

Major Event: Tribulation

Lesson 1: Introduction to the Tribulation

Central Text: Daniel 7:23-28, Revelation 13:1-10, Revelation 7:1-14

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- The tribulation begins with all believers having been taken to heaven at the rapture and ONLY unbelievers left on earth. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
- The tribulation will be God's judgment on a world that has rejected His grace. The greatest period of grace (this present Church age) will be followed by the greatest time of judgment (the seven years of tribulation- Rev.6, 8:1, Ch. 9, 11:15, Ch. 16). When men reject God's grace then there is nothing left but God's judgment. If men reject God's love then they must face God's wrath and anger.
- Grace in the Midst of Judgment: Even though this time of tribulation will be a time when God will judge sinful men, it will also be a time when people will be saved. Even in the midst of judgment, God's grace can be seen. Even at the darkest hour of human history there will be a ray of light. God will reach down in love and save people by grace (144,000 Jews and their Gentile converts Rev. 7:1-14). Even an angel will be used to carry this good news to those who dwell on the earth (Revelation 14:6-7).
- Main Characters of the Tribulation:
 1. The Man of Sin (also called the Beast and the Antichrist) Rev. 13:1-10; 2 Thessalonians 2
 2. The False Prophet (also called "the second beast") Rev. 13:11-18
 3. The Dragon (or devil) Rev. 12
 4. The God of Judgment Rev. chapters 6,8,9,16
 5. The 144,000 Jewish Witnesses/Evangelists (Rev 7:1-17)
 6. The Nation Israel (also called the "woman") Rev. 12
 7. The Other Nations of the world Zechariah 12:9, 14:2
 8. The Coming King Rev. chapters 4-5 and 19:11-16

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

1. Of God: Justice, Love,
2. Of Man: Stubborn, Proud

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Notes: There is one character who will not be found on earth during the tribulation: The Lord's bride, the Church. God has promised in Revelation 3:10 to keep the church from this time of tribulation and trouble that will come upon the whole world. Revelation chapters 4-19 talk about the time of tribulation, but in none of these chapters is the Church mentioned as being on the earth during this time.