

THE WORST OF TIMES – THE BEST OF TIMES

The Jews saw in the Old Testament Scriptures the idea of tremendous unparalleled upheaval before Messiah's coming which would usher in His coming. In this, they were right, but what they missed is that Messiah has two separate comings. The Old Testament deals with this terrible time that precedes the SECOND coming of the Messiah to the earth and then the NT builds on it. The OT did NOT deal with the Rapture of the Church as the Church and all that relates to it were a MYSTERY – not revealed until the New Testament (cf. 1 Cor. 15:51-54).

Indeed, the Bible teaches clearly that the WORST of times (the Tribulation Period) will come before the BEST of times (the Kingdom).

Some Old Testament Designations for the Tribulation Period:

The “overflowing scourge” – Isa. 28:15, 18.

The day of vengeance – Isa. 61:2.

The time of Jacob’s trouble – Jer. 30:7

The 70th week of Daniel – Dan. 9:27.

The time of trouble – Dan. 12:1.

The day of the LORD – Joel 2:11.

The day of wrath – Zeph. 1:15.

Some New Testament Designations for the Tribulation Period:

The Tribulation – Matt. 24:29.

The wrath to come – 1 Thess. 1:10.

The day of the Lord – 1 Thess. 5:2.

The hour of trial – Rev. 3:10.

The great day of His wrath – Rev. 6:17.

The wrath of God – Rev. 15:1.

A great summary text that gives the overall nuance of the coming Tribulation Period is found in Zeph. 1:14-15:

Zephaniah 1:14–15 (NKJV)

14 The great day of the Lord is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out.

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

The world is on a collision course with God's judgment -they just don't know it (Acts 17:30-31). And right in the middle of this crucible of God's coming day of wrath will be Israel, who in that hour of tribulation pressure will FINALLY turn to Jesus as their Messiah (cf. Mt. 23:39). And when they do, they will be rescued just in time – RIGHT ON GOD'S TIME SCHEDULE.

Zephaniah 3:8–9 (NKJV)

8 "Therefore wait for Me," says the LORD, "Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations To My assembly of kingdoms, To pour on them My indignation, All My fierce anger; All the earth shall be devoured With the fire of My jealousy.

9 "For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, That they all may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him with one accord.

Here is what the prophetic calendar looks like...

RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH (Imminent – could happen at any time),

followed by....

The 7 -YEAR TRIBULATION PERIOD,

followed by...

The SECOND COMING.

Live Ready!