

The Tribulation Plagues

TEXT: Revelation 15:1; 16:1-21

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Luke 23:28-30; Revelation 6:15-17; 8:1-13

KEY VERSE: Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. — Matthew 24:22

During the period known as the Great Tribulation, there will be misery, suffering, trouble, and sorrow such as this world has never known. It will be a time of God's wrath upon the earth because of mankind's rejection of God's love and mercy. Human language could never paint the horrible picture that will unfold here on earth during this time. We try to imagine as best we can, using the insights that the Word of God gives us, yet it is certain that our minds grasp only a small portion of the horror that will be the experience of those who live on the earth during this fearful period.

1. After the saints are raptured, the term "tribulation" is never mentioned again in Holy Scripture. Instead, the term "wrath of God" is mentioned thirteen times from Revelation 6:16 to 19:15, during which time "they repented not," is mentioned three times. Using Romans 1:18 as a reference, tell why this time of trouble comes upon the earth.

2. What is the time frame of the plagues listed in our text, as compared to the other happenings in the Book of Revelation?

3. The plagues spoken of in Revelation 16 are literal and are not meant to be spiritualized or symbolized.

List the seven plagues mentioned.

4. Compare the reaction of Pharaoh to the plagues in Egypt (Exodus 7:13), to the reaction of the people on the earth at the time of the seven plagues.

5. Describe what takes place when the sixth vial is poured out.

6. Give the meaning of Jesus' words, "It is finished" (John 19:30), and the words of the great Voice out of the Temple of Heaven, "It is done."