

THE TRIBULATION

Matthew 24 (NASB)

24 Jesus left the temple *area* and was going *on His way* when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. ² But He responded and said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not *one* stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”

³ And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and **what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**”

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will mislead many people. ⁶ And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, **for *those things* must take place, but *that is not yet the end*.** ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ **But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pains.**

⁹ “Then they will hand you over to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. ¹⁰ And at that time many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will rise up and mislead many people. **¹² And because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will become cold.** **¹³ But the one who endures to the end is the one who will be saved.** ¹⁴ **This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

¹⁵ “Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION **which** was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place—let the reader understand— ¹⁶ then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get things out of his house. ¹⁸ And whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. ¹⁹ But woe to those women who are pregnant, and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰ Moreover, pray that when you flee, it will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. ²¹ **For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will *again*.** ²² **And if those days had not been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.** ²³ Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or

'He is over here,' do not believe him. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will arise and will provide great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ Behold, I have told you in advance. ²⁶ So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out; *or*, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe *them*. ²⁷ For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸ Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

²⁹ **"But 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 the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ **And then** the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, **and then** all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. ³¹ **And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET BLAST, and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.**

³² **"Now learn the parable from the fig tree:** as soon as its branch has become tender and sprouts its leaves, you know that summer is near; ³³ so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door. ³⁴ Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

³⁶ **"But about that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. ³⁷ For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. ⁴⁰ At that time there will be two *men* in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two *women* will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.**

⁴² **"Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.**

⁴³ **But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ For this reason you must be ready as well; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think *He will*.**

⁴⁵ “Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household slaves, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’ ⁴⁹ and he begins to beat his fellow slaves, and he eats and drinks with those habitually drunk; ⁵⁰ *then* the master of that slave will come on a day that he does not expect, and at an hour that he does not know, ⁵¹ and he will cut him in two and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Bible search results

1. [Matthew 24:9](#)

“Then they will hand you over to **tribulation** and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

2. [Matthew 24:21](#)

For then there will be a great **tribulation**, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will *again*.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

3. [Matthew 24:29](#)

The Glorious Return

“But 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 the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

4. [Mark 13:19](#)

For those days will be such a *time of tribulation* as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will *again*.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

5. [Mark 13:24](#)

The Return of Christ

“But in those days, after that **tribulation**, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light,

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

6. [John 16:33](#)

These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have **tribulation**, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

7. [Acts 14:22](#)

strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, “It is through many **tribulations** that we must enter the kingdom of God.”

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

8. [Romans 2:9](#)

There will be **tribulation** and distress for every soul of mankind who does evil, for the Jew first and also for the Greek,

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

9. [Romans 5:3](#)

And not only *this*, but we also celebrate in our **tribulations**, knowing that **tribulation** brings about perseverance;

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

10. [Romans 8:35](#)

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? *Will* **tribulation**, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

11. [Romans 12:12](#)

rejoicing in hope, **persevering in tribulation**, devoted to prayer,

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

12. [Ephesians 3:13](#)

Therefore I ask you not to become discouraged about my **tribulations** in your behalf, since they are your glory.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

13. [Revelation 1:9](#)

The Patmos Vision

I, John, your brother and fellow participant in the **tribulation** and kingdom and perseverance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

14. [Revelation 2:9](#)

‘I know your **tribulation** and your poverty (but you are rich), and the slander by those who say they are Jews, and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

15. [Revelation 2:10](#)

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have **tribulation** for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

16. [Revelation 2:22](#)

Behold, I will throw her on a bed *of sickness*, and those who commit adultery with her into great **tribulation**, unless they repent of her deeds.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

17. [Revelation 7:9](#)

A Multitude from the Tribulation

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all the* tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands;

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

18. [Revelation 7:14](#)

I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great **tribulation**, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

◀ 2347. thlipsis ▶

Strong's Concordance

thlipsis: tribulation

Original Word: θλίψις, εως, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: thlipsis

Phonetic Spelling: (thlip'-sis)

Definition: tribulation

Usage: persecution, affliction, distress, tribulation.

HELPS Word-studies

2347 *thlípsis* – properly, *pressure* (what constricts or rubs together), used of a narrow place that "hems someone in"; *tribulation*, especially *internal pressure* that causes someone to feel confined (restricted, "without options").

2347 /*thlípsis* ("compression, tribulation") carries the challenge of coping with the *internal* pressure of a *tribulation*, especially when feeling there is "no way of escape" ("hemmed in").

[By contrast, 4730 (*stenoxōría*) focuses on the *external pressure* exerted by circumstances.]

NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin

from thlibó

Definition

tribulation

NASB Translation

affliction (14), afflictions (6), anguish (1), distress (2), persecution (1), tribulation (16), tribulations (4), trouble (1).

Thayer's Greek Lexicon

STRONGS NT 2347: θλίψις

θλίψις, or θλίψις (so L Tr) (cf. Winers Grammar, § 6, 1 e.; Lipsius, Grammat. Untersuch., p. 35), θλίψεως, ἡ (θλίβω), properly, a pressing, pressing together, pressure (Strabo, p. 52; Galen); in Biblical and ecclesiastical writings, a Greek metaphor, oppression, affliction, tribulation, distress, straits; Vulg.tribulatio, also pressura (2 Corinthians 1:4b; John 16:(21),33; (Philippians 1:16 (17); and in

[Colossians 1:24](#) passio)); (the Sept. for צָרָה, also for צָרָה, צָר, etc.): [Matthew 24:9](#); [Acts 7:11](#); [Acts 11:19](#); [Romans 12:12](#); [2 Corinthians 1:4, 8](#); [2 Corinthians 4:17](#); [2 Corinthians 6:4](#); [2 Corinthians 7:4](#); [2 Corinthians 8:2](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:6](#); [Revelation 1:9](#); [Revelation 2:9, 22](#); [Revelation 7:14](#); joined with στενοχωρία (cf. Trench, § Iv.), [Romans 2:9](#); [Romans 8:35](#) ([Deuteronomy 28:53f](#); Isa. ()); with ἀνάγκη, [1 Thessalonians 3:7](#); with διωγμός, [Matthew 13:21](#); [Mark 4:17](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:4](#); of the afflictions of those hard pressed by siege and the calamities of war, [Matthew 24:21, 29](#); [Mark 13:19, 24](#); of the straits of want, [2 Corinthians 8:13](#); [Philippians 4:14](#) (here others give the word a wider reference); [James 1:27](#); of the distress of a woman in childbirth; [John 16:21](#). θλίψιν ἔχω (equivalent to θλίβομαι), [John 16:33](#); [1 Corinthians 2:8](#); [Revelation 2:10](#); θλίψις ἐπὶ τινα ἔρχεται, [Acts 7:11](#); ἐν θλίψει, [1 Thessalonians 1:6](#). plural: [Acts 7:10](#); [Acts 14:22](#); [Acts 20:23](#); [Romans 5:3](#); [Ephesians 3:13](#); [1 Thessalonians 3:3](#); [Hebrews 10:33](#); τοῦ Χριστοῦ, the afflictions which Christ had to undergo (and which, therefore, his followers must not shrink from), [Colossians 1:24](#) (see ἀνταναπληρώ); θλίψις τῆς καρδίας (καὶ συνοχή), anxiety, burden of heart, [2 Corinthians 2:4](#); θλίψιν ἐπιφέρειν (L T Tr WH ἐγείρειν, see ἐγείρω, 4 c.) τοῖς δεσμοῖς τίνος, to increase the misery of my imprisonment by causing me anxiety, [Philippians 1:16](#) (17).

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

affliction, persecution, tribulation

From [thlibo](#); pressure (literally or figuratively) -- afflicted(-tion), anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble.

see GREEK [thlibo](#)

Forms and Transliterations

θλιψει θλίψει θλιψεις θλίψεις θλίψεσι θλίψεσι θλιψεσιν θλίψεσιν θλίψεσιν
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thlipsis

Links

[Interlinear Greek](#) • [Interlinear Hebrew](#) • [Strong's Numbers](#) • [Englishman's Greek Concordance](#) • [Englishman's Hebrew Concordance](#) • [Parallel Texts](#)

Believers, Did You Know This About ‘The Tribulation?’

Friends,

I have been seeing a great deal of commentary on the Internet about how people are convinced the Tribulation is not far away. There was a time that I would have agreed with them, but that time is long since past for me. I have learned too much about the Scriptures to hold to this teaching, but I am concerned for those who still do. You see, the Scriptures actually say something much different from what most of us have been taught and, if we do not know the truth, when the hour of testing comes and things do not go the way we had expected, it may cause many to fall away from their faith. So that this will not happen to you, I would like to share what I have learned about The Tribulation with you — in the hope that it will strengthen your faith and not weaken it at a time when you will need to be your most resolute.

I will just get straight to the point: the Scriptures do not teach about a seven year period immediately before the return of Messiah called ‘The Tribulation!’ Yes, you read that correctly: the Scriptures do not teach this understanding. In fact, they teach us a much different understanding of tribulation. Lest I lose you before I can prove my point, let me prove my point by asking you to read the following verse very, very carefully:

[Revelation 1:9](#) New American Standard Bible

The Patmos Vision

*I, John, your brother **and fellow partaker in the tribulation** and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.*

Do you understand what you just read? John is telling us that, as he writes around the year 90 AD, he is already in the tribulation with the rest of the brotherhood. This clearly indicates that the tribulation had already started. But, please, understand that this is not the first place in the Greek New Testament where we find the word we translate as ‘tribulation.’

The Greek word in question is, [θλίψις](#) (*thlipsis*). This is the root word. There are other variations of it. For example, in Rev 1:9, John uses the word, [θλίψει](#) (*thlipsei*). All told, the word, *thlipsis*, or some form of it, is used more than 60 times in the Greek New Testament. Because it hasn't been translated as 'tribulation' every time we encounter it, we don't realize how many times it is used. However, the word always has the same meaning in the original Greek:

[Strong's Concordance 2347. thlipsis](#)

2347 *thlipsis* – properly, *pressure* (what constricts or rubs together), used of a narrow place that “hems someone in”; *tribulation*, especially *internal pressure* that causes someone to feel confined (restricted, “without options”).

2347 /*thlipsis* (“compression, tribulation”) carries the challenge of coping with the *internal pressure* of a *tribulation*, especially when feeling there is “no way of escape” (“hemmed in”).

[By contrast, [4730](#) (*stenoxōría*) focuses on the *external pressure* exerted by circumstances.]

[NOTE: I have posted a link and list of several of the instances where 'thlipsis' is used in the Greek but translated differently in English. You can find it at the end of this post.]

Here is what I would like for believers to understand: the Scriptures teach us that we are going to experience 'thlipsis' (*tribulation*) from the time Yeshua ascended until He returns. Yeshuah tried to warn us, but — as most often happens — we did not listen or, if we did, we have not properly understood:

[John 16:32-33](#) New American Standard Bible

³² *Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.* ³³ *These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world **you have tribulation**, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”*

While it is true, there may be a more intense period of tribulation near the Lord's return, it is just as likely that 'the Great Tribulation' is the Lord's term for what we call The Church Age. All I ask is that you keep this possibility in mind, especially

since this understanding fits what is written much better than what most of us have heard taught by men.

WRAPPING UP

Now, here is what I hope believers will take away from this post (which is the reason I wrote it);

1 — Understand that both Yeshua and the Apostle, John, who Yeshua loved, tell us that we are already in and will have tribulations, and we will have them until He returns.

This means that we should not expect that The Tribulation is a specific period that will come right before Yeshua returns. True, it is possible that the tribulations we experience in this world may become much more difficult to endure. This may be what Yeshua meant by a ‘great’ tribulation, like none before. But it may also be that Yeshua was referring to the period between His ascension and return. Scripture is not clear on this point, so it is dangerous to speculate — or worse — add to what is actually written.

2 — The meaning of the word, ‘thlipsis’ which we translate as ‘tribulation,’ is connected to an inner pressure or struggle. We should be aware that there is a different Greek word that could and most likely would have been used had the prophets intended us to understand ‘tribulation’ as an outward threat. That word is [stenochória](#). This clearly suggests that ‘thlipsis’ (*tribulation*) is the Lord’s way of saying that we will be forced to battle between His calling and our own fleshly desires. Surely, as believers, we can see this. How often does the world call us to do something the Lord says we should not do, and how often do we find ourselves at war with our self over whether or not we will give in to the world or obey the Lord? Personally, I find myself in these struggles many times every day, and I lose as often as I win. Well, this is ‘thlipsis’ (*tribulation*), and we have been in it since the Lord ascended.

Finally, why is all of this important? The answer should be clear, but, at the risk of sounding as though I am lecturing the choir, I’ll explain:

If believers are taught that the tribulation is a period that will come right before the end of time, and the image they have in their minds never materializes, then those who are alive right before the Lord returns may be lead astray as a result. If we are

convinced that Scripture teaches something that does not happen, or at least, it doesn't happen the way we expect, it can be easy to lose faith. We start to doubt the Lord's Word, and the call of the scoffers in the world starts to ring with more truth to us than the Scriptures. In fact, many have already fallen away from the faith because their understanding of Scripture has not matched what they believed it to mean. Well, I do not wish for this to happen to you, which is why I wrote this post:

So that you will be aware of the possibility that what you have been taught about the Tribulation may not be what the Scriptures actually say. As always, you have to read, study and decide for yourself. All I ask is that you be sure to pray about this one, and try hard to let the Spirit speak to you. Remember, if you think you hear an answer that disagree with Scripture, you need to keep praying because that was not the voice of the Lord 😊

Shalom

[Blue Letter Bible](#)

For those who might be interested, I have also written about the 'Rapture.' [You can find that post here.](#)