

The Great Tribulation

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

The Great Tribulation has been a source of speculation.

📖 2 Thessalonians 2:1–2 (NIV) “Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to Him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.”

The Great Tribulation begins with the Anti-Christ's introduction.

📖 2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NIV) “Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.”

📖 Revelation 6:1–2 (NIV) “I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!” ² I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.”

📖 Matthew 24:21–22 (NIV) “For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. ²² If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”

📖 2 Thessalonians 2:4–12 (NIV) “He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵ Don’t you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷ For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of His mouth and destroy by the splendor of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹² and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.”

The Activity of the Ant-Christ

1. He will be a **Peace-breaker**. (Rev 6:1-2, Daniel 9:24-27)
2. He will be a **Peace-breaker**. (Daniel 9:27, Rev 13)
3. He will be a **Persecutor**. (Rev 13:15-17, Matt 24:21-22)

The Great Tribulation ends with the Lord's domination.

📖 2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV) “...the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of His mouth and destroy by the splendor of His coming.”

📖 Isaiah 11:4b (NIV) “He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth; with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.”

📖 1 Corinthians 15:24–25 (NIV) “Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.”

📖 Revelation 19:12, 15-16 (NIV) “His eyes are like blazing fire, and on His head are many crowns...¹⁵ Out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.... ¹⁶ On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Digging Deeper: Do you believe that Jesus will return in your lifetime? Are you ready for His return? Why must God judge sin? Do you take your sin seriously enough? Do you honor God's holiness? Jesus wins in the end.—Are you on His team?

