

# REFUTING PM – PART 8 (THE GREAT TRIBULATION)

## I. Introductory Remarks.

- A. Appealing primarily to Matt. 24 and the book of Rev., the PM camp contends that a period of great tribulation will occur after the rapture and before what they deem to be the second coming of Jesus and the end of the world.
- B. Many PM believe this will last seven years in all, being the last of Daniel’s prophecy of seventy weeks.
  - 1. 3 ½ tough years of recovery under the false relief “The Anti-Christ” will offer.
  - 2. 3 ½ years of immense persecution in which most (if not all) of those who become Christians following the rapture will be hunted down and killed by the tyrannical government headed by “The Anti-Christ.”
  - 3. *“When we refer to the “great tribulation” we have in mind, not man’s daily difficulties, but a specific era of anguish still in the future - a period of intense, excruciating sorrow and physical pain. If you are a believer in Christ, praise God that you will escape the fearful destruction of that day (time). Christ Himself, dwelt upon the details of this dark period and solemnly outlined its course in Matthew 24:14-21”* ([www.biblicist.org](http://www.biblicist.org)).
- C. The PM view is fanciful and appeals to many, but their view is at odds with scripture.

## II. Refutation:

- A. First of all PM’s “Rapture” is not biblical. We have debunked this error already (cf. Refuting PM – Part 3).
- B. Secondly, the 70 weeks mentioned in Daniel have all been completed (cf. Refuting PM – Part 7).
- C. Thirdly, the PM concept of “The Anti-Christ” is not biblical and has been debunked (cf. Refuting PM – Parts 4 & 5).
- D. Fourthly, PM wrest Matt. 24 from its context (cf. Refuting PM – Part 2 and Signs of Matt. 24 Parts 1 & 2).
  - 1. **Matt. 24:21** – *“For then shall be great tribulation...”*
    - (a) Who is he speaking to? (**24:1-3**) What is he talking about? (**ibid**). What is the time frame? (**24:34**)
    - (b) When, then, is “then” referring to? Within a few thousand years?
    - (c) Context, context, context! Vs. **15-20** answers the question;
    - (d) Then = “when you see the abomination of desolation,” (Jerusalem surrounded by armies) (**Lk. 21:20**).
  - 2. If **Matt. 24:4-35** has an ancient fulfillment, there can be no period of GT as described by the PM camp. House falls.
- E. Fifth the PM camp wrongly forces Rev. into a modern day or post-modern day context. Key verses: **2:22; 7:13-14**.
  - 1. **Rev. 1:1** – Notes things that will shortly come to pass.
    - (a) Shortly = 5034 táchos – a relatively brief period of time (BDAG) (cf. **1 Tim. 3:14**).
    - (b) If we trust the Bible then the great tribulation mentioned in Revelation happened in antiquity.
  - 2. **Rev.1:3** – the fulfillment of the prophecy was “at hand.”
    - (a) At hand = 1451 eggús – close by; getting ready to start. The woes discussed in the book will begin shortly.
    - (b) Note: The church had been persecuted from the beginning (various passages), but what Rev. is discussing is a new kind of horrible war being waged against the Lamb and His saints (**Rev.17:14**).
    - (c) This gels perfectly with history of atrocities committed by the Roman Empire against Christians.
    - (d) The great tribulation happened in antiquity. It is not around the corner.
  - 3. **Rev.1:4** – the prophecy is addressed to churches then existing.
    - (a) What good would this word of prophecy do them if it had no application? How could they be blessed (**vs. 3**)?
    - (b) Is there a church in Thyatira today that can fulfill **Rev. 2:25**? – Same context as one of the PM sugar-sticks.
  - 4. **Rev. 1:9** – The apostle John would be included.
    - (a) Companion = 4791 sugkoinōnós – a co-participant (Strong); John had been (up to that point) and would be a partner in their tribulation (still to come).
    - (b) Is John alive today?