

HOW MANY SURVIVE THE END TIMES?

N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D.; Th.D.; D.D.; Pastor, Historic Baptist Church, Wickford, Rhode Island
February, 2013

I have heard and preached more than once how the population of earth will be dramatically reduced during the tribulation period due to the severe judgments of God. These judgments are found in St. John's Revelation, and sorted as seals, trumpets, and vials. I cannot think of anyone who has done the calculations of how many perish, so I purpose to do this in this brief study.

According to current studies, the population of earth is over seven billion people. This number is constantly growing. This website tracks the current estimate of the world population, including the U.S. portion (the number increases over 150 souls per minute): <http://census.gov/main/www/popclock.html>

For our little study, I shall use a number of eight billion (8,000,000,000) people. This will give some allowance for time, as we know the tribulation period has not occurred yet. Secondly, keep in mind my numbers have to be estimates as the Bible is not perfectly clear as to exact numbers. Regardless, we can get a good idea of the numbers and see how the vast majority of the world population dies.

In Revelation 6, the Bible says:

3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.
4 And there went out another horse *that was* red: and *power* was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.
5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.
6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and *see* thou hurt not the oil and the wine.
7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.
8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.
9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

The second seal brings war. I should estimate that this war kills around 400 million (400,000,000) people, or 5% of the world population. For comparison, WWII casualties were 60 million (2.5% of world population); and the WWI death count is estimated at 16 million (about 1% of world population). I consider these two wars to be small compared to the end time casualties. If the casualties measured by percentage of world population more than doubled between WWI and WWII, we can conservatively estimate that the third world war will be *at least* double the Second World War.

This reduces the estimate of world population in the tribulation to roughly 7.6 billion (7,600,000,000).

The fourth judgment (the fourth seal) in verse 8 causes the death of a fourth part of the earth. That is 1.9 billion (1,900,000,000) people using my numbers. This puts the revised estimate of world population to 5.7 billion (5,700,000,000) people.

In verse 9, there are martyrs. Currently, the "Christian" population of the world is roughly one third. This, of course, counts all religions that profess some faith in Jesus Christ. Conservatively speaking, if we estimate 1% of the world population become Christian martyrs, we have about 57 million souls. For ease of calculating, let's use a 50 million death toll, putting our new estimate of world population at 5,650,000,000.

Further, chapter 8 of Revelation records a number of disasters that come upon the earth:

CHAPTER 8

AND when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.
2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.
3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense, *which came* with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.
 5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast *it* into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.
 6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.
 7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.
 8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;
 9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.
 10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;
 11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.
 12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.
 13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

Verse 11 says many men die because 33% of the waters are made bitter. Since 100% of men need water, many men will die from drinking poisoned water. Along with the other events, we can conservatively estimate 12 percent of the world population dies, or about 678 million people. Rounding off the numbers, we are now at about a world population of 5 billion (5,000,000,000) people.

In chapter 9, we read:

13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,
 14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.
 15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.
 16 And the number of the army of the horsemen *were* two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.
 17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses *were* as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.
 18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

The sixth trump causes the death of a third part of the population (v. 18), or 1.67 billion people. We now have an estimated world population at 3.33 billion (3,330,000,000).

In chapter 13, we read:

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

Here, the false prophet causes all to take a mark. Those who refuse are put to death. Although hard to calculate, let's assume 10% of the population refuses and 1% is killed for refusing. That puts the estimated population at 3.3 billion (3,300,000,000) people.

Chapter 14 offers some interesting thoughts:

CHAPTER 14

AND I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.
 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:
 3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.
 4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, *being* the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.
 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.
 6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.
 8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink

of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud *one* sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs.

Here we see 144,000 souls are taken to glory, further reducing the earth population. In verses 9 – 11, those who take the mark are doomed. In verses 12, 13, more saints die. And, then, in verse 15 the earth is reaped of her saints.

At this point, we deduct the portion of the saved, which I estimate at 200 million, leaving only the ones destined for God's wrath, and a few who did not take the mark – our world population now decreases to roughly 3 billion (3,100,000,000) people.

As a side calculation, verse 20 gives a volume of blood. A furlong is 660 feet (one-eighth mile). 1,600 furlongs are 200 miles. If we say a horse's bridle is four feet, and using a width of only 6 feet, we have 4 X 6 X 660 X 1,600, or 25,000,000 cubic feet of blood. Considering 5 quarts per human, and one cubic foot holds 30 quarts; this is the blood of approximately 150 million men. If that river, then, were 120 feet wide, it would be the blood of 3 billion men. Since we did not calculate flowing volume of liquid, we can only say the width of that river is up to 120 feet.

In chapter 16, a flurry of judgments causes massive casualties, as we read here:

CHAPTER 16

AND I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and *upon* them which worshipped his image.

3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead *man*: and every living soul died in the sea.

4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous *are* thy judgments.

8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,

11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed *is* he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.
18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, *and* so great.
19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.
20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.
21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, *every stone* about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

I would assume at the least 35% of the population is killed. Verse 20 is extremely critical. The population of islands, calculating just those islands with populations over 100,000 (including Japan, Great Britain, and Hawaii, we have about 750 million (750,000,000) people. See the chart at the end of this study showing recent population figures of 174 islands. Then add the mountain populations. Conservatively, we can estimate at least 1.1 billion (1,100,000,000) people die. This puts the remaining population at about 2 billion (2,000,000,000) people. These are then set up for the final death stroke.

Then we read in Revelation chapter 19:

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
12 His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.
13 And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.
14 And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.
15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.
17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;
18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men, both* free and bond, both small and great.
19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.
20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.
21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

In verse 21, the Lord destroys the remnant of all men in the great battle.

From 8 billion to 2 billion – three-quarters of the earth’s population is systematically destroyed until the final battle, where almost all perish. How many survive that battle to in turn be judged by Jesus Christ? Only he knows, but likely only a few hundred million. And those very few survivors – maybe 2% to 3% of the original population – will still have to face the Lord Jesus Christ and be judged by him. According to Matthew 25, Jesus Christ will say who is blessed and who is cursed; who enters into the kingdom, and who do not.

We know the end is getting closer and closer. Those who refuse salvation are setting themselves up for a lot of grief, pain, and death. The likelihood of survival is minute for the ignorant, and if you have heard and rejected the gospel beforehand, you are promised destruction. There is no second chance for those who have heard once the tribulation starts (read 2 Thessalonians 2:11, 12). The answer is to receive the gift of salvation today, while there is the opportunity.

Friend, no one escapes being judged by Jesus Christ. But receiving him by faith before your earthly death brings the mercy of God. We cannot live without the mercy of God. Now is the time of salvation. Lastly, I shall quote Psalm 2:12:

12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him.

The End.

CALCULATIONS FOR ISLAND POPULATIONS

Island	State(s)	Population
Java	Indonesia	132,941,000
Honshū	Japan	104,000,000
Great Britain	United Kingdom	61,371,000
Sumatra	Indonesia	47,010,000
Luzon	Philippines	46,228,000
Taiwan (Formosa)	Republic of China (Taiwan)	23,232,125
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	20,860,000
Madagascar	Madagascar	20,714,000
Hispaniola	Dominican Republic, Haiti	19,920,000
Mindanao	Philippines	19,793,000
Borneo	Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia	19,712,000
Sulawesi	Indonesia	17,360,000
Salsette	India (Maharashtra)	15,111,974
Kyūshū	Japan	13,200,000
Cuba	Cuba	11,150,000
Hainan	People's Republic of China	8,671,500
Long Island	United States (New York)	7,566,000
New Guinea	Papua New Guinea and Indonesia	7,500,000
Ireland	Ireland and United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)	6,380,661
Hokkaidō	Japan	5,507,500
Singapore	Singapore	5,076,700
Sicily	Italy	5,017,000
Negros	Philippines	4,102,000
Shikoku	Japan	3,977,200
Bali	Indonesia	3,891,000
Panay	Philippines	3,823,000
Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico (territory of the United States)	3,725,800
Madura	Indonesia	3,621,000
North Island	New Zealand	3,393,900
Cebu	Philippines	3,293,000
Lombok	Indonesia	3,160,000
Timor	Indonesia and East Timor	2,786,000
Jamaica	Jamaica	2,741,000
Zhongshan Dao	People's Republic of China (Guangdong)	2,275,000
Zealand	Denmark	2,275,000
Leyte	Philippines	2,113,000
Island of Montreal	Canada	1,886,481
Xiamen Island	China (Fujian)	1,847,047
Flores	Indonesia	1,831,000
Bhola Island	Bangladesh	1,675,000
Sardinia	Italy	1,659,000
Samar	Philippines	1,650,000
Manhattan Island	United States	1,621,000

Haizhu Island	People's Republic of China	1,558,663
Sumbawa	Indonesia	1,330,000
Mauritius	Mauritius	1,299,000
Okinawa Island	Japan	1,287,000
Bohol	Philippines	1,230,000
Hong Kong Island	Hong Kong (People's Republic of China)	1,180,591
Mindoro	Philippines	1,158,000
Cyprus	Cyprus	1,088,503
São Luís Island	Brazil (Maranhão)	1,075,000
South Island	New Zealand	1,038,600
Trinidad	Trinidad and Tobago	1,030,000
Oahu	United States (Hawaii)	953,207
Tenerife	Spain (Canary Islands)	906,854
Majorca	Spain (Balearic Islands)	862,397
Penang Island	Malaysia	860,000
Gran Canaria	Spain (Canary Islands)	838,397
Réunion	France	793,000
Masbate	Philippines	768,939
Vancouver Island	Canada (British Columbia)	748,937
São Vicente	Brazil (São Paulo)	720,000
Chongming (Shanghai)	People's Republic of China (Shanghai)	703,722
Batam	Indonesia	700,000
Sakhalin	Russia	673,100
Nias	Indonesia	639,675
Bangka	Indonesia	626,955
Crete	Greece	623,666
Zanzibar (Unguja)	Tanzania	619,832
Viti Levu	Fiji	580,000
Jeju	South Korea	560,000
Bahrain	Bahrain	539,100
Tasmania	Australia	507,626
Zhoushan	People's Republic of China (Zhejiang)	502,667
Buton	Indonesia	500,000
Newfoundland	Canada (Newfoundland and Labrador)	479,105
Staten Island	United States	477,377
Governador Island	Brazil (Rio de Janeiro)	450,000
Jolo	Philippines	447,600
Funen	Denmark	447,060
Margarita Island	Venezuela	436,900
Palawan	Philippines	430,000
Sumba	Indonesia	425,000
IJsselmonde	Netherlands	423,000
New Britain	Papua New Guinea	404,641
Martinique	France (Caribbean Sea)	401,000
Sandwip	Bangladesh	400,000

Malta	Malta	373,955
Pemba	Tanzania	350,000
Grande Comore	Comoros	345,000
Île Jésus	Canada (Quebec)	339,101
Mactan	Philippines	333,845
Haitan	People's Republic of China (Fujian)	332,146
Flevopolder	Netherlands	317,000
Santa Catarina	Brazil (Santa Catarina)	315,000
Phuket	Thailand	313,835
Iceland	Iceland	311,396
Vendsyssel-Thy	Denmark	306,373
Ambon	Indonesia	300,000
Vitória	Brazil (Espírito Santo)	300,000
Santo Amaro (Guarujá)	Brazil (São Paulo)	290,752
Corsica	France	281,000
Abu Dhabi (island)	United Arab Emirates	280,385
Barbados	Barbados	279,254
Anjouan	Comoros	270,000
Santiago	Cape Verde	266,161
Basilan	Philippines	259,796
Muna	Indonesia	248,000
Seram	Indonesia	247,000
Madeira	Portugal	245,806
Euboea	Greece	218,032
Marinduque	Philippines	217,392
New Providence	Bahamas	210,832
Grande Terre	New Caledonia, sui generis collectivity of France	205,939
Belitung	Indonesia	204,776
Vasilievsky Island	Russia	202,650
Tsing Yi	Hong Kong, special administrative region of People's Republic of China	200,402
Bintan	Indonesia	200,000
Marajó	Brazil (Pará)	200,000
Qeshm	Iran	200,000
Grande-Terre	Guadeloupe, overseas department of France	197,603
Geojedo	South Korea	187,593
Basse-Terre	Guadeloupe, overseas department France	186,661
Hawaii (island)	United States (Hawaii)	185,079
Tahiti	French Polynesia, overseas collectivity of France	178,133
Guam	Guam, organized unincorporated territory of United States	173,456
Voorne-Putten	Netherlands	170,411
Lulu Island	Canada	168,162
Alor	Indonesia	168,000
Grande Terre	Mayotte, overseas department of France	162,036
Halmahera	Indonesia	162,000
Saint Lucia	Saint Lucia	160,765

Amager	Denmark	160,064
Bougainville	Papua New Guinea	160,000
Awaji	Japan	157,000
Carmen, Campeche	Mexico	155,000
Ukerewe	Tanzania	150,000
Portsea Island	United Kingdom	147,088
Mombasa	Kenya	146,334
Cape Breton Island	Canada (Nova Scotia)	147,454
Tablas	Philippines	144,000
Prince Edward Island	Canada	140,402
Chiloé	Chile	140,376
Guimaras	Philippines	140,000
Malaita	Solomon Islands	140,000
Isle of Wight	United Kingdom	140,000
Djerba	Tunisia	139,517
Curaçao	Curaçao, autonomous part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	138,000
Upolu	Samoa	134,400
São Tomé	São Tomé and Príncipe	139,000
Mannar Island	Sri Lanka	132,000
Biliran	Philippines	132,000
Lanzarote	Spain (Canary Islands)	131,708
São Miguel	Portugal (Azores)	131,609
Hisingen	Sweden	130,497
Bioko	Equatorial Guinea	130,000
Vanua Levu	Fiji	130,000
Bantayan	Philippines	129,154
Dordrecht	Netherlands	118,601
Ibiza	Spain (Balearic Islands)	117,698
Maui	United States (Hawaii)	117,644
Rhodes	Greece	117,007
Daishan	People's Republic of China (Zhejiang)	113,983
Guadalcanal	Solomon Islands	109,382
Buru	Indonesia	109,251
Saint Vincent	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	108,600
Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego	Argentina and Chile	107,983
Corfu	Greece	107,879
Muharraq	Bahrain	103,576
Aruba	Aruba, autonomous part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	103,484
South Andaman Island	India (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)	100,000
San Andrés Island	Colombia	100,000
Labuan	Malaysia	100,000

725,760,420