



ASIA PACIFIC MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP

with **The OLIVE TREE MESSAGE!** Romans 11

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We Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem! Psalm 122:6

THE Tribulation, the Great One

In this very important study, in order to clear up many confusing teachings on this subject, we shall refer to the Greek text to find the few exact passages where THE Tribulation occurs. Bible translations are not necessarily made for accuracy but for easy reading and big sales. Therefore, many synonyms are used rather than translating consistently with one English word for one Greek word as much as possible. I say this because the Greek word *thlipsis* = tribulation is not often translated as such, thereby hiding the train of thought of the writers. As we discover these few significant passages, you will see it clearly and might be motivated to study Greek, as there are other serious miss-translations that need to be corrected if TRUTH is to be learned.

We begin in Revelation 7:9-17 where the title expression is found, the only time it occurs. First we need to look at 7:9 to ask a few questions. Rev 7:9 *After this I looked, and behold, a **great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages....*** (I will not quote complete verses as it takes too much space. Please use your Bible and make notes in it for future reference.) **Why could no one count the number of this great multitude?** Using scientific notation, any number great or small can be written down using 10 to some exponent, plus or minus.

The clue is in 7:14. *And I said to him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are those who **are coming out*** (present tense, not past tense like in KJV) *of the tribulation the great.....* What does this verse tell you? Ans: The Tribulation the great one **is going on** as John is watching and therefore no one can count the multitude, just like the gas pump at the station is running until you stop pumping gas! Then the number is fixed and can be read.

So our initial information about **The Tribulation the Great One** is that it is **already going on** at the time the Apostle John is living and it is still going on as I write this! Shocking? You thought it began in some future time after some fictitious "Pre-Tribulation Rapture"? To continue our search, we will look for every time the Greek word *thlipsis* occurs in the Newer Testament in the singular with an article, making it a specific Tribulation. I have found only 5 more.

Staying with John in Revelation, we turn to 1:9. *I, John, your brother and partner in **the tribulation.....*** John knows he is in The Tribulation as he writes, since he saw it in progress in 7:14.

When then did The Tribulation actually begin? Acts 11:19. *They therefore that were scattered abroad upon **the tribulation that arose about Stephen....*** Stephen was the first martyr among the first Messianic Believers, which caused the breakup of the "first Bible Conference" in Jerusalem that was necessary to establish in The Faith the 3000+ and growing new Believers in Yeshua. After some glorious weeks or months of the Conference, God must have decided it was time for them to go back to their Diaspora homes and bring the Good News to everyone and so He allowed Stephen's death to get them moving and as a significant step to the conversion of Saul of Tarsus.

What did Paul the Apostle say about it? Since Saul/Paul helped start The Tribulation, surely he would know, and yes, twice he refers to it. Rom 5:3 is the first one. *And not only so, but we also rejoice in our tribulations: knowing that **the tribulation works steadfastness....*** Paul knows he is in it and that it is being used by God to develop character in the Messianic Believers. His 2nd one is in Rom 12:12 *in the hope rejoicing; in **the tribulation** enduring; in the prayer persevering.*

Paul's third reference is in 2 Corinthians 4:17. *For the present lightness of **the tribulation** of us works out for us a far more excellent eternal weight of glory....* I had to correct this translation according to the Greek as all versions hide the truth with synonyms and smooth English. An essential truth is being stated here, as the "present lightness" gives us a clue that the intensity of The Tribulation was not always so heavy. It would come and go according to the whim of the rulers who impose it. The history of persecution of Messianics, Jews and true Christians has been mostly by the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches, and now persecution by Islam is very intense in the Middle East, trying to wipe out, eliminate, all those who do not believe exactly as they do. This is going to spread world wide as Islam continues its migration policies to take over Europe and other countries. Our Daniel-Revelation study reveals Islam as the last world power to persecute Israel.

We need to include Matthew 24:21. *For then there will be **(a) great tribulation**, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.* This is an indefinite article, not the same as the ones above, but it will be a severe time. And we include Matthew 24:29. *"Immediately after **the tribulation of those days** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.* Again this is qualified, not the same. However, we understand from these two verses given by Yeshua that **the final blast** of **The Tribulation**, which began with the stoning of Stephen, will culminate with severe judgments on earth just before the arrival of Yeshua The Messiah back to earth. These are clearly specified in the book of Revelation!!! Many more, and more severe judgments are coming yet!

Now what about that week of 7 years found in Daniel 9? This was explained to us by Tim Hegg when he was our teacher for APMF Bible Conference #11, held in Metro Manila. The passage is Daniel 9:27. *And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering....* Titus was the Roman General in charge of the siege of Jerusalem after his father, Vespasian, was called back to Rome to be the Emperor. Jews had an agreement with Rome not to worship the Emperor but to make sacrifices and prayers for him. Titus agreed to honor this agreement for 7 more years, but when the Jewish rulers in Jerusalem could not stop the rebellion on their own, Titus invaded and stopped the sacrifices and destroyed the Temple. The siege began in 66, Temple destroyed in 70, half way through the 7 years, and Masada was taken in 73, completing this 7 year period. Since Bible Prophecies are sometimes cyclical, will this sequence occur again in the future?? We do not know. These literal 7 years have no connection with the 70 and 69 "weeks/shavua."

Tim further explained the 70 and 69 in this way. Look at the passage first, Daniel 9:24-26. ***"Seventy weeks** are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be **seven weeks**. Then **for sixty-two weeks** it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.*

The word *shavua* is everywhere else in the Tanakh a feminine word. Only in this Daniel 9 is it in the masculine form, giving us the option to consider each number separately and different. The 70 weeks are the total history of Israel, as 70 Jubilees. The 7 weeks are from the decree to Ezra to go back and rebuild Jerusalem until it is finished, and then another 62 weeks until the Anointed One is cut off. These 69 weeks are Sabbatical Years or *Shmitta* years. That last week of 7 years is separate and distinct from the others. So let us not be fooled by Replacement Theology people trying to fit their illegal "church" into Prophecies that deal with ISRAEL, God's Chosen People forever. And remember, we Gentile Believers are "grafted into the Good Olive Tree" together with Jewish Believers, making up the one Body of The Messiah, Yeshua! For more information see my Document on **Matt 16:13-19** on my website in the heading above.