“Nobody knows the trouble I’ve seen” - The Tribulation

***John 16:33*** – Jesus is greater than any trouble you may face.

***1 Thess. 4:13-18*** – Jesus will take us to Heaven before the Tribulation begins.

***Rev. 4-19*** – The events of the Tribulation.

1. “We’re in trouble now!” – The timing of the Tribulation

***2 Thess. 2:1, 4*** – The Antichrist will be revealed before the Tribulation begins.

***Dan. 9:27*** – The Antichrist will establish a treaty of protection with Israel.

***Ezek. 38:11*** – Israel will disarm and leave their protection in the hands of the Antichrist.

“70 weeks” prophecy in Daniel

***Matt. 24:22*** – Jesus says all life would cease on earth if the Tribulation were longer than seven years.

***Rev. 11:2; 13:5*** – 42 months equal 3½ years.

***Rev. 11:3*** – 1260 days equal 3½ years.

1. “Here comes trouble!” – The bad guys in the Tribulation

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| **The real thing** **(*Holy Trinity*)** | **The counterfeit** ***(unholy trinity)*** |
| God the Father | Satan (the “Dragon”) |
| God the Son | Antichrist (first “Beast”) – does whatever his father tells him to |
| God the Holy Spirit | False Prophet (“Second Beast”) – focuses attention on the 1st Beast |

1. Bad guy #1 – the Dragon

***Rev. 12:3*** – Satan is pictured as a “dragon.”

***Rev. 13:2*** – Satan is the power source for all the Antichrist will be able to do.

1. Bad guy #2 – the Beast

***1 John 2:18*** – John refers to many antichrists and one final Antichrist.

***John 1:11*** – Though the Jews refused Jesus, they will accept the Antichrist.

***2 Thess. 2:3*** – He is called the “man of lawlessness” and the “son of destruction.”

***John 17:22*** – The only other person to be called the “son of destruction” is Judas Iscariot.

***Dan. 9:27*** – He is called the “prince who is to come.”

***Rev. 11:7; 13:1-2*** – The most popular name in Scripture for the Antichrist is “the Beast.”

***Rev. 13:16-18*** – The Mark of the Beast signifies his ownership of you and your ability to conduct business.

***Rev. 14:9-11*** – Those who receive the Mark can’t be saved.

***Rev. 14:12*** – God’s people must be faithful to follow Him even during impossible situations.

***Rev. 13:3*** – The Antichrist will mimic the resurrection of Jesus.

***Rev. 13:4, 12, 15*** – People begin to freely worship the Antichrist.

***Matt. 24:15*** – The Antichrist commits the “Abomination of Desolation.”

***2 Thess. 2:4*** – The Antichrist requires all people, including the Jews, to worship his image.

***Rev. 13:7*** – The Antichrist breaks his treaty with Israel and attacks her.

1. Bad guy #3 – another Beast

***Rev. 13:11*** – The third evil character is called “another beast.”

***Matt. 7:15*** – Jesus spoke of a wolf in sheep’s clothing. The false prophet will be a beast in sheep’s clothing.

***Matt. 7:16*** – All people, including the other beast, reveal their true character through their actions and words.

***Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10*** – The “other beast” is also known as the “false prophet.”

***Rev. 13:13-14*** – The false prophet will do miracles.

***1 Kings 18*** – The prophets of Baal were not able to do what the false prophet will be able to do.

***Rev. 13:12, 14*** – Eventually, he will direct men to worship the Antichrist and set up an image of him.

***Rev. 13:15*** – The false prophet brings the Antichrist’s image to life and causes the death of many who refuse to worship the Antichrist.

***Matt. 24:15-26*** – Many Jews will successfully flee.

***Rev. 13:16-17*** – The False Prophet requires people to get the Mark of the Beast.

***Rev. 19:20*** – After the Battle of Armageddon, Jesus casts the False Prophet and the Antichrist into the Lake of Fire where these troublemakers will experience unparalleled trouble forever.

1. “Looking for trouble” – The good guys during the Tribulation

***1 Kings 18:16-18*** – Elijah correctly blamed Ahab’s sin for Israel’s trouble.

***Isaiah 5:20*** – Isaiah prophesied of a time when people will call evil good and good evil.

1. The prophets – two witnesses (Rev. 11:2-14)
2. The missionaries – 144,000 Jews (Rev. 7:1-8; 14:1-5)
3. The overcomers – Christians (Rev. 6:9-11; Rev. 7:9-17)

***Rev. 12:11*** – The Christians fight with two weapons – the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.

1. “More trouble than it’s worth” – The judgments of the Tribulation

***Gen. 6:7*** – God regretted making humanity. He destroyed them.

***Rev. 6*** – The Seal Judgments

***Rev. 8*** – The Trumpet Judgments

***Rev. 10:3-4*** – The Thunder Judgments

***Rev. 16*** – The Vial/Bowl Judgments

Consequences of judgments

***Rev. 16:2*** – Painful sores erupt on all who have taken the mark of the beast.

***Rev. 16:9-10*** – The rays from the sun make those sores more painful.

***Rev. 9:6*** – Pain from the stings of demonic “locusts” will cause people to desire death. For 5 months, no one will die.

1. “What d’ya do that for?” – The purpose of the tribulation
2. To judge a Christ-rejecting world (Rev. 15:1; 16:1; 19:15)

***Num. 32:23*** – God will always expose sin and give it a consequence.

1. To reveal Satan’s true character (Rev. 12:7-12)
2. To demonstrate the sinfulness of man (Rev. 9:20-21; 16:8-11, 21)

***Rev. 6:16-17*** – Men would rather die than submit to the authority of God in their lives.

1. To humble the nation of Israel (Jer. 30:7-9; Zech. 12:9-14:5)

***Luke 23:28-31*** – Jesus warned of a time in Israel’s future when life will be so hard that no one will want to produce children.

1. To eternally save multitudes of people (Rev. 7:9-10)
2. To prepare the world for Christ’s rule (Rev. 19:11-21)