

CONVERTED & ESCAPING THE TRIBULATION

(MEANS BEING BORN AGAIN OF THE SPIRIT)

#S305R 0405 23W

For a person to escape the coming wrath is for them to be changed or transformed to be trusting on the living God in this life, for all things pertaining to this life (instead of trusting on the ways and plans of man for our protection, peace, provisions, and health). There are many world events taking place, which seem to indicate the soon return of Christ (and we want to be sure that we are ready to meet Him when He returns for His people) (true believers on the Son of God).

Some things that are described in the book of 'Revelation' have happened, or they are taking place in many parts of the world, as military conflict and government takeovers are common today. All of these things are just a prelude to the 'wrath of God' which is to be unleashed on a deceitfully wicked, rebellious, and sinful world. It is most commonly called 'The Great Tribulation' (which is something that we all want to escape). And, Jesus wants us to escape all of that wrath to come, for He loves us so much that He took our place on the cross when we were His enemies and sinners. So, Jesus wants us to acknowledge and appreciate and be truly thankful for what He did for us on a cross at Calvary, and to show that we do via our obedient faith on Him and the power of His Blood shed for each one of us)! [For one to have that change of heart' attitude, would be being 'Born Again of the Spirit' (as Jesus said must take place in every person's life).]

The Antichrist, however, is just the opposite of Jesus, and does not want us to escape the Tribulation, and for is totally controlled by Satan himself (who hates us with venomous hatred). His one desire is to destroy our faith in God and Jesus Christ His Son, (and so, to take us along with him to Hell's fire, forever). This Antichrist will be the most wicked tyrant ever to be in power, and he will pass a law to force everyone to accept his own identification number (or to lose their life).

(Reve.13:16-18 NKJV) "He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on (or in) their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." "'Here is wisdom'. "Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666."

Labor Unions that were formed many years ago are a forerunner of that 'mark of the beast', as they compel 'workers' to join their union or to be barred from employment [but, true Christians who trust God to protect their interests as a 'worker', cannot give in and go along with the 'Labor Unions' despicable actions of efforts of a self-life) (despite any supposed consequences of not having a job at which to work). God has always provided other(and a better) job for a Christian who would not compromise to join a spiritually corrupt Labor Union.

There are forced medical inoculations for public school students; compulsory liability insurance for automobile drivers or construction workers; and in recent years a Federal Healthcare Insurance Law was passed for people to carry medical insurance or be fined. These also are just some precursors [forerunners] of that 'Mark of the Beast' law

to be forced upon people, during that 'Great Tribulation' (the wrath of God) which will come upon this world's inhabitants.

The serious legal and financial problems facing the Catholic Church in recent years (and on a global scale), resulting from those within the church who have acted in very unscriptural and wicked ways, clearly points to that church's eventual destruction by ten kings to be in power during the 'Great Tribulation'.

The vast accumulation of wealth by individuals and corporations—(millions of billionaires), is another sign that we approach 'the end of this world' as we know it. The apostle James described that hoarded up wealth (James 5:3) "*This treasure you have accumulated, [you have hoarded wealth in the last days NIV], will stand as evidence against you on the day of judgment.*"

The despicable 'spiritual condition' of the world today shows how close we are to the Great Tribulation. Jesus said (Luke 17:26) "*Just as it was in the days of Noah [when only eight were saved], so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man.*" He then added vs.28 "*It was the same in the days of Lot,*" (when only three people escaped). (29-30) "*Fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.*"

No specific time is given nor mentioned in the Bible for the Great Tribulation to begin, and there is no exact time given for the Lord Jesus to return to this earth. Many have tried to predict the day, but they have been wrong. We are just told and warned (Luke 12:40) "*Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.*"

Our just having some spiritual knowledge and divine enlightenment enables us to realize how close the 'end of the world' really is, and how much the world today is lacking of that first-century kind of faith that Bible Christians had then. The Christian church of the 21st century does not even resemble the Early Church of the 1st century.

The 1st century Church in the New Testament was composed of true followers of Christ (those who had truly repented and were delivered from their unbelief). Those followers of Christ had surrendered their lives to God and they were filled with His Holy Spirit (whom God sent to earth and promised us that He would 'guide you into all Truth'. Because of their true and final surrender to submit their life to God, they were taught and so learned under His teaching and training to live according to His will and in obedience to His Word. They learned to trust God for everything, and received answers to prayer concerning the things they needed or desired within His will.

Denominational church members today are not truly born again, and they do not sincerely live a life of faith and trust on the living God. The teaching they hear does not mention that they must surrender their life to God to be 'born again', and to be filled with the Holy Spirit as people in the Bible heard (when they had been inspired to turn back to God and surrender their life to Him. Being informed of God's full Truth does not happen for many professed Christians today, because they are not willing to submit to believing and trusting on an 'unseen God', (which is the beginning of all true faith on God).

Jesus said that no one could enter the Kingdom of Heaven unless they were born again—of the water and of the Spirit. (1 John 2:4-6)

"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (in humility of spirit and faithfully trusting God).

Jesus told us that anyone who did not obey His Words, would not enter His Kingdom. The only way to know and obey the will of God by faith, is by the surrender of our life to God. (Rom.12:1-2) "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

The average denominational church attendant thinks that their salvation is secure, because they belong to a Christian church; also because they are living a decent moral life, and, appear to be a religious person; and, they know about the historical facts of Jesus' death and resurrection. If those are the only things that our righteousness is based, we would not enter God's Kingdom. Our heart needs to and must be converted from rebellion, to 'submission' to know and do God's Word and His will in our life.

Jesus said (Matt.18:3) "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (A small child goes right to a loving parent with their every need, and at a first sign of any trouble (big or small).

That is what apostle Paul meant when he told believers (Phil.4:6-7) to, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

The Bible teaches us in Word and by example how to trust in faith on the living God alone for everything that concerns our life on this earth, and, this also includes trusting Him in faith to prepare us for the 'eternal life' to come. Jesus made an important statement and prediction concerning what the spiritual condition of the world would be upon His return. He told us about the widow and the judge, to whom she went for deliverance from an oppressor, and to have a wrong done against her, to be corrected.

The judge refused to do anything for the woman at first (Luke 18:4-5) "but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me."

Fear of God is very much lacking among most people in the world today, and not much faith and trust on Him for daily needs, which is something that God requires of His children. The thing that people in general fear is that of being short of something, or of not having enough food or money (not only for today but for far into the future). We know, however, from (Psalm 111:10) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." (so with the promised wisdom given us by the Holy Spirit, we should know not to have fear of what the future holds for us, when we fear our God in Heaven and worship by faith 'Him Who made the Heavens and the earth.

An angel gave us an all-important and serious warning (in a loud voice the Bible says) (Reve.14:7) "*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.*"

Everybody will have to take heed to that warning to worship God and obediently trust Him in faith, 'living in the light of His Truth', instead of bowing to and worshiping the beast of the anti-Christ, because the penalty is so severe. (Reve.14:11) "*The smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the 'mark of his name'.*"

The story of the unjust judge ^{Luke 18}—who gives a poor woman what she needed, because she persisted with her request, and did not give up, reminds us of being persistent in prayer. In the next verse, Jesus applies the situation to us and the Heavenly Father (who loves us as much as He loves Him). He said (Luke 18:6) "*Hear those words of the unjust judge*", "*because this widow troubles me*" [keeps asking he meant] "*I will avenge her.*"

What that story means, is that if a poor woman can obtain all she needed from a wicked judge, how much more should Bible believers obtain all they need from a loving God (Who is always just and right in His dealings with us (many times more, of course. Jesus closed by asking (Luke 18:8) "*When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*"

The terrible 'spiritual condition' of the world today, and the so-called religious community of professing (but not sincere) Christians, seems to make the time ripe for the return of the Messiah. It is only because of God's love and mercy, that the time has been postponed. (2 Peter 3:9) "*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*"

Only God could know who the last person on earth is who would be willing to repent, be converted, and be 'born again of the Spirit' as Jesus said must take place in everyone's life. When everyone has repented, who will truly repent, then (vs.10) "*The day of the Lord will come like a thief [in the night]. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire [or melt with fervent heat], and the earth and everything in it [shall be burned up].*"

Now that we know that God's Word informs us of the impending doom and horrible judgments that will take place on this sin-cursed earth, we should be a more enthusiastic, and a little more zealous about our faith and trust in the living God. (vs.11-13) "*Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which 'righteousness' dwells.*"

Living by faith in our Almighty God is the only way we can be made holy in His sight (by His Grace and Mercy). To maintain our faith in God and our trust on the power of the Atonement Blood of Christ in regard to all relevant issues in our life, is the only way we can be

made righteous before God; and the only way to be forgiven of sins before the coming judgment seat of Christ. (2 Peter 3:14) "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

Jesus informed every living soul about having to stand before His 'Judgement Seat' (John 5:25-30) "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the 'Son of Man'. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice, and, come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

However, in His compassion and divine love in his heart for each one of us, Jesus had given His assurance of His mercy for true 'believers' who are committed to believing and trusting on Him (vs.24) "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

Jesus also both cautioned and advised us all (Luke 21:36) "Watch therefore", (beware of slumbering, as Weymouth translation words it) "and pray always that you may be counted worthy to 'escape' all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the 'Son of Man'."

And He reminded us that He (Himself) can only do the will of His Father in Heaven (as we are to do the will of Jesus in our life, and so, escape that Great Tribulation at the end times of this now existing earth.) (vs.30) "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."

&&&&&&&

S305R SOME MAIN POINTS OF 'CONVERTED & ESCAPING THE TRIBULATION':

God's wrath will come upon a sinful wicked world (as described in the book of Revelation). That time-period of God's wrath is most commonly called 'The Great Tribulation' (which is something we all want to escape), and some predicted events that lead-up to that time of God's wrath to come (and the appearance of an Antichrist exactly opposite of Jesus Christ), either have or are now taking place.

For a person to escape that Tribulation and an impending Lake of Fire as a final result, Jesus said that they must be converted and 'born again of the Spirit', of which He will enable us to experience a change in our heart, via true repentance and surrender to God's will.

Jesus was appointed by God His Father to be our Judge to decide if we escape God's wrath (John 5:25-30). And, Jesus wants us to escape all of that wrath to come, so Jesus informed every living soul about having to stand before His Judgement Seat" at that 'end-time event'.

&&&&&&&