

"In the Tribulation"

(Rev 1:9)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

Scripture Reading



Revelation 1:9-20 (NASB)

9 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. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, 11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

Scripture Reading



12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; 13 and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. 14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. 15 His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. 16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

Scripture Reading



17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. 19 Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. 20 As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Exposit Rev 1:9



9 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.

✧ John calls himself a fellow “brother” (adelpho) and fellow partaker (sugkoinōnos)

✧ Adelfho can mean

✧ brother (blood relative)

✧ brother (ethnicity; i.e. in the case of Israel a fellow Israelite)

✧ brother (family of God)

✧ The context tells us which one

Exposit Rev 1:9



- ✧ sugkoinōnós means companion, partner, or joint partaker or sharer with someone
- ✧ The primary recipients are not only called brothers (adelpho) but slaves (doulos)
- ✧ As a reminder, the primary recipients of this letter are:
 - ✧ The 7 churches
 - ✧ 144K sealed Jews (Rev 7:3)
 - ✧ Two Witnesses/Prophets (Rev 11:18)
 - ✧ Glorified saints (Rev 19:5)
- ✧ John is identifying with them as fellow brothers and sharers...

“in the tribulation”



John says he along with them are sharers “in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance”

From here we’ll get into the meat of our study and look at the phrase “in the tribulation”

“in the tribulation”



- ✧ There is a lot of confusion surrounding “tribulation”
- ✧ “tribulation” is ‘thlipsis’ which means persecution, affliction, anguish, distress, trouble
- ✧ I found this to be a good example to capture the essence of thlipsis, and that was in the example Jesus gave concerning labor:
John 16:21 (Jesus speaking that night before He was arrested)
21 Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish (thlipsis or tribulation of affliction) because of the joy that a child has been born into the world.
- ✧ The pain experienced in labor is a good example of thlipsis!

“in the tribulation”



- ❧ What's often overlooked is not recognizing there are different types of “tribulation” or anguish or affliction described in the NT:
 - ❧ **The Church Tribulation**
 - ❧ Faithful Edition (Persecution) – since Pentecost
 - ❧ Unfaithful Edition (Discipline) - since 1st Century
 - ❧ **Jerusalem's Tribulation** (Abomination of Desolation)
 - ❧ **Global Tribulation** (world powers; cataclysmic events)
 - ❧ Many teachings attribute this to “the Great Tribulation”
- ❧ And I'd like to give Scriptural examples to show the differences...

“The Church Tribulation” (Faithful Edition: persecution)



John 16:33 (before Jesus' High Priestly Prayer)

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

Acts 14:21-22 (During Paul's 1st missionary journey; after being stoned)

21 After they [Paul and Barnabas] had preached the gospel to that city [Derbe] and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, “Through many **tribulations (thlispis)** we must enter the kingdom of God.”

“The Church Tribulation”

(Faithful Edition: persecution)



Matthew 24:9-10

9 “Then they will deliver you to **tribulation (thlipsis)**, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

☞ “they” in context are future false Christs and nations rising to power

☞ “you” in context are His disciples

☞ Prophetic:

☞ Immediate context: disciples (for being a witness will be killed, less John)

☞ End times context: elect who are here when false Christs, false prophets, Antichrist arrives on the scene and there will be betrayals, killings, hatred

“The Church Tribulation” (Faithful Edition: persecution)



THE FAITHFUL CHURCH TRIBULATION

All faithful believers who were persecuted, killed for being a Christian, a witness for the Christ, preaching the gospel, and enabling the spreading of the WORD are part of faithful tribulation experienced by the Church, beginning with the apostles.

30AD
(Pentecost)
Apostolic
Period

7TH
TRUMPET

“The Church Tribulation”

(Unfaithful Edition: discipline)



- ✧ Often times God uses people to live out His divine judgments
- ✧ A couple of examples of this in the OT:
 - ✧ HOSEA: Was commanded to take Gomer (harlot) as his wife and have children
 - ✧ To depict Israel's harlotry against God, and as a result, their impending judgment
 - ✧ EZEKIEL: Was commanded to make a brick, write Jerusalem on it to communicate its impending judgment because of their sin
 - ✧ God also commanded him to lie down on his left side 390 days to correspond to the number of years (390 years) of Israel's iniquity
 - ✧ Then laid down on his right side 40 days to correspond to 40 years of Judah's sin
- ✧ This is the case concerning the 7 letters to 7 churches
- ✧ God is using the 7 churches in that 1st Century to depict His divine reward and judgments... and with that I'd like to look at Thyatira...

“The Church Tribulation” (Unfaithful Edition: discipline)



Revelation 2:18-25

18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

19 ‘I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. 20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. 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.

“The Church Tribulation”

(Unfaithful Edition: discipline)



23 And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. 24 But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you. 25 Nevertheless what you have, hold fast **until I come**. 26 He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds **until the end**, **TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; 27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES**, as I also have received authority from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

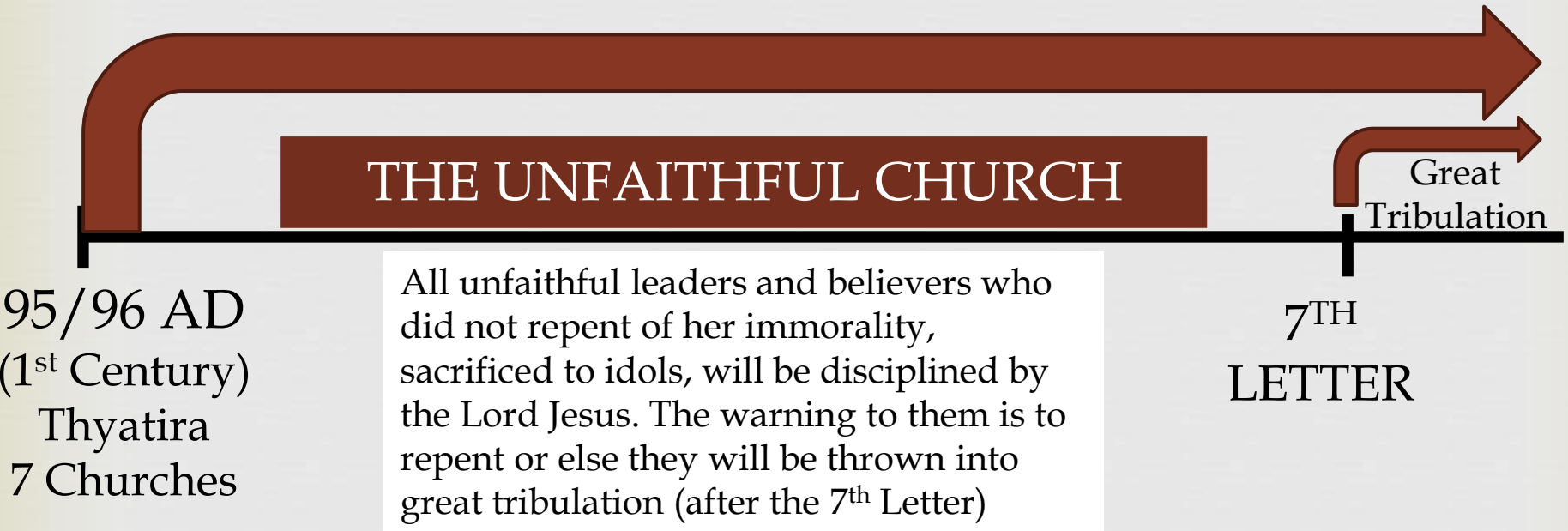
“The Church Tribulation”

(Unfaithful Edition: discipline)



- ✧ So in the letter to Thyatira, Jesus warns some of them to repent of their immorality OR ELSE they will be thrown into great tribulation
- ✧ We'll get more into the historic context of this church when we study that letter, but what is communicated here is that there is a warning to the churches that if they commit acts of immorality because of Jezebel's influence, they will be thrown into great tribulation
- ✧ How do we know that it's not just limited to the church in Thyatira?
 - ✧ 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit **says to the churches.**'
- ✧ My point is, this is one of many tribulations (called megas thlipsis) the churches (plural) are warned of in Scripture

“The Church Tribulation” (Unfaithful Edition: discipline)



“The Church Tribulation”



- ❧ So will the church go through the tribulation or the Great Tribulation?
- ❧ Depends on what “tribulation” you’re talking about
- ❧ The church since it’s birth has experienced:
 - ❧ Tribulation in the form of persecution for being faithful
 - ❧ Tribulation in the form of discipline for being unfaithful
- ❧ The faithful church will continue to experience much tribulation for being a Christian and the gospel up to the very end
- ❧ The unfaithful unrepentant church will be disciplined beginning 1st century and will experience great tribulation after the 7th letter

- ❧ Now let’s look at another type of tribulation...

“Jerusalem’s Tribulation”



Matthew 24:15-22

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 the things out that are in his house. 18 Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 But pray that your flight 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. 22 Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

“Jerusalem’s Tribulation”



Matthew 24:15-22 (how do we know it's local to Jerusalem?)

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 the things out that are in his house. 18 Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 But pray that your flight 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. 22 Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

“Jerusalem’s Tribulation”



Matthew 24:15-22 (allow me to fill this in further)

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 (**in Judea**) must not go down to get the things out that are in his house. 18 Whoever is in the field (**in Judea**) must not turn back to get his cloak. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days (**in Judea**)! 20 But pray that your flight (**leaving Judea**) will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath. 21 For then there will be a **great tribulation (beginning in Jerusalem)**, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. 22 Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of **the elect (in Judea)** those days will be cut short.

“Jerusalem’s Tribulation”



- ❧ Where there is a lot of confusion is Matthew wrote “great tribulation” or “megas thlipsis” in Greek
 - ❧ A lot of theology books ran with “the Great Tribulation” designation
- ❧ I do want to point out a few things
 - ❧ Matthew/Mark/Luke recorded Olivet Discourse account
 - ❧ Mt 24; Mk 13; Lk 21
 - ❧ Matthew’s account: has “megas”
 - ❧ Mark’s account: does not have “megas” (just tribulation or thlipsis)
 - ❧ Luke’s doesn’t even mention tribulation (thlipsis)
 - ❧ Although I added for us Jerusalem/Judea in Mt 24 based on the location of the holy place, Luke’s account does specifically say Jerusalem too!
- ❧ Now let me know you both Mark’s and Luke’s account..

“Jerusalem’s Tribulation”



☞ Mark’s account does NOT say “megas” just “thlipsis”

Mark 13:14-20

14 “But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. 15 The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house; 16 and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat. 17 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 18 But pray that it may not happen in the winter. 19 For those days will be **a time of tribulation** such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will. 20 Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

☞ Mark just says “tribulation”

“Jerusalem’s Tribulation”



☞ Luke’s account doesn’t even mention tribulation, but mentions Jerusalem

Luke 21:20-24

20 “But when you see **Jerusalem** surrounded by armies, then recognize that **her desolation** is near. 21 Then those who are **in Judea** must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; 22 because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. 23 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be **great distress** upon the land and wrath to this people; 24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and **Jerusalem** will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

☞ Allow me to enter name of city, country, people in this prophecy

“Jerusalem’s Tribulation”



Luke 21:20-24

20 “But when you see **Jerusalem** surrounded by armies, then recognize that **her (Jerusalem’s) desolation** is near. 21 Then those who are **in Judea** must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city **(of Jerusalem)** must leave, and those who are in the country **(of Israel)** must not enter the city **(of Jerusalem)**; 22 because these are days of vengeance **(against the people of Israel)**, so that all things which are written **(of them in the OT)** will be fulfilled. 23 Woe to **(Israeli women)** who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be **great distress** upon the land **(of Jerusalem)** and wrath to this people **(Israelites)**; 24 and they **(Israelites)** will fall by the edge of the sword, and **(Israelites)** will be led captive into all the nations; and **Jerusalem** will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

“Jerusalem’s Tribulation” (ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION)



JERUSALEM'S TRIBULATION

AOD
(In Jerusalem)
???? AD

The Abomination of Desolation that occurs in the holy temple in Jerusalem will begin Jerusalem's great tribulation. It will occur sometime before the 6th Seal. When AOD happens, the land of Jerusalem and people of Israel will experience the greatest tribulation ever experienced by a people or nation and become desolate.

End of
5TH SEAL

“Jerusalem’s Tribulation”



- ❧ CASE IN POINT: Because Matthew added “megas” added a whole lot of confusion in the topic and subject of “the Great Tribulation”
- ❧ Megas was added by Matthew to amplify the distress that will come upon the land of Jerusalem and the people of Israel!
- ❧ This period of tribulation is specific to “Jerusalem’s Tribulation” and does NOT apply to the church or the world!
- ❧ So may I ask will the church or NT believers go through the megas thlipsis spoken of by Matthew in Mt 24? Why or why not?
- ❧ Let look at yet another type of tribulation...

“Global Tribulation”



Matthew 24:29

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.

☞ “after the tribulation of those days” is AFTER the megas thlipsis (Jerusalem’s Desolation) which occurs after the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION up through the 5th Seal

☞ Here’s where the confusion of “the Tribulation” of what is coming upon the world (Global Tribulation) spoken of in Scripture continues...

“Global Tribulation”



What is often overlooked is not considering there are 2 types of Global Tribulation spoken of in Scripture

- ❧ From the hands of men
- ❧ From the shaking of the heavens

From Hands of Men (2nd – 5th Seal):

- ❧ 2nd Seal: World War; peace taken from earth; men slew one another
- ❧ 3rd Seal: as a result of the WW, there was enslavement of people (likely Jews and Christians)
- ❧ 4th Seal: as a result of the WW, a world power was given authority over ¼ of the earth with permission to kill with sword, famine, pestilence, wild beasts
- ❧ 5th Seal: that new world power killed Christians (came out of Great Tribulation)

“Global Tribulation”



From the shaking of the heavens (6th Seal – 7 Bowls):

- ❧ 6th Seal: great earthquake; sun black; moon blood; asteroids coming to earth; great tidal waves,
- ❧ 1st Trumpet: hail and fire mixed with blood; 1/3 earth, 1/3 trees, all grass burned up
- ❧ 2nd Trumpet: meteor-like hits the sea 1/3 sea creatures died, 1/3 of the sea became blood, 1/3 of the ships were destroyed
- ❧ 3rd Trumpet: great asteroid fell on 1/3 of rivers, 1/3 of waters became bitter resulting in many deaths
- ❧ 4th Trumpet: 1/3 of the sun/moon/stars were struck so the day/night would not shine for a 1/3 of it
- ❧ 5th Trumpet: An angel opened the abyss and locusts with the power of scorpions tormented people on the earth for 5 months
- ❧ 6th Trumpet: 4 angels given green light to kill 1/3 of mankind

“Global Tribulation”



- ☞ 7th Trumpet: reaping of the earth; all resurrected (resurrection of righteousness or judgment)
- ☞ 1st Bowl: severe sores on people who took the mark, all sea creatures killed, sun scorched men with fire, etc.
- ☞ 2nd Bowl: all sea became blood, all sea creatures died
- ☞ 3rd Bowl: all rivers and springs became blood
- ☞ 4th Bowl: sun scorched men with fire
- ☞ 5th Bowl: throne of the beast was judged
- ☞ 6th Bowl: Armageddon
- ☞ 7th Bowl: G.O.A.T. earthquake, islands sunk, mountains flattened
 - ☞ God is finished with His wrath judgments upon the earth

“Global Tribulation”



- ❧ CASE IN POINT: Even of the global tribulation spoken of in Scripture there are 2 different types.
 - ❧ Global tribulation at the hands of men (2nd – 5th Seals)
 - ❧ Global tribulation at the shaking of the heavens (6th Seal – 7th Bowl)
- ❧ There are a lot of teachings and theological systems out there that blur the lines of the different tribulations for different groups and different purposes (some tribulations are greater intensity than others) and unfortunately many just don't take the time to reconcile and harmonize these different tribulations in Scripture
- ❧ Sadly many carelessly make doctrine out of loose reading and pass it down as gospel

“Global Tribulation”



- ❧ For example, there's a lot of teachings out there that says the Great Tribulation is a 7 year period
- ❧ My question to that teaching, is where is that in the Bible?
 - ❧ Is it because of the mystery concerning Daniel's 70th Week?
 - ❧ Is it because there happens to be 7 letters/7 Seals/7 Trumpets/7 Bowls?
- ❧ My other question is, what “Great Tribulation” are you talking about?
 - ❧ Tribulation experienced by the unrepentant church?
 - ❧ Tribulation experienced by Jerusalem, the people of Israel?
 - ❧ Tribulation experienced by the world?
 - ❧ As we just learned, there are 2 different types spanning from the 2nd Seal – 7th Bowl

“Global Tribulation”



☞ My advice is when there is any teachings or graphs or theological systems being taught in the area of eschatology, to take a step back and ask the question, is that really what the Scripture says (i.e. the Great Tribulation is 7 years; or are you pre-mid-post trib, secret Rapture, etc.)? Or is there more to it?

“Global Tribulation”



- ❧ Will believers (the Church) still be on earth during tribulation of those days spoken of by our Lord (2nd-5th Seals)?
- ❧ Yes! We learned we're meeting Jesus in the clouds in the 7th Trumpet!
- ❧ Which means believers (the Church) will still be on earth after the 7 Letters to the 7 Churches
 - ❧ Some teachings out there is that because the “church” is not mentioned after Rev 3, that's an indication that the Rapture occurred
 - ❧ This cannot be true because the resurrection and Rapture will occur in the 7th Trumpet!
- ❧ In fact, believers, the church, the elect Jews will still be on the earth during the 7 Letters, 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, which means during the shaking of the heavens (6th Seal - 7th Trumpet), the church will still be here!
- ❧ But will be rescued (raised and Raptured) from the greatest trial on the earth in BEFORE the 1-7 Bowl wrath judgments!

“in the tribulation”



- ❧ Back to my point at hand
- ❧ What's often overlooked is not recognizing there are different types of “tribulation” or anguish or affliction described in the NT:
 - ❧ **The Church Tribulation**
 - ❧ Faithful Edition (Persecution) – since Pentecost
 - ❧ Unfaithful Edition (Discipline) - since 1st Century
 - ❧ **Jerusalem's Tribulation** (Abomination of Desolation)
 - ❧ **Global Tribulation** (world powers; cataclysmic events)
 - ❧ Spanning from 2nd Seal → 7th Bowl
- ❧ And with that let's now re-look at v. 9, when John says...

“in the tribulation”



9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker **in the tribulation** and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus,

☞ Which “tribulation” is he talking about?

☞ **The Church Tribulation**

☞ Faithful Edition (Persecution) – since Pentecost

☞ Unfaithful Edition (Discipline) - since 1st Century

☞ **Jerusalem’s Tribulation** (Abomination of Desolation)

☞ **Global Tribulation** (world powers; cataclysmic events)

☞ Spanning from 2nd Seal → 7th Bowl

“in the tribulation”



9 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.**

- ✧ John was experiencing the same tribulation (the Church Tribulation – faithful edition) that his fellow apostles and believers experienced for preaching the gospel and proclaiming the testimony of Jesus
- ✧ In John’s case, he was exiled on the island of Patmos and given this great vision

“in the tribulation”



TAKE AWAY FROM v.9:

- ☞ John and the apostles, faced severe opposition and persecution for being a witness for Jesus and for preaching the gospel (“in the tribulation”)
 - ☞ In John’s case he was exiled on the island of Patmos
- ☞ Since the time of the apostles, believers may experience severe opposition and persecution for being a Christian and believing the gospel
- ☞ Believers will continue to experience severe opposition and persecution (including death) from 95/96AD → the 7th Trumpet (at the hands of men)
- ☞ If we find ourselves in the face of severe opposition, persecution or even alive during any of the Seals/Trumpet judgments the call is to remain faithful, persevere through it even if faced with death, and there will be great reward