive word of tribulation; this word comes from the verb meaning to **crush, press, compress, squeeze—to break** Tribulation, trouble, affliction
- What is as important as the word, is the fact that this may be external or internal in it's origin & or in it's effect.

- Do not try to figure out where the tribulation is coming from or the cause of the tribulation in your life or in someone else life!
- The source of the tribulation does not matter!- from God, from Satan, from the world, from others---source does not matter—we still have to deal with it **in the same way** regardless of the source.
- Keep on trusting!
- **All trials are an attack on your faith**

- I. OT background in the study of this word:
Tribulations
- 1. Trib. as a result of sin—toil of man, anguish/tribulation of childbirth
- Just being a member of fallen human race.
- 2. God often brings tribulation on man, nations & individuals for their rebellion against Him. Plagues against Egypt. In Ezk. God mentions 4 major ways of bringing Tribulation on peoples: Sword-war; famine, wild beast & disease.
- 3. Tribulation brought by the adversary- Satan
- 4. The world due to it's hatred of God, and hatred of the Messiah.

- **II. NT & Tribulations**
- 1. The word is most often used to describe the sufferings of the people of God—believers in Jesus Christ. The Church.
- 2. The suffering of Tribulations by believers is part of sharing the suffering of Christ –**Phil. 3:10 that I may know Him, & the power of His resurrection & the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;**
- 3. Remember, no matter how difficult or challenging your Tribulations may be they do not compare with what will be experienced in the 7 years of the Tribulation. Matt. 24:21

- **III.** Tribulations due to decisions in life, not from God, or Satan or the world.
- A. Sin
 - 1. Suffering from rejection of authority.
 - 2. Suffering from violation of the law, criminal activity.
 - 3. Suffering from immorality!
 - 4. Suffering from Divine Discipline from the love of God & can be turned to blessings by faith recovery.

- B. Poor decisions in regard to health-
- drinking, drugs, smoking, over eating—cannot blame God or the world.
- C. Poor decisions in regard to romance, love & marriage

- **IV.** Tribulations in the world, in life.
- 1. War
- 2. Weather disasters – disease- earthquakes, tornados, heat, coldness, floods, tsunamis, volcanoes; much of the world suffers from lack of food, clothing, and water.
- 3. National disaster –economic— depression, dictatorship, Military (police state) unfair judicial system.
- 4. Circumstances of life: orphans, widows James 1:27

- V. Tribulation from people
- VI. Suffering from failure of walking, living by faith. This is one of the primary sources of tribulation in the believers life. Failure to trust God, failure to walk by faith in Holy Spirit & failure to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- Multitude of believers suffer SAD due to failure of keeping their mind set on Him...**thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stay on Him. & GJ 16:32**

- VII. Understanding Tribulations
- 1. John 16:33—understanding of Tribulation from the world can be a source of inner peace during the suffering of Tribulation.
- 2. Tribulation, when from the world &/or Satan is always designed to breakdown one's faith, from walking by faith, trusting in the Lord, walking by faith in Holy Spirit but again, do not try to figure out the source
- Do not try to figure out the why—just trust Him
- 3. Tribulation is designed to crush the spirit of man, crush your faith, crush your will to go on growing in Word of God. To stop following Jesus Christ!

- 4. It's ultimate goal is to eliminate the presence of Jesus Christ from the world. Get rid of all who witness for Him- to darken any & all influence of Him in society. So every time a believer does not give in, does not faint from being a witness of Jesus Christ, Satan looses & the light of Christ continues to shine in world.
- 5. One of the greatest issues of Tribulation is the perseverance of faith during the suffering. As in the case of Job—keep hitting, keep attacking property, family, finance, health!

- **VIII.** Biblical study of Tribulation in NT
- **1.** Tribulation is not able to separate us from love of God. **Rom 8:35**
- Does not matter the source of this Trib.
- **2.** The challenge for the believer is to persevere in Tribulation **Rom. 12:10-13**
- It does not matter the source—keep your eyes fixed on Him
- **3.** If you do not have a solid foundation in the Word of God & rooted in the love of God---you will not persevere very long in Tribulation.
- **Matt. 13:20-21;**

- 4. We are promised tribulation from the hatred of the world from the beginning of the Church Age. **Matt. 24:8-9** compared with **GJ 15-16**
- Where Jesus Christ prophesizes hatred & suffering & tribulation from the world.
- **Acts 14:22** this is from the beginning – throughout all Church Age; but here in America the Church has not suffered as of yet..
- **1 Thes.1:6** this is repeated throughout Church history. (Russia) (China)
- **2 Thes. 1:4; Heb. 10:23; 32-39**
- **Smyrna –Rev. 2:9-19**

- 5. Tribulations can be extremely severe:
2 Cor. 1:8-9 Here is when you learn if you truly trust Him
- Not how much faith do you have but how easy or difficult is it for you to continue to trust Him regardless of the circumstances.
- 6. If you are suffering for the glory of Jesus Christ, because of your witness of the Lord ---it is light when compare it with Eternity:
- 2 Cor. 4:17.

- 7. God uses Tribulations to move some people—*diaspora* *Acts 11:19*
- 8. here is one that serves as a warning: Tribulation in marriage
- 1 Cor. 7:28—again, it is not the source but how you handle it. It is most rare to find a marriage where there has not been tribulation (past tense because you have to wait until one dies) There is enough trib. from living alone, & now you bring in another soul & Sin nature, & then if you add children—pow...tribulation!

- IX. Rejoicing in Tribulation & One Another
- 1. God comforts the believer in Tribulation. 2 Cor. 1:3-4 the question here is how does God comfort in Tribulation? by His Spirit & His word
- 2. We are to encourage other others who are in Tribulation.
- Acts 14:22; 1 Thes.3:2-8; 2 Thes. 1:3-4;
- 3. Joy can be yours in Tribulation –by your thinking of others
- 2 Cor. 8:2

- 4. We should help others who are in Tribulation, especially in the Spiritual Warfare **Phil. 4:14-15**
- 5. Paul (Pastor-Teachers & missionaries) often suffer Tribulation, but one of the comforts & encouragements is hearing that those they minister are walking by Faith – **1 Thes. 3:7**
- 6. What do you desire for people to say of you?
- 1 Cor. 1—of all the blessings that God has given or as in **2 Thes. 1:4** perseverance in faith & growth in Word of God; not just that you (I-c) are suffering but how you continue to persevere under Tribulation & continue to Glorify Jesus Christ.

- X. Exulting in Tribulation: why & how
- We are exhorted many times to exult in our tribulations:
- Rom. 5:3; James 1:2-3; Rom. 12:12
- 1. To exult in Tribulation requires two major things going on in your life: (1) Being Filled with the Holy Spirit; Strengthened in power of HS –Eph. Walking by HS, being led by HS, living by HS & keeping in step with HS Gal. 5; Joy is a fruit of Holy Spirit, & to have this joy in Tribulation means to be in the power of Holy Spirit. Gal. 5:22 & 1 Thes. 1:6
- (2) growing in the Knowledge of Jesus Christ, being rooted & grounded in Love Eph. 3.

- 2. Exulting in Tribulation demands walking by faith!
- 3. Why should we exult in Tribulation?
- 4. When you realize that by your perseverance in Tribulation, you encourages others & maybe even bring them to saving knowledge of Jesus Christ – you will respond by joy for your Tribulation. Col. 1:24
- 5. We exult in Tribulation because of what tribulation adds to our lives here on earth.
- Knowing that Tribulation brings about perseverance Rom. 5:3

- We should exult in our Tribulations
- brings about perseverance Rom. 5
- produces endurance James 1
- 6. Exulting in tribulation is being oriented to the Revelation of Jesus Christ.
- 1 Peter 4:12

- [XI.](#) Summary
- 1. Trials are attacks on Christian faith
- 2. To reveal to you, to others & to angels if you truly believe what you profess to believe.
- 3. They provide an opportunity for the believer to grow spiritually.
- 4. They provide an opportunity for the believer to glorify God & Jesus Christ.
- Unbelievers make through trials & adversities in their lives.
- Unbelievers of some religions make it through trials & adversities
- Atheist make it through trials & adversities
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- But they cannot make it & glorify God, & Jesus Christ, only the believer Filled with Holy Spirit who endures through tribulations can glorify God.
- 5. God has provided every believer all we need to prevail through these fiery trials in life. Eph.6:10-18
- 6. It is not the trials & tribulations that happen to you in life, but it is how you view them & how you live through them!

- 7. If you draw near to one who is under fiery trials, to help, to restore, to encourage, you should do so in the Filling of the Holy Spirit & know that every believer including yourself will have your faith tested.
- Do not judge One Another but serve One Another in Spiritual Love (fruit of Holy Spirit)
- Do not say—they need more faith – encourage them as to the object of faith, the glory of the Lord, the revelation of Jesus Christ.