

## Will Believers Go Through Tribulation?

### *1 Thessalonians 3:1-10*

Tribulation is the appointed lot for God's people living in this hostile world. Our Saviour said, "In the world **ye shall have tribulation** (affliction, pressure): but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (*John 16:33*). Paul exhorted the disciples to continue in the faith, telling them that "**we must through much tribulation** enter into the kingdom of God" (*Acts 14:22*).

The Thessalonians received the word "**in much affliction** (tribulation), with joy of the Holy Spirit" (*1 Thess. 1:6*), and they were told "that no man should be moved by these **afflictions** (tribulations): for yourselves know that **we are appointed thereunto**. For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that **we should suffer tribulation**, even as it came to pass, and ye know" (*1 Thess. 3:3-4*). "**We glory in tribulations** also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience" (Rom. 5:3).

David knew tribulation: "This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and **saved him out of all his troubles**....Many are the **afflictions** of the righteous" (*Psalms 34:6,17,19*).

Believers today are not exempt from times of trouble, distress, intense pressure and persecution. However, there is a specific time of trouble which Church Age believers will never see: "Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, **I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation** which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" (*Rev. 3:10*).

Believers are not appointed unto the coming wrath (*1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9*), which refers to a specific future time when God will pour out His wrath upon earth dwellers. Believers must pass through the fires of affliction and severe trials (*1 Peter 4:12*), but we will not pass through the specific fires of affliction that are reserved for a Christ-rejecting world during Daniel's 70th week.

**Tribulation? Yes! THE Tribulation? No!**

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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