

66 Why The Church Won't Go Through The Tribulation

1 Literal Interpretation

If all prophetic passages are taken literally we see that the Church is **NOT** mentioned when this 'Tribulation', the 'Time of Jacob's Trouble', is described; only Israel and the world are referred to and described.

2 The Mystery of the Church

The Church was a mystery and was not directly referred to or talked about in the Old Testament, particularly with reference to the Tribulation.

3 The Characteristics of the Period

In his Bible Studies BBS 84-86 Roger Price detailed the **characteristics** of the different periods of history (*called 'Dispensations'*) since creation.

He very clearly showed that the characteristics described in the Bible about this short period of seven years all relate to the **previous** Israel Dispensation and especially their pattern of feasts and worship at the newly-constructed temple, and therefore that this period does **not** have the characteristics of the Church Dispensation at all.

4 Wrath

God has **not** appointed us (*the Body and the Bride of Christ*) to His wrath.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

⁹ For God did **NOT** appoint us to **wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

5 The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit **returns to heaven** for the Antichrist to be revealed and to come to power. If the Holy Spirit leaves the earth, **we are all going too!**

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8

⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until **He is taken out of the way**. ⁸ And **THEN** the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

6 The Church is not mentioned from Revelation 6 to 18

The Church is not mentioned at all from **Revelation 6** through to **18**, which describe the Tribulation in great detail. In **Revelation 4:1** there is a door opened in heaven and by **Revelation 5** heaven is filled—and we've filled it! We come back with Jesus in **Revelation 19** at His Second Advent.

67 Why The Church Won't Go Through The Tribulation — *Two More Reasons*

7 Kept from the Hour of Trial

We will be saved, or kept, from 'the hour of trial', or 'The Tribulation'.

Revelation 3:10

¹⁰ I ... will **keep you from the hour of trial** which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

8 We are Departing First!

The Bride of Christ is leaving the earth with her Bridegroom before the Antichrist is revealed and comes to power.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come **a departure** (or '*departing*') first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

The word '*apostastia*' originally meant 'a **departure**' or '**departing**' before it was transliterated to form a new word 'apostasy', which came to mean 'a falling away' or 'a departure from the faith'.

So a correct translation shows that there will be 'a departure' first—before the Antichrist is revealed—and it does NOT mean that there will be an 'apostasy' or a 'falling away' before we go.

The Satanic Trinity

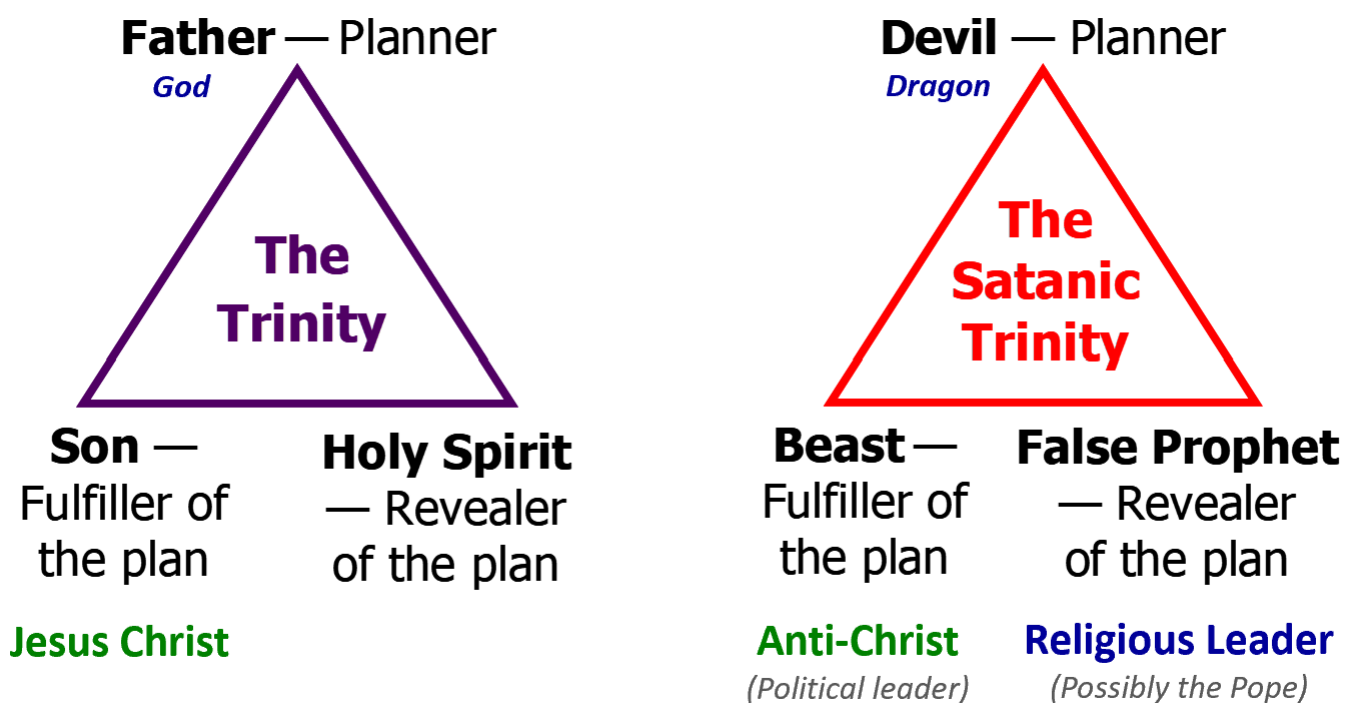
Revelation 16:13

¹³ And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming

- 1** out of the mouth of the **dragon**,
- 2** out of the mouth of the **beast**, and
- 3** out of the mouth of the **false prophet**.

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Dragon | Satan | Anti-Father | Planner |
| 2 Beast | Man of Sin | Anti-Christ | Political |
| 3 False Prophet | Pope? | Anti-Spirit | Religious |

The Comparing The Trinities



70

A Falling Away or A Departure?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 AV (King James)

¹ Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

² that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ (*or the **Day of The Lord***) is at hand.

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **falling away** first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

50

The 'Departing' is Actually The Rapture

2 Thessalonians 2:3 AV

³ ... except there come '**a falling away**' first ... is actually '**a departing**'

Tyndale Bible
1526

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by eny meanes for the lorde commeth not excepte ther come a departynge fyrst and that that synfnll man be opened the sonne of perdition

Geneva Bible
1587

3. Let no man deceiue you by any meanes: for that day shall not come, except there come a departing first, and that that man of sinne be disclosed, euen the sonne of perdition,

It's **NOT** 'a falling away from the faith' here. A new word '*apostasy*' was coined around AD1350 from the Greek '*apostasia*' to mean 'a falling away' and it replaced 'a departing'—which is what it previously meant. Sadly, the AV translators chose the new definition—bringing in confusion. *Our 'departure' at the Rapture will be before Antichrist is fully revealed.*

71 Why The Church Won't Go Through The Tribulation — *Sixteen Reasons!*

16 Reasons why we can say that the Church is NOT going through the Seven Years of 'The Tribulation'

- 1 **Taking prophetic passages literally**, the Church is **not** mentioned when the Tribulation, the 'Time of **Jacob's Trouble**', is described—only Israel is, *because*:
- 2 **Daniel prophesied about 'Seventy Weeks'** (490 years) to the Messiah, with the final week designed to be seven years of blessing (3½ years each of John the Baptizer's and Jesus' ministries). However, the nation of Israel rejected Jesus as their Messiah and killed him. This last (70th) week was therefore cancelled and will rerun as the 'Time of **Jacob's Trouble**', also known as 'The Tribulation'. This judging of the nation of Israel has nothing to do with the Church, *similarly*:
- 3 **The Church was a mystery** and was not directly referred to or described in the Old Testament at all, and therefore not foretold to go through the Tribulation.
- 4 **All of the characteristics** that are described in the Bible about this short period of time relate to the **Israel Dispensation**—especially the feasts, sacrifices and offerings at the newly-constructed Temple. This period does not have any of the characteristics of the **Church Dispensation** at all.
- 5 **1 Thessalonians 5:9** ⁹'For God did **not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.' God has not appointed us (the Body and Bride of Christ) to His wrath, which will be manifested in these seven years.
- 6 **1 Thessalonians 1:10** *Similarly*, ¹⁰'... wait for His Son from heaven ... who **delivers us from the wrath to come**'. We are waiting for His deliverance.
- 7 **2 Thessalonians 2:6-8** ⁶'And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of his mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.'
The Holy Spirit returns to heaven for the Antichrist to be revealed and come to power. If the Holy Spirit leaves the earth then **we are going too!**
- 8 **The Church**—the 'called-out assembly' to be more accurate—is **not mentioned** from Revelation chaps 4 to 19, which describe the Tribulation in great detail. **In Revelation 4:1 there is a door opened in heaven**, and by Revelation 5 heaven is filled—we've filled it! We come back with Jesus in Revelation 19 at the Second Advent, at the end of the Tribulation period.
- 9 **Titus 2:11-15** ¹³'... looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.' The Body and Bride of Christ is looking for Jesus' glorious appearing and **not** for a 'time of trouble'.

71 Why The Church Won't Go Through The Tribulation — *Sixteen Reasons!*

10 A 'departure', **not** a 'falling away'

2 Thessalonians 2:3 ³'... that day will not come until there is a **departure first.**' This is **not** a 'falling away' or an 'apostasy'. The word actually means 'a physical departure with spiritual overtones'. **This is The Rapture!** cf Acts 15:36-38 '*... who had **departed** from them ...*' (this is the same Greek word).

11 Imminency

'Imminency' is not actually a doctrine but it is a principle which the Body of Christ has had and practiced for two thousand years. If we are to actually go through the Tribulation then the Lord's return must be **at least** seven years away, and therefore **cannot be imminent.**

(it is possible that as we near the Rapture more prophetic revelation will be given as to the actual timing of the first and last 'trumps'. This happened with Elijah's rapture (2 Kings 2:3-5). However, this does not negate the need to be watching and waiting expectantly, meaning that 'imminency' is still a valid principle.)

12 Comfort

1 Thessalonians 4:18 ¹⁸ 'Therefore **comfort** one another with these words.' To be a comfort it must be possible for the Lord to return at any time. If not, 'many will be imprisoned, die, be tortured,' etc. There would be **at least** seven years to go! However we **can** 'comfort one another' concerning His return—it'll be soon!

13 No Signs

Matthew 24:15 Jesus told the **Jews, not the Church,** to look for signs, e.g. ¹⁵ 'the abomination of desolation'. We could go before the Temple is rebuilt.

14 Enoch's Prophecy in Jude 14 ¹⁴ 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his saints.'

This is not in the Old Testament as it refers to the Church, which is **not** mentioned **at all** in the Old Testament. It is actually not '10,000' but 'ten thousands'—*innumerable*. The Rapture is **before** Jesus returns at His Second Coming (*the 'Second Advent'*) and we return with Him.

15 Coming and Going?!

If we don't go up to heaven until the end of the Tribulation and then come back straightaway then who are **the believers** still in their **physical** bodies who are separated from the **unbelievers** when we return? These believers need to go on to have children and 'people' the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in the Millennium. The Church will all have resurrected bodies, not human ones—not able to procreate!

16 The New Testament is silent

Where in the New Testament does it say that the Church is going through the Tribulation? **Nowhere!**