

## Finish Faithful Notes for Episode 6 – Tribulation

Is “The Tribulation” the same as the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel? No. But when you hear people talk about “The Tribulation” or the 7 years or the 70<sup>th</sup> Week, they are referring to this 7-year period of judgement that comes at the end of this age, right before the 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth, the millennial kingdom. The Bible never calls this 7-year period “The Tribulation”.

Tribulation    θλίψις (thlipsis Strong’s 2347)  
afflicted (be) [KJV], pressure, affliction, anguish    (From E.W Bullinger Lexicon)

Christ followers are told in many places that they will experience tribulation as part of normal Christian living. The Bible says it actually helps us grow and it is pleasing to God for us to endure tribulation (John 16:33, Romans 3:3-5, 8:35-37, 12:12).

Contrary to what many prominent theologians and teachers say, the Bible does not say the final tribulation begins at the beginning of the 70<sup>th</sup> Week, nor does it extend to the end of the 70<sup>th</sup> Week. In the Olivet Discourse, Jesus calls the first 3 ½ years “the beginning of birth pangs” (Matt 24:8, Mark 13:8). Christians have always experienced tribulation since the 1<sup>st</sup> Century (1Thess 3:1-7) and this will increase as we near the end of this age. In the last 100 years, more Christians have been killed for their faith than at all previous times put together. There will be greater persecution and tribulation during the first half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week.

At the midpoint of the 70<sup>th</sup> Week is the abomination of desolation and Jesus warns Jews and Christ-followers in Jerusalem and Judea to immediately flee into the wilderness. God will protect a group there, but that is another subject. He says,

**'For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. ' Matthew 24:21**

This begins the period properly called “The Great Tribulation”. This period does not extend through the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> 3 ½ years because then it would wipe out everyone and that does not happen. It is cut short to save or rescue some of the elect who survive it.

**'And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. ' Matthew 24:22**