

# Definitions Matter

I need to express my frustration regarding what can be used by *darkness* to mislead (deceive) folks into substantive consequence along the lines or theme of *ill-preparedness*.

Before I do, though, I should communicate this:

The reason WHY we bring these *watchmen-on-the-wall* warnings is tied to our devotion to God's Truths and our commitment of love to help folks be **prepared** based on a CORRECT eschatological foundation. Correct readiness / watchfulness requires this: One must have a correct end-time perspective, one based on biblically defined terms. We care folks walk God's True path given all the false appeals today.

Here's our warning: There are popular end-time views in many churches today which are trying to *save face*. Some active advocates who promote these views **know** their view is weak, biblically speaking. Instead of confessing the problems of the view they hold, some try to cover the concerns and teach their position with a different emphasis. Is this wise? Should we not discern this attempt to hide the weaknesses of some of the popular end-time views today?

For example ...

Some advocates of failing views are seeking to *save* their treasured tradition by switching to different appeals. Instead of emphasizing the main tenet of their positions – in one case, that the Rapture event will take place before the tribulation, the antichrist and God's holy wrath – some of them employ *novel* ideas and/or faulty definitions of crucial end-time terms to get around their flawed viewpoint.

Two terms – though there are many – will be highlighted in this handout.

**Tribulation** Instead of emphasizing what the Word of God actually teaches about end-time tribulation, they redefine the term in order to align their definition(s) with the eschatological view they hold.

*These folks often define "tribulation" as Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week. They typically define the "Tribulation Period" as outlined in Revelation 6 – 19. The definitions above are incorrect. Yes, tribulation takes place in these contexts, to be sure. But that does not warrant their incorrect definitions of "tribulation" and the "Tribulation Period."*

A simple and a thorough study on what the Word of God ACTUALLY teaches will show the *teachings* immediately above are NOT taught in Scripture.

Nowhere do we find in the Bible that end-time tribulation **IS** Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week. Nowhere do we find in the Book of Revelation the teaching that the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls **represent** the Tribulation Period. NOWHERE. We need to apply Bible-based definitions to important end-time words.

**Wrath** Instead of emphasizing the big-picture Truth about God's "wrath," some deny the many passages which teach God's wrath does indeed, on occasion, come upon His wayward people.

*Some of these folks go on to define end-time "wrath" as Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week. They often define the "Wrath of God" to be that which unfolds in chapters 6 – 19 of The Revelation. The definitions above are incorrect. Yes, wrath takes place in some of these chapters, to be sure. But that does not justify their incorrect definition of "wrath."*

A simple and a thorough study of what the Word of God ACTUALLY teaches on this matter of wrath will demonstrate the *teachings* immediately above are NOT taught in Scripture.

Nowhere do we find in the Bible that end-time wrath of God IS Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week. Nowhere do we find in the Book of Revelation the teaching that the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls **represent** the Wrath of God. NOWHERE. Once again, we need to apply Bible-based data to define important end-time words.

**NOTE :**

Yes, we here at Endurance Ministries affirm I Thes. 1:10 & I Thes. 5:9 which teach God's people are not appointed to / destined for God's wrath but we go on to ask, "How is 'wrath' defined in these key passages?" Yes, we affirm Revelation 3:10 which teaches the persevering Church will be kept from the hour of trial (which many believe to be the *Tribulation Period*), but we go on to ask, "How is 'the hour of trial' **biblically** defined?"

Given the information provided by some of these well-meaning folks – information highlighted above – some teach the tribulation and great tribulation period represent the end-time wrath of God. A question is appropriate at this juncture:

Is the following equation explicitly biblical ?

*Tribulation + Great Tribulation = God's Wrath*

The equation above is NOT taught in Scripture.

Other things **are** taught – found in the pages of holy writ: God's end-time wrath is clear. Tribulation is explicitly forewarned. In *black and white*, readers can find the Seals, Trumpet blasts and the Bowls of wrath addressed in God's Word. Deception, apostasy, persecution, birth pains, the antichrist, etc., etc. **are** found revealed in Bible pages.

What one does NOT find stated in God's Word are these things:

1. *End-time tribulation & great tribulation = God's end-time Wrath;*
2. *End-time tribulation = Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week and the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls;*
3. *The end-time Wrath of God = Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week and the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls.*

No explicit Bible evidence can be found to support 1 – 3 above. If one wanted to rebut our claim here, all one would have to do is to produce explicit Bible data showing 1 – 3 can be found taught in God's Word.

Once again, it's time to do the *Berean* thing. As we do so, let's better discern the difference between actual Bible data VS. Bible interpretation, inference and/or theological (opinion) appeal.

In conclusion: Definitions are crucial! Let's build our end-time viewpoints on the actual data of Bible Truth, not on faulty definitions, interpretation and/or poorly evidenced (though still popular in many churches today) end-time extra-biblical traditions. Our Lord Counsels against **unbiblical traditions** in Mt. 15 & Mk. 7.

Okay, it's that time again: Let's go back to the Word for *grace for today and bright hope for tomorrow!*

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