



Pine View
Baptist Church
Augusta, GA

Wednesday Night Service

"Questions About Prophecy – Part V"

1. *What is the seven year tribulation period?*

After the saints have been raptured from the earth, the seven year tribulation will begin. The Bible uses various names for this period such as the day of the Lord (Isa 2:12), the time of the End (Dan. 12:9) and the end of this Age (Matt 13:40).

The tribulation is divided into three eras. The first era is around 3 and a half years. A second era or brief period in the middle lasting only a few weeks and the third era lasting around another 3 and a half years.

A powerful ruler known as the Anti-Christ will rise to power during the tribulation. During the tribulation, God will pour out his wrath upon the earth. It will be a terrible time of suffering and persecution. Those who become Christians during the tribulation will go through great persecution and more than likely will be killed for their faith in Christ. This will happen because the Anti-Christ will want people to worship him.

The tribulation will end when the Anti-Christ leads the world to attack Israel. Those in opposition to God and Israel will be destroyed in the battle of Armageddon. (Rev 19:11-16) Then Jesus will return to the earth victoriously to set up His earthly kingdom that will last 1,000 years. (Rev. 20:4-6)

2. *Will the church go through the seven year tribulation period?*

The answer to this question is, no. Although the word "rapture" is not found in the Bible, it is indeed an event in prophecy taught in the scriptures. (I Thes. 4:14-17) This is the next prophecy to be fulfilled. All Christians dead and alive will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air. (I Thess. 5:9) In this verse it says that "God has not appointed us to wrath" which has been interpreted to mean that Christians will not face the wrath of the great tribulation. (Rev. 3:10) This passage also says that church will not suffer in the great tribulation. In this verse, Jesus says "I will keep you from the hour of trial which will come upon the whole world."

From the 1-3 chapters of Revelation, the church is mentioned but after that the church is not mentioned. From the argument of silence, it is assumed that the church is not on the earth. They have been raptured out.

3. *When will the tribulation begin?*

The prophet Daniel prophesied concerning the seventy weeks in which God would deal with the nation of Israel. As in the case of other Old Testament writers, the mystery of the church was kept hidden. Daniel did accurately predict that after the sixty ninth week, "The Messiah would be cut off but not for himself and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. (Dan. 9:26)

Most historians agree that Jesus was crucified about AD 30 and the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70. This event ended the 69 weeks that were predicted by Daniel. Then the prophet describes a gap between the time and the beginning of the Tribulation. The church age is that gap of time. We are in the church age now. In Daniel 9:27, Daniel says that "At the end of this age, he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering."

We don't know when the tribulation will begin because, we don't know the exact time when Jesus will return. But we do know that it will begin after the church is raptured out. The Great tribulation is as certain as the return of Christ.

4. *What is the judgment or Bema seat of Christ?*

The Bema seat of Christ occurs at the time immediately following the rapture of the church. (II Cor. 5:10) We are told that the judge at the Bema seat is Jesus. One day all the saved will stand before Christ. All will stand before God at the Great White Throne judgment. (Rev. 20:11-15)

Only those who are saved will stand before the Bema seat. The purpose of the Bema seat is to make a public manifestation of the essential character and motives of the individual Christian. The believers works will be brought into judgment. (II Cor. 5:9-11) Each one's work will be made clear (I Cor. 3:13-15). The results of the judgement seat are twofold. 1.) A reward received or 2.) A reward lost.