

Reference is first made to the Discussion of “Heaven” in the Post of May 22, 2021, for now a more detailed look at the Tribulation event:

The **Tribulation** of seven years at **The End of the Age** will occur when the prophesies of the Bible confirm what is noted in Mathew 24-25 and thus when **Jesus** appears in the clouds known as the **Rapture**, or snatching away, taking the **Saints** who have died prior to this event to meet Him in the air with the **Saints** then living at that moment also taken then to meet Him in the air. **Saints** are defined as those set apart, sanctified, and holy with the idea of holiness or separateness to be inherent in the **Word of God**. There are two parts to the **Tribulation**, first **The Tribulation** of the first 3-1/2 years and the last 3-1/2 years, **The Great Tribulation**. We are currently in the **Pre-Tribulation** period where the signs are imminent with the birth pangs of the times, described as like the third trimester pains for a woman with impending childbirth, pointed toward the **Tribulation** period. One of the last signs that the **Tribulation** is impending is Mat 24:14, *“And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations, then the end shall come”*. By the marvel of satellites and pastors heeding the call to bring the unsaved to Jesus the Christ this is occurring right now. In this period, we have the privilege to choose Him before the **Tribulation** begins. The **Tribulation** period will be a time of testing and acknowledgement of **Jesus the Christ** for those that did not accept Him as their God; thus, they will then be exposed to the trials of the seven-year period and then possibly survive into the **1000 Year Millennium** or be martyred during this period for not obeying the dictates of the **Antichrist** detailed in the Book of Daniel. A **Martyr** is someone who has **publicly expressed their faith in God** and refuses to denounce their faith, even in the face of death. Many Christians who would not renounce their faith were martyred in recent years by Islamic ISOS just as in the past by beheading.

In the **Pre-Tribulation** period at **The End of the Age**, or in **The Last Days**, which we are in right now in 2021, according to the Bible, there comes a separation of the wheat and the tares or sheep and goats, in other words the righteous and the unrighteous that grow or exist together initially until the harvest of souls and the separation by the **Angels**. **The Cup of Iniquity** becomes full and then overflows. The confusion created by Government leadership and the major media outlets provide a time when the weak-minded “wannabe” Christians are easily persuaded to follow the ways of the World; resulting in the forces of **Evil** instead of the **Truth of the Word of God** when God makes the distinction of separation called the **Tribulation Separation for Eternal Life** (Mat 13:24-30 and Luke 12:49-59).

In the beginning of the first 3-1/2 years of the **Tribulation**, the **World** is in chaos created by the evil deeds of mankind where power, money, deceit, fraud, greed, selfishness, and trampling on the laws of righteousness are in play including with the globalists who are attempting to take over the **World** and rule mankind from a worldly perspective. Man’s faithfulness to God has been relinquished with people worshipping the **World System** rather than God. The deceit of mankind propagated from evils such as legalized abortion, removing the Bible and prayers particularly from schools, and changing the definition of marriage from one man and woman to man with man and woman with woman being widely accepted, as well as wars and rumors of wars particularly in the Middle East and with Israel. Long ago these evils were experienced by the Israelites when they deviated from Gods teaching with the result of Gods rath upon His chosen people. Since man has not repented from the **Evils**, God has had enough and calls in His grace and mercy on mankind and pours out His rath on the earth. The fullness of the Gentiles comes in (Rom 11:25) and then the **Rapture of the Saints** at the beginning of the seven-year **Tribulation** removes both the dead and the living **Saints** from the devastation to follow in the next seven years.

A man all but unknown at the beginning of the first 3-1/2 years of **The Tribulation** comes forth from the Middle East, specifically from an area of kingdoms around the Mediterranean Sea to gain respect and notoriety and then to assume a worldly position of leadership in the last 3-1/2 years of **The Great Tribulation**. This man from the ancient kingdom of **Babylon** (Rev 17:10-11), namely the current nations of Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon wages war on and conquers the three original ancient kingdoms and still known nations of Egypt, Ethiopia, and Libya. With an army formed by this conquest this man known as the **Antichrist**, who denies and opposes **God** and the **Saints**, wages the war of **Gog and Magog** against Israel in the mountainous land of Israel with his armies (Eze 38-39). The **Antichrist** leading as the **Four Horseman of the Apocalypse** (Rev 6:1-2) rides a white horse followed by black, brown, and pale horse riders in conjunction with the Kings of the North (Turkey and Southern Russia), Kings of the East (Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan), and Kings of the South (Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya) together face the military power of Israel. This war is so devastating that the anger of God supernaturally intervenes to stop the slaughter with eighty-five percent of the armed forces killed. It takes seven years to burn all the weapons resulting from this war. The third **Jewish Temple** is built on the **Temple Mount** in the first 3-1/2 years (Rev 11:1-2) of **The Tribulation**. This rebuilding involves the resurrection of two witnesses, **Elijah** and **Enoch** who are also preaching the Gospel and convert many to become believers. A peace treaty with **Israel** with promises of security for Israel is signed between the **Antichrist** with the **Ten Kings** as a **Ten Nation** coalition involved in the **Gog Magog** war.

The Book of Daniel describes the coming makeup of the kingdoms and nations in Dan 7:23-24 “*Thus he said: The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings*”. The three kingdoms before the fourth are the Babylonian, Persian, and Grecian empires to then comes the fourth being the kingdom of the **Beast** or **Antichrist** and **False Prophet** which is the king that is different from the other ten. The ten horns represent the nations of Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The three kings are the nations of Egypt, Ethiopia, and Libya.

The **Great Tribulation** as the last 3-1/2 years of the seven-year **Tribulation** begins with Satan giving full power to the **Beast**, which is the Antichrist (1 John 2:22) who represents ruling authority power and the **False Prophet** who represents economic power and creates false miracles. The **Ten Kings** give full authority to the **Beast** also. The **Beast** breaks the peace treaty with **Israel** and prevents the initiation of worship in the **Third Temple** at the beginning of the **Great Tribulation** to then require all worship of him committing the **Abomination of Desolation** (Dan 9:26-27). The two witnesses are killed and martyred. The Church active through **The Tribulation** continues to win souls to Jesus the Christ with a remnant fleeing to Jordan East of Israel along with a remnant of Jewish to principally the area known as **Petra*** (see footnote) also in Jordan with these areas escaping the reach of the **Beast**. This flight becomes somewhat unnoticed as the **Beast** is well occupied in setting up his **Empire** and Dan 11:41 says “*He (Antichrist) will enter the Beautiful Land and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and foremost of the sons of Ammon (Palestine)*”. The **144,000 Jews**, 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel (Rev 7:4), who are living during the **Tribulation**, and who have been sealed by God with special protection and kept safe from the **Antichrist** judgements repent and turn back to God. Their mission is to proclaim faith in Christ and to evangelize during the **Tribulation** and afterwards in the **1000 Year Millenium**. The **Mark of the Beast** is implemented as a mark on the forehead and right wrist

with a requirement by the **False Prophet** for all to worship an image of the **Beast** (idolatry) and becomes the only means for buying and selling with killing of all who will not accept it (Rev 13:16). A global drought of water including no rain and lack of food along with a meteorite striking the earth causes massive deaths. **Israel** with its abundance of water and food causes the leaders of the nations of the world including China and Russia with 200 million men to come against Israel because of its resources. At the end of the seven years **Jesus' Second Coming** on a white horse returns to **Earth** with His army (Rev 19:11-16) from **The Present Heaven** for the **Battle of Armageddon** to overcome **Satan**, his **Angels**, the **Antichrist**, and **False Prophet** and cast them into the **Lake of Fire** but **Satan** himself into the **Bottomless Pit** (Rev 20:3).

A lesson for all of us before we become a participant in this **Tribulation** period, whether after our death or while still living, is to remember the past cannot be redeemed. What has been and what might have been both bring us to what is **Right** now. Being **Right** with God now with full redemption assures us our place in eternity with **Jesus as King of the New Earth** and a resurrected **David as King of Jerusalem**. Rom 8:38-39 says, *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”*.

* **Petra**, meaning “Rock” in Greek, is a deserted city south of the Dead Sea in Jordan. In antiquity it was known as Seir, metropolis of the **Edomites**. In later times, the **Nabateans** settled in the mountain stronghold of the dislodged **Edomites** and called their capital **Petra**. The city is situated in a rift valley which extends from the Kidron Valley in Jerusalem through the Dead Sea and further south. Indications are that an earthquake and volcanic activity occurred here, forming a big canyon with rocky ravines and steep cliffs. The remains of the spectacular city consist of temples, tombs and dwellings carved out of the sandstone cliffs. The only land entrance to the city is through a narrow gorge almost two kilometres in length, which can easily be guarded and even blocked, if necessary, thus rendering **Petra** a very safe refuge. An impressive scene greets the traveller when the multi-coloured sandstone formations of the most famous ghost town in the world looms up before him. Added to this is the mystery of the city’s history as well as the expectation that, according to Revelation 12:6, it might serve as a refuge to a remnant in Israel when the **Antichrist** will order the worldwide genocide of Jews, lasting for the last 3-1/2 years of the **Great Tribulation** period. Despite the absolute desolation of **Petra** its role in history is not yet past. South of the narrow gorge that offers access to **Petra** is a valley of between 1½ and 5 kilometres wide. About 3 kilometres south of the entrance to **Petra** is the Fountain of Moses (Ain Musa). During their journey through the wilderness Moses led the Israelites along this valley to the gates of **Petra**. From that point, they intended passing through **Edom’s** territory on their way to the Promised Land, but the hostile **Edomites** twice refused their request. **An interesting footnote in this description is that my wife and I visited Petra twice, once in 1988 and the second time in 1990 when we hiked the valley and the surrounding mountains.**