

# The Bible Guys

of Yesterday and Today

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***What Will  
It Take?***



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**The People of Truth**  
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## What will it take?

*By David M. McNabb*

The debate has raged since the days of America's formation: Is it or is it not a Christian nation? It is beyond a doubt that the founders of the United States were greatly influenced by the Christian faith and the Bible. Does a strong Christian influence, both by its founders and a majority of its citizens, make America a Christian nation?

President Obama does not seem to think so. In a much criticized speech in Turkey in April 2009, President Obama said, "One of the great strengths of the United States is, although as I mentioned, we have a very large Christian population, we do not consider ourselves a Christian nation..." In June of 2007, Obama made a speech in which he said, "Whatever we once were, we are no longer a Christian nation. At least not *just*. We are also a Jewish nation, and a Muslim nation, and a Buddhist nation, and a Hindu nation, and a nation of non-believers."

Is this a fact because America is "under new management"? Was America Christian, and has now turned away? If so, when did America "backslide"?

Article 11 of the Treaty of Tripoli, signed by President John Adams on June 10, 1797, reads, "As the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion; as it has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion, or tranquility, of Mussulmen; and, as the said States never entered into any war, or act of hostility against any Mahjometan nation, it is declared by the parties, that no pretext arising from religious opinions, shall ever produce an interruption of the harmony existing between the two countries." Whatever was meant by the statement rejecting any Christian foundation, it seems that the debate is not new.

Regardless of what you believe about the Nation's Christian background, all can agree that at no time were all inhabitants of this country Christian. At all times of American history, her citizenry was comprised of Christians, pagans, atheists, and agnostics. As such, at least from one perspective, America has never been Christian, but rather a mix of various beliefs.

Recent history has seen a tremendous surge in non-European immigration into the U.S., resulting in massive growth of the non-Christian sector of the American population. Now, more than ever, America's Christian identity is fading. The Christian majority is diminishing, and liberal indoctrination of the skewed "principle" of tolerance (which has come to mean "Christians have to be tolerant of non-Christians, or we will deal harshly with them) has weakened the nation's Evangelicals' ability and willingness to lead others to Christ.

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# The Wrath of the Lamb: The Opening of the Sixth Seal

By C. Elden McNabb

“I beheld when He had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and **hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb**: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” (Rev. 5:1-10; Rev. 6:12-17).

We should not confuse the Lamb with the Lion. The things in this prophecy will happen in the era of Jesus the Lamb, but the era of Jesus the Lion will follow soon thereafter.

Almost two thousand years ago, as John was baptizing, some Priests and Levites came to asking him to validate his ministry. He told them some details, and explained to them that he had come to prepare for the arrival of one who is greater than he. The following day, John saw Jesus coming unto him, and he said, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world” (John 1:19-34).

I cannot tell you how many times in the Bible, and especially in the New Testament, we are told about the love of God, and of His Christ, toward men, and especially toward those who believe in Him and who believe His words.

This is the message which the Apostle John so eloquently delivered,

“God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that *whosoever* believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

The blessings promised to the believers are many, but God has not made a one-sided deal with His people. When God “married” Israel at Sinai, He gave them a list of ten requirements for their commitment to the marriage (Exodus 34:28). It was “The Law of the Husband,” valid only until His death (Rom. 7:1-4). “Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations; and repayeth them that hate

*Many idolatrous customs have been adopted by Protestant groups, and one particular kind of idolatry has become incredibly popular in recent years. It is practiced and preached almost everywhere. Many call it the Prosperity Doctrine, but God calls it “covetousness”...*

Him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face” (Deut. 7:9-10).

God made no covenant with Adam, but simply exiled that wicked Cain to keep the descendants of Seth from inter-marrying with those of Cain. But soon, the world population grew, and the descendants of Seth (the sons of Adam the son of God [Luke 3:38]) intermarried with the descendants of Cain anyway. That was the main reason God sent the flood. If He had not done so, the whole population of the earth would have become defiled, and the prom-

ised deliverer could not have come. God was compelled to choose a few of them and destroyed the rest (Gen. 6:1-2), together with the descendants of Cain.

God waited until the beginning of the third thousand years from Adam and chose Abraham, setting in motion the second two-thousand-year phase of God’s plan to raise up a people for His name, and find a replacement for the angels which fell with Satan in that great rebellion in Heaven several thousand years before Adam. From the descendants of Abraham, God would ultimately acquire a faithful remnant (Rom. 11:1-7). Yet God knew that the rest of Israel would follow the way of rebellion and idolatry. Therefore Paul explained, “What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded” (Rom. 11:7)

God warned the children of Israel many times, and punished them and sold them into slavery, as they rebelled and followed the way of the world. He forgave them, and delivered them, and brought them back under His wings. However the day of the promised Messiah came, and caught Israel in one of their times of extreme rebellion. God had sent many prophets, and the leaders of the people had killed them. This time God sent His Son, yet they were so rebellious that they had the audacity to kill “the Son” also, and they brought upon themselves the wrath of God.

The remnant which believed and obeyed the truth found life in Christ Jesus, and the rest faced the sword of the army of Rome. Two thousand years had gone by since God had called Abraham, and Israel’s time was up. The day of their visitation had come, and Israel knew it not. The wrath of God came, but it was not upon the rest of the world. It was upon the people of God.

When Jesus was here, He gave His disciples a new covenant (Matt. 5:21-7:20), and from the time of Jesus’ death, the Children of God have been under the “Law of Faith” (Rom. 3:27; Heb. 7:11-12), and the 14

commandments in Matt. 5:21-7:20. We made an agreement with God when we asked Him for the forgiveness of our sins, and we would do well to remember that God is always faithful to His word, and that He requires the same of us.

By about 120 A.D., all of the disciples of Jesus were dead, together with all of the other Jewish converts, and the converts of the Apostles Paul and Barnabas, and others who carried the message to the Gentiles with them. The Jewish Church survived the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. because of the admonition of Jesus in Luke 21:20-22. However, they were later martyred in fulfillment of Ezekiel 5:1-4.

After the death of the Apostle Paul, oppressive, uncaring men began to come into the Church and took advantage of the people (Acts 20:28). The establishing of doctrine had been one of the major works of the Twelve Apostles, and they, too, were gone: martyred. By the end of the fourth century A.D., the “church” had fallen into a state of confusion, as the leadership adopted more and more pagan rituals and doctrines. By the middle of the sixth century A.D., the mix was pretty well established in most of mainstream Christianity, and for about a thousand more years, the gospel message stagnated in the eastern hemisphere, and Europe in particular.

God was very unhappy with the Christians of that era, and just as He had sent Sennacherib, king of Assyria to punish Israel, God raised up great opposition, such as Islam, against the “Pagan” Christianity which had become the norm in Europe.

In the 1500s, God revealed to Martin Luther that “The Just shall live by faith,” and not by ritual (Romans 1:16-17), and he was forced out of the Roman Catholic Church. His exodus from the Church of Rome sparked a general trend, and various groups in Europe and other places joined the exodus, creating various state churches.

I am sure that, generally speaking, that reformation had its good and bad aspects. One very important thing in

particular occurred in almost every case: almost every group came only a small distance from Catholicism, and brought much of the idolatry with them, which still limited their favor with God. Yet they gained the momentum necessary to make the transition across the Atlantic Ocean possible, but they carried many of their idols with them, just as did Jacob’s wife when they left the house of Laban (Gen. 31-19).

The thrust of evangelism and missionary work went west with a faith which was in a state of evolution, as more and more people were reading their newly acquired Bibles. Spirituality was on the increase, and many began to see that there was more to religion than believing God for forgiveness of sins, “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith” (Rom. 1: 16-17).

By the early 1900’s, some of the Sanctified congregations, and Pentecostal congregations, such as the Assembly of God, had begun to rid themselves of at least some of their idolatrous customs. Even in much earlier times, in Massachusetts, one could be arrested or fined for saying “Happy New Year,” or “Merry Christmas.” After WWII, that trend did a reversal. Today, many of the same people who “stood firm” before will question your salvation if you object to the “Singing Christmas Tree” in the church, or refuse to join in with the fertility rites of the goddess Ishtar (Easter).

In the last 25 years, or so, several cases of Christian leaders indulging in various sexual sins have been in the news, and have done great damage to the gospel message. It has brought a terrible reproach upon Christianity, and upon God himself, but God hates idolatry even more that he hates adultery and fornication, and He hates that a lot.

Many idolatrous customs have been adopted by Protestant groups, and one particular kind of idolatry has become incredibly popular in recent years. It is practiced and preached almost everywhere. Many call it the Prosperity Doctrine, but God calls it “covetousness,” and the

Apostle Paul called covetousness “idolatry,” and “*For which things’ sake cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience*” (Col. 3:5-6).

We have come to a point in time that is very near the coming of the Bridegroom. Perilous times are upon us, and we must make haste if we are to go into the “wedding chamber” before the door is shut (Matt. 25:1-13). When that “door” is shut, *the Wrath of the Lamb* will soon be poured out upon those Christians who are so rebellious that they will not forsake their folly, and believe the message which God has sent for their saving. Matthew 25:1-13 shows plainly that those who have foolishly chosen to not believe and obey the truth will, without further warning, be caught up in *the Wrath of the Lamb*, and the wrath of the devil (Rev. 6:16; Rev. 12:12-13).

Did not Jesus say that just before His return, it will be as it was in the days of Noah (Matt. 24:38-39)? Even so, once the door to the marriage chamber is shut, however good a Christian you are will not matter. Remember, all of those ten who were sleeping in Matthew 25:1-13 were virgins. We must know that Jesus is speaking of Christians, both wise and foolish.

In the closing of Israel’s two-thousand-year era, God kept the faithful believers alive. All they had to do was to believe the testimony of the Apostles who were alive and remained. Jesus had told them, “When you shall see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that the destruction thereof is near. Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and the them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter into there. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled” (Luke 21:20-22). They heeded the warning, and the remnant – the election – were saved from the wrath of the Lamb, even though they too later became martyrs.

I do not know exactly what you have been told, but as the Apostle Paul did, knowing the terror of the

Lord, I must tell you the truth, that you may escape the Wrath of the Lamb which is soon to be poured out upon Christianity.

Paul told us that everything, good and bad, which happened to Israel would also happen to Gentile Christianity when the *day of our visitation* comes.

Paul gave us a list in his admonition, saying, "Thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

"But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, [God will give] eternal life: but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, [God will pour out] *indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; but [He will give] glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:* for there is no respect of persons with God" (Rom. 2:1-11). The Jews got their dues during the first century A.D.

The Lamb is coming to His wedding very soon, but He will also judge all them who are not able to realize, and believe, that what they are being told by God's messenger, and those who are assisting him, is indeed true. We will either qualify to go the Marriage of the Lamb, or we will have to endure the Wrath of the Lamb, and prove another way that we are worthy

of eternal life. *The day of our visitation is at hand.* Are you ready for the challenge? 

## What will it take?

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As a result, Christian ministers and apologists in different media outlets are pushing harder than ever the idea that America has to get back to its "Christian roots." Historians on both sides of the isle have got their historical proof, so that debate often

*Any Christian worth his salt knows where all the answers are. They are not found in America's founding documents. They are not found in presidential speeches. They are not found in the mouths of radio commentators or televangelists. The answers are found in the pages of God's holy word.*

ends in deadlock.

Any Christian worth his salt knows where all the answers are. They are not found in America's founding documents. They are not found in presidential speeches. They are not found in the mouths of radio commentators or televangelists. The answers are found in the pages of God's holy word. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). That being said, any model for the conversion of this country, or any other, to God must be sought in the Bible.

President Obama is right, whatever America once was, it cannot be easily identified as a Christian nation,

if at all. Has a nation ever turned to God? Does the Bible record any such stories of national conversion? If so, then what was the catalyst for that event?

In fact, there are several biblical examples where whole nations experienced repentance and conversion, or, at the very least, proclaimed that Jehovah be added to the pantheon of worship. The examples that come to mind most clearly are Israel, Babylon, Medio-Persia, and Nineveh.

Of course, Israel would be the most prominent example, as it was a people chosen by God, and the Bible catalogues its history. Israel, while called out by God to be His peculiar people, repeatedly strayed from the right ways and turned to idolatry. If, as some say, America began as a God-fearing, Christian nation, then Israel would serve as perhaps the best example. Time and time again, Israel would leave off from doing God's will and would serve other gods – the gods of other nations: both of the surrounding nations and of the "strangers" that lived among them in the land. Each time that they strayed, they suffered: foreign invaders, plagues, famine; all these were brought upon them by their "jealous God." Each time, Israel would buckle under the weight of its tribulation, and begin to cry out to God, repenting of their wicked ways, and asking for deliverance. When the cries of God's people would come up before Him, He would raise up deliverance for them, and they would be restored. God sent judges and prophets each time His people, which was called by His name, would humble themselves, and pray, and seek His face, and turn from their wicked ways. He would hear from heaven, and heal their land.

What, though, did it take for national revival? Trials and tribulation, anguish and oppression: these were the things that caused God's wayward people to turn again unto Him. Every sincere Christian can proclaim America's Christian heritage from now until the Lord comes, and this wayward nation will not repent. It does not fit the model. God's word says, "That which hath been is now; and that

which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past” (Eccl. 3:15). Do not expect something to happen that has not happened before! If America is like Israel, then revival will come after a period of oppression, anguish, and loss. If Americans will turn to God as a nation at all, they will not do so until the days get very, very dark. A deeper, darker economic climate, loss of sovereignty, severe natural disasters, or some other type of calamity will precede any type of national return to Christ – according to the model of Israel.

But Israel is not the only nation that experienced a national change of heart. Two such scenarios are found in the Book of Daniel. For 490 years in the land of promise, the Children of Israel never once kept the Sabbath year. Because of that disobedience, Israel was delivered by God into captivity in Babylon for 70 years, so that the land could enjoy her Sabbaths, according to the word of the Lord (Lev. 26:34).

Babylon was best known for its worship of idols, and is considered to be the place of origin of all of the false religious systems in the world today, whether directly or indirectly. That idolatry was very present in the days of Israel’s captivity, as is evidenced by the writings of the various prophets of the time. In Daniel chapter 4, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered the construction of a huge image 60 cubits high (about 90 feet), and 6 cubits wide (about 9 feet). Then he made a law that whenever the musicians would play, all of the inhabitants had to bow down and worship the image that he had made. Three Hebrews, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael, refused to bow to the idol, proclaiming instead their unconditional allegiance to the God of Israel, and choosing rather to die if need be. These were ordered thrown into the burning, fiery furnace. When God intervened and saved the three alive (without even the scent of smoke upon their clothing), King Nebuchadnezzar was amazed. “Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,

who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon” (Dan. 3:28-30). The Gentile King Nebuchadnezzar passed a law forbidding anyone from speaking against the God of Israel because of the great miracle that God worked *in the face of oppression*.

Babylon would later be conquered by Medio-Persia (as Daniel also records), and another king would have an opportunity to see the hand of God. King Darius liked Daniel very much, and promoted him within the government. However, the laws of the Medes and the Persians limited the powers of the king in that, if he set his seal to a law, it could not be revoked. Because of that, several officials conspired against Daniel, and convinced the king to pass a law prohibiting prayer, except prayer directed to him. Daniel prayed to God as he always had, and was guilty of breaking the new law. The king realized that he had been set up, but was powerless. Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den, and once again God delivered His servant. The king rejoiced that his friend was saved, and, like Nebuchadnezzar before him, he passed a new law regarding the God of Israel. But, whereas Nebuchadnezzar only prohibited blasphemy, Darius’ law *required* the worship of Jehovah. He said, “Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be

destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions” (Dan. 6:25-27).

According to the Babylonian/Medio-Persian model, national conversion came when the nation oppressed God’s people, and God defended them overtly. The threat of death was real and imminent: the flames were seven times hotter; the lions were hungry. But the public, sensational demonstration of deliverance shook the oppressors, and caused in them a conversion.

Finally, we see the story of Jonah. He was sent to Nineveh with a message that God would destroy the city-state in 40 days. The king and the people of Nineveh heeded the word of the prophet. “And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not” (Jonah 3:7-10).

Jesus said that “Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites” (Luke 11:30). In what way was he a sign? The Ninevites were idolaters as were all of the nations, and they particularly worshiped the fish-god Dagon. In fact, the cuneiform for Nineveh was a fish, and it is believed to be named for Nina, a Babylonian fish goddess. So, we read of Jonah’s escapades as he fled from doing God’s will. As we all know, he is swallowed by a “great fish,” and brought to the shore, after which he went into Nineveh to deliver God’s message. Now, in addition to bringing the message of the Almighty to a people destined to be destroyed,

Jonah also had an amazing testimony which was especially significant for the people to whom he was sent. Think about it: God sent a prophet to a wicked, fish-worshiping nation, and delivered him by – a fish! They were impressed, and moved to true repentance. In the model of Nineveh, God sent His word in a way specifically tailored to get their attention, and with the threat of utter destruction.

In every case, the common denominator is the presence or the threat of suffering. In each case, God delivered his people into oppression, from oppression, or delivered to them a promise of oppression. In each case they were moved to a change of heart, and an acknowledgement of the Sovereignty of the Almighty God.

These are the models of national conversion. If America is going to experience such a conversion, and truly become “one nation under God,” it will happen as it has before. The question is: What, if anything, will cause America to turn to God? If not America as a whole, what will cause God’s people in America to turn to Him? What will it take? Are you ready for the Day of the Lord? 📖

## Ready for the Lord’s Return

By Joel McNabb

In our day and age, most believers (and unbelievers) are content with the way they are living. Some talk about the Lord’s return as if it can be at any moment, yet they go about their lives as if He is not coming in their lifetime or for another hundred years. Christians are told that their work is to witness to the lost, so that they will know Jesus Christ also. But it is also our duty and work to **learn** what God is all about, so that we may be able to tell others **why** Jesus died for our sins and the **purpose** of His coming back again. As Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Matt. 11:29). Through the blood of Jesus

we receive redemption and eternal life which is a wondrous gift of God; then, we must seek to understand His word. God will have a kingdom here on earth as He has in heaven, and you must be born again to see and enter into this Kingdom (John. 3:3,5).

Are we, as believers, preparing for our Lord’s return and His Kingdom on earth? Peter said that God would send Jesus back to earth when the “times of restitution of all things” has been completed (Acts 3:21.) Yet we hear preachers say that Jesus can come at any minute and we do not know the time of His arrival. What then is to be restored, or has been restored, in order for Him to come? The “restitution of all things” has not happened, or He would be here, as Peter said.

There is a misconception that we will be supernaturally taken away from any trouble that is coming to the world, and from the Beast and his mark. It has mislead believers so that they are sitting back in their comfortable churches and looking up to the heaven for the clouds to burst open and a bright light to shine forth, with Jesus on a white horse bounding down to earth in glorious victory.

Paul said of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, “Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition” (2 Thess. 2:3). Have you asked your preacher to tell you who is this “son of perdition”?

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After Judah had been in captivity for seventy years (this was their punishment for not keeping the seventh year Sabbath for four hundred and forty ninety years), God caused His spirit to move on Cyrus, King of Persia, to build His temple again (Ezra 1:1,2). Cyrus sent a remnant of Jews to accomplish the task of rebuilding the temple and restoring the wall in Jerusalem. The inhabitants that occupied the land during the captivity of Judah were not happy about this, and they conspired to fight against those sent to build. When the remnant saw the enemy, they began to pray night and day, and they built: “every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so we builded” (Neh. 4:17). Peter said that the restoration would precede Jesus’ return. The Temple represents God’s Church, and here we have a prophecy of it being rebuilt (restored) in a time of trouble. As it says in Daniel, “...the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.” (Dan. 9:25).

The doctrine that is taught today, (that we will be caught away and miss all the trouble and tribulation) does not agree with the prophecy that is in Nehemiah. Paul tells us that tribulation and anguish shall happen to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile (Rom. 2:9). How then are we to miss tribulation if it has to occur? Many believe that we will rule and reign with Jesus, but remember, “if we suffer, we shall also reign with Him” (2 Tim. 2:12). And, “all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12). If the early church received glory and honor, then had to go through persecution and even suffer unto death, why would God allow us at this end of the age to miss any trouble or tribulation? The same scripture that is used to show that we are to be “caught up”, also says that there will be those that are “alive and remain” – a remnant that has endured.

It is not in man’s nature to want his body to be harmed or hurt in any

way, and we will do almost anything to keep from having pain. The hospitals are full, and prescription drugs are used to alleviate any pain we, as humans, might have. It is not a sin to see a doctor, or to try to fix something that is broken or hurt, but Satan knows that man's quest for survival greatly influences his actions, as he said to God, "Skin for skin, yea all that a man hath will he give for his life" (Job 2:4). No doubt Satan will try to use that knowledge against humanity again.

In the parable of the sower, some seed fell on stony ground; "who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended" (Mark 4:16,17). They were offended because they were not rooted in God's word. "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (1 Pet. 4:13). If the church, the temple, is to be rebuilt in troublous time, and we do not have a root in ourselves, we will be deceived when the dragon issues the flood of his persecution out of his mouth and demands his mark be taken. Many will be fooled into taking his mark in order to save their very lives. But God's word will prevail, and those that are rooted and grounded in the truth will be alive and remain. Jesus said that there would arise false Christs, and false prophets, and they would show signs and wonders, so great that if it were possible, they would deceive the very elect (Matt. 24: 24). The key words here are **if it were possible**, because the very elect – the Apostles and Prophets – must have the word of God in them to know better. This deception will take place, and those who will not listen to God's holy apostles and prophets will be deceived and go through the flood issued out of

the mouth of the dragon. They will either take the mark or be killed, because they would not hear.

God is sending out a warning to Christians in these last days to hear His word and "to continue in the faith and that we must through much tribulation enter the Kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator" (1 Peter 4:17-19). Where are those believers that Jesus said would be hated of all men for His sake? If we are to miss all the trouble that is to come, why would he say, "but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matt. 10:22).

Jesus says the harvest is the end of the world. This is not a harvest of souls, as many believe, but a harvest of believers who have the seed of the word of God planted in them. The enemy planted **tares** alongside the **true believers** and that is what we see today. Since 1962, God has been gathering the tares into bundles to be burned; that is why you see all these mega churches and TV preachers with

large crowds. Paul said, "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire" (1 Cor. 3:13-15). Jesus will come at the appointed time when all things are restored and His house is established (Isa. 2:1-4; Dan. 8:19).

God will send Jesus when the times of the restitution of all things are fulfilled. God's word says that the Church will be restored in troublous times, and that it will be a glorious Church, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. In fact, God's word says, "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts" (Haggai 2:9).

When all the work of restoring is finished, then Jesus will come and rule and reign in righteousness for a thousand years on this earth. Will you be able to stand in that day? I pray you will and that you will be alive and remain when He comes.

Watch ye therefore, with your eyes open and not shut, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh (Matt. 24:44). 

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