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| Campbell says tribulation is not restricted to a specific time frame, but a present reality for all Christians. For some reason, the word tribulation has seemed to signify something bigger than the word trial. I’m used to us all having trials on a continual basis, there is a difference between the word translated “ trial” – peirasmos – which can also be translated as “ temptation,” and the word translated “tribulation” – thlipsis, which may be a bit more emphatic and does not carry the meaning of “temptation.”  and surely those living in communist or Islamic countries experience persecution that rises to the level of tribulation. But Daniel 12:1 says, ‘At that time… there will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.’ I’ve always taken this to be a confirmation of the idea of a great tribulation at the end. So Campbell must be interpreting this verse different than I have….       So yes, my understanding is that the “great tribulation” of chapter 7 is the church age, and it must be so (a) because of the meaning of the word in the NT, and (b) because it clearly depicts all the deceased saints of all ages, hence they all experienced the time of tribulation.  That said, see mu comment below on chapter 11.    I answered her that I believed you did think things increased in severity before Christ’s return (true?) but that perhaps this was fulfilled in 70 A. D.  Then another blogger named Sharon noted that if John was a partaker in the tribulation as it says in the opening, that that seemed to be true. Are we right?  The key is found in 1:9, where John clearly uses the word to refer to his present experience.  A word study of thlipsis in the New Testament reveals that almost every single use of the word clearly refers to present experience (31 out of 33 times in Paul, for instance).  I allude to this in the book on several occasions where the idea of tribulation comes up.  Chapter 11 reveals a time of severe persecution immediately before the return of the Lord – the three and a half days as opposed to the three and a half years.    [**Edit**](https://deebrestin.com/?aec_page=comment-editor.php&action=editcomment&cid=187539&pid=50946&_wpnonce=7525766fbf&height=525&width=620)[**More Options**](https://deebrestin.com/wp-admin/cid=187539)  [Unapprove](https://deebrestin.com/wp-admin/comment.php?c=187539&action=unapprovecomment&_wpnonce=6e4c1d474e) | Reply | Quick Edit | [Edit](https://deebrestin.com/wp-admin/comment.php?action=editcomment&c=187539) | [History](https://deebrestin.com/wp-admin/comment.php?action=editcomment&c=187539#akismet-status) | [Spam](https://deebrestin.com/wp-admin/comment.php?c=187539&action=spamcomment&_wpnonce=af7feb3643) | [Trash](https://deebrestin.com/wp-admin/comment.php?c=187539&action=trashcomment&_wpnonce=af7feb3643) | [**# 2: The Promise**](https://deebrestin.com/wp-admin/post.php?post=50946&action=edit)[View Post](https://deebrestin.com/2021/05/2-the-promise/)[151151 comments](https://deebrestin.com/wp-admin/edit-comments.php?p=50946&comment_status=approved) |