

DANIEL

An Exile Longing for Heaven



RESPONDING TO TRIBULATION

DANIEL 12:1-4



Responding to Tribulation

Daniel 12:1–4

- Intervals in movie theaters are a great break — a chance to stretch and catch your breath before the story continues
- This passage functions as an "**interval**," as the angel Gabriel helps Daniel absorb the full weight of the Tribulation
- The Tribulation is a severe time of persecution — not for the church — but for **Israel** and those Gentile believers who come to faith during this time

The Chronology of the Tribulation

Daniel 9:27; Revelation 6:1–8

I. Start of the Tribulation

The Covenant with Israel

A global leader — the Antichrist — signs a seven-year peace covenant with Israel, allowing them to rebuild their temple and resume sacrifices.

The Opening of the Seven Seals

Christ opens a scroll sealed with seven seals, releasing global conquest, war, famine, and death through the four horsemen.



The Chronology of the Tribulation

Revelation 13:7; Daniel 7:23–24; Revelation 7:3–8, 11:3–12

II. Events of the First Half (3.5 Years)

Rise of Global Powers

The Antichrist gains worldwide economic and political dominance over a ten-nation confederacy.

The 144,000 & Two Witnesses

God seals 144,000 Jewish witnesses and sends two powerful prophets to preach — vast conversions arise amidst intense persecution.

The Trumpet Judgments

Seven trumpet blasts unleash severe ecological disasters — hail, fire, poisoned waters, and darkness affecting a third of the earth and sky.

The Chronology of the Tribulation

Daniel 9:27, 11:31; 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4; Revelation 12:9–13



III. The Midpoint of the Tribulation

The Abomination of Desolation

The Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel, stops the temple sacrifices, places an idol of himself in the Holy Place, and demands global worship.

Satan Cast Down

Satan is permanently thrown out of heaven to earth, bringing intense wrath upon Israel and all believers.

The Chronology of the Tribulation

Matthew 24:21–22; Revelation 13:15–17; Revelation 16:1–21

IV. Events of the Second Half — The Great Tribulation (3.5 Years)

1

Unprecedented Persecution

Believers and Israel face extreme hostility; martyrdom becomes widespread.

2

The Mark of the Beast

All people are caused to receive a mark — without which no one can buy or sell.

3

The Bowl Judgments

Severe sores, seas turning to blood, scorching heat from the sun, and total darkness plague the earth.

4

Fall of Babylon

The global commercial and false religious systems are utterly destroyed.

The Chronology of the Tribulation

Revelation 16:16, 19:19; Revelation 19:11–21; Matthew 24:30

V. Conclusion of the Tribulation

The Battle of Armageddon

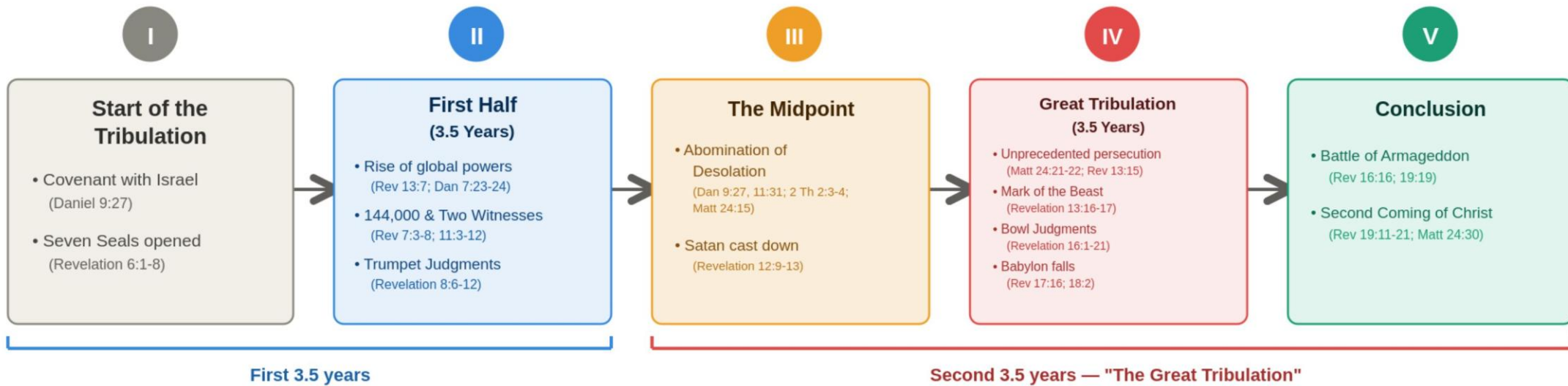
The armies of the world gather at Megiddo to make war against God and the nation of Israel.

The Second Coming of Christ

Jesus Christ returns visibly to earth in power and glory — defeating the Antichrist, casting the Beast and False Prophet into the Lake of Fire.



The Tribulation Timeline



Seven-year Tribulation (Daniel 9:27) — a futurist reading of Daniel and Revelation

How We Respond to Tribulation

Daniel 12:1–4

- Daniel 12:1–4 stands as the **climax of the book** — answering the question every generation of God's people eventually asks: when the world falls apart, how do we respond?

This passage gives us four Biblical responses to “The Tribulation” (and by implication our own tribulations)



I. Rest in God's Protection

Daniel 12:1a

"At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people."

Mid-Battle Context

"At that time" ties directly to chapter 11 — a vision of kings warring, empires clashing, God's people caught in the middle of forces vastly bigger than themselves.

Michael the Archangel

Michael (meaning: *Who is like God?*) is described in Jude 9 as a warrior archangel who "stands watch over" God's people.

The Hebrew Word *Amad*

Translated "stands up," *amad* carries the sense of **standing to fight on someone's behalf** — an advocate rising to the defense.



I. Rest in God's Protection

Jude 1:9; Ephesians 6:12

- *Amad* is used **twice for emphasis** — "stand up" and "who stands" — Michael is deputed by Jesus Christ to protect His people in their time of trouble
- Here is the **first response to tribulation: we are not undefended.**
- Paul echoes the same truth in Ephesians 6 — **our struggle is not merely against flesh and blood**
- Our role is to **trust in Christ's protection** and focus on the six defensive elements He has given us (*Eph 6:13–17*)



The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:13–17

Our role is to trust in Christ's protection and focus on the six defensive elements He has given us:



Belt of Truth

Secures your waist. It stands for living with honesty and God's truth.



Breastplate of Righteousness

Protects your chest. It represents God's moral goodness guarding your heart.



Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

Fits on your feet. They give you stability and readiness to share the good news.



Shield of Faith

Blocks attacks. It puts out the flaming arrows of doubt and evil.



Helmet of Salvation

Covers your head. It protects your mind with the hope of eternal life.



Sword of the Spirit

Acts as your weapon. It is the Word of God used to fight back.

The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:18

- Bathe it all in prayer: "With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints"
- This doesn't mean tribulation won't touch God's people. It means it won't overtake them without divine oversight.
- The confidence of the believer facing hard times isn't naive optimism — it's the settled knowledge that Someone greater than the crisis is standing watch.

Application: When trouble comes — sickness, loss, cultural upheaval, persecution — the first response is not panic but remembrance: God has not left the field. He has stationed help you cannot see.



II. Realize the Severity of Suffering

Daniel 12:1b

"And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, until that time."

- "Trouble" or Tsarah – refers to a trap, or confined place, where the enemy surrounds and there is no escape.
- This isn't ordinary hardship — it is trouble unprecedented in scope.
- Jesus quotes this very verse in Matthew 24:21



An open Bible with a red bookmark is resting on a wooden surface. The Bible is open to a page with dense text, and the red bookmark is visible in the center. The background is dark and textured.

II. Realize the Severity of Suffering

Matthew 24:21

- Notice the balance in Scripture: comfort is never given by minimizing the difficulty.
- God doesn't tell His people "it won't be that bad." He tells them the truth — it will be worse than anything before — and He tells them He is present in it.

Application: Biblical faith isn't denial. A mature believer doesn't respond to hard times by pretending they aren't hard. We're called to honesty about suffering, paired with unshakable trust in the God who governs it.

III. Rejoice in Your Sure Deliverance

Daniel 12:1c–2

"And at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to reproach and everlasting contempt."

- Deliverance is promised — not deliverance from trouble reaching them, but deliverance through it, for "everyone found written in the book."
- This is the first clear Old Testament reference to a book of life (echoed later in Revelation 20:12,15) — a record of those who belong to God.



III. Rejoice in Your Sure Deliverance

John 10:27–28; Revelation 20:12,15

- *How can you know that your name is written in the Lamb's book of life?*
- *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand."*
- Daniel 12:2 is one of the clearest resurrection texts in the entire Old Testament — centuries before the empty tomb!



III. Rejoice in Your Sure Deliverance

Ezekiel 37:12–13; 2 Corinthians 4:17

- Some will rise to everlasting life; others to everlasting shame.
- This is indicating to us that the OT saints who died in faith in the coming Messiah will be raised at the end of the Tribulation, along with Tribulation saints – to experience the joys of the promised land under King Jesus!
- This is the theological anchor of the whole passage. Tribulation is temporary; resurrection is eternal. Whatever trouble a believer faces — even death itself — is not the last chapter. The book of life outlasts the time of trouble.

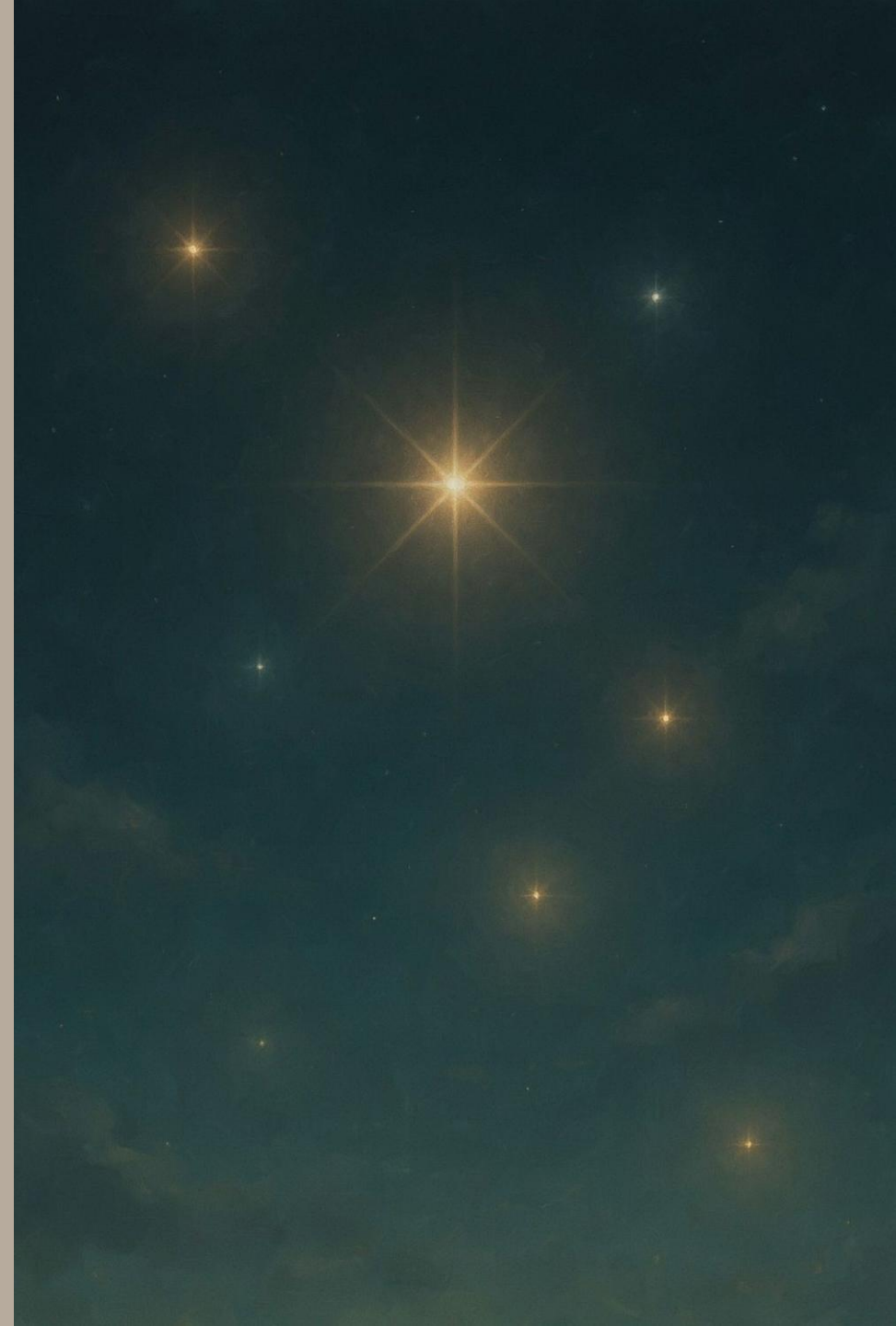
Application: The Christian's ultimate hope in tribulation is not merely survival in this life, but resurrection beyond it. We can endure present trouble because we are anchored to a promise that outlives the grave.

IV. Respond by Being a Wise Soul Winner

Daniel 12:3–4

"Those who have insight shall shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

- Verse 3 tells us what tribulation-response actually looks like in daily life: ***Wisdom and Witness***.
- "Those who have insight" — the same word used throughout Daniel for those with true spiritual discernment — will "shine."
- The highest praise goes to those who "turn many to righteousness."
- "Like the stars..." In the darkest hour of history, the call is not to hide, but to shine and to lead others toward God.





IV. Respond by Being a Wise Soul Winner

Matthew 5:16

- Persecution and tribulation become a great pulpit through which our hope and faith in Christ are preached to a dying world
- Tertullian (197 AD) - *"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church"*
- *"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*

Perpetua: A Martyr's Witness

203 AD, Carthage

Arrest and Imprisonment

- **The Arrest:** Perpetua, a 22-year-old noblewoman and new mother, was arrested along with her slave Felicity and three other disciples during a time when Roman Emperor Septimius Severus banned conversions to Christianity.
- **Family Plea:** While in a dark, crowded prison, Perpetua's pagan father begged her to renounce her faith to save her life and her baby. She refused, stating she could no more change who she was than call a pot by a different name.
- **With Child:** Perpetua was nursing an infant son. After suffering severe anxiety being separated from him, she was granted permission to keep her baby in the prison with her.

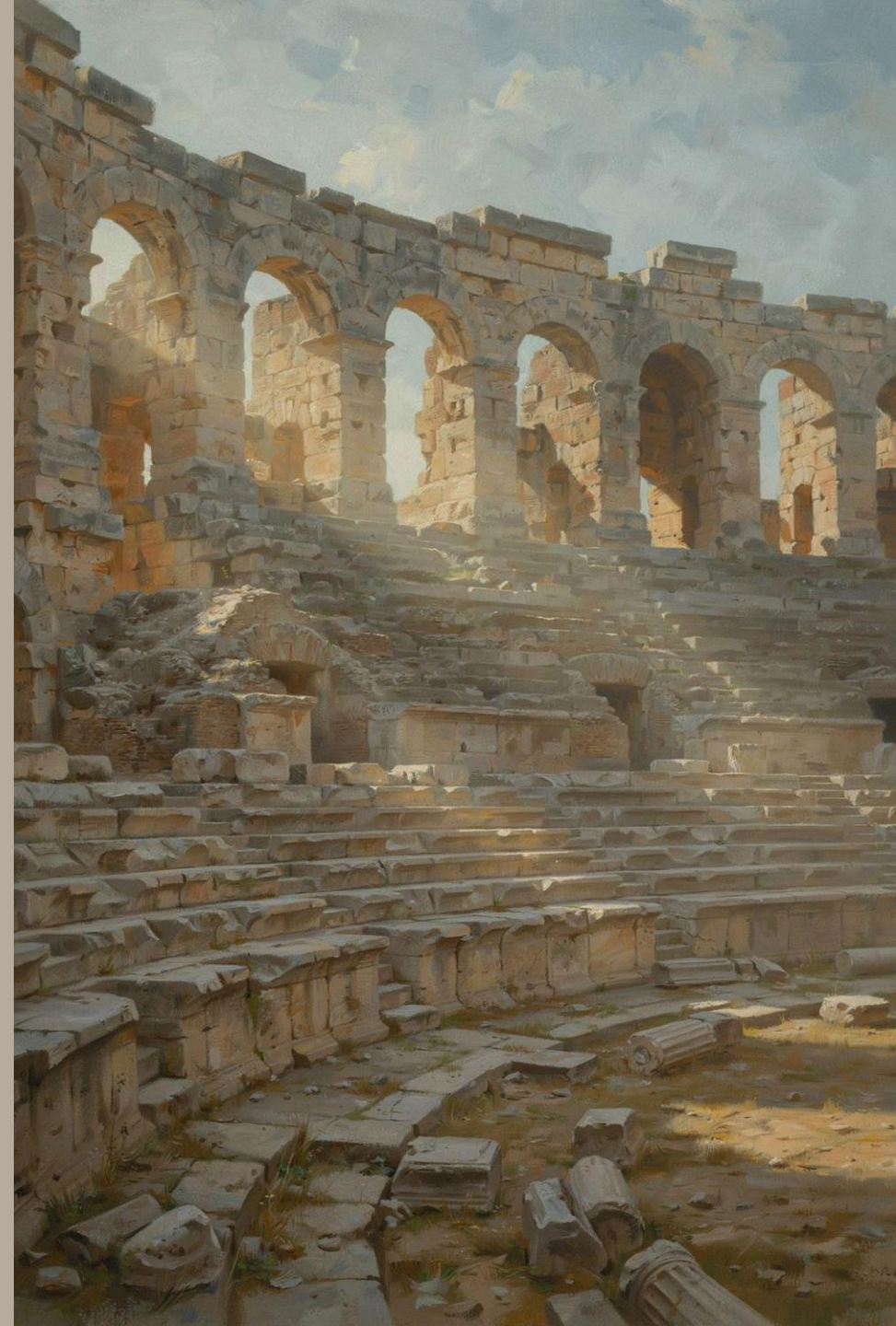


Perpetua: A Martyr's Witness

203 AD, Carthage

The Arena and Final Act

- Condemned to death in the amphitheater, she entered the arena singing psalms.
- Tossed by wild animals and wounded, Perpetua and Felicity were ultimately put to the sword. Perpetua herself guided the trembling gladiator's hand to her own throat.
- Her last words: *"Stand fast in the faith, and love one another, all of you, and be not frightened at my sufferings."*
- **Impact:** The prison warden (Pudens) was saved through her testimony. Augustine preached sermons using her prison journal and saw the whole North African church grow through her death.





IV. Respond by Being a Wise Soul Winner

Daniel 12:4

- Verse 4 - seal the scroll until "the time of the end," while people "run to and fro" and "knowledge increases" — a picture of restless human activity and searching, without the wisdom that leads to righteousness.
- Over 90% of all scientific data and research papers in history have been produced in just the last few decades.
- Yet, adult counseling totals 11.3%, young adults almost 35–40%! So much knowledge today, but no answers!

Application: Responding to tribulation is active faithfulness — being the kind of person, in the middle of chaos, who shines with godly wisdom and points others to God



Conclusion

Daniel 12:1–4

Daniel 12:1–4 gives us a complete theology of how God's people respond when the bottom falls out of the world:

- **We trust God's unseen protection** — Michael stands.
- **We face the severity honestly** — this will be worse than anything before.
- **We rest in ultimate deliverance and resurrection** — the book of life, and life beyond the grave.
- **We live wisely and point others to righteousness now** — we shine instead of merely surviving.

"Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever." That is not just Daniel's calling. It is ours.