

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

You have probably heard of the great tribulation. Just what is the great tribulation? And why will it come? The Holy Bible speaks of this time of trouble to come at the close of this present evil world. What is the purpose of it? Who or what will cause it? Is there a place of safety to protect us from it? These questions all need to be answered and now!

Most of the true church of God has been scattered and cast out of the visible organizations of Gods Church. We are now living in the age of the Laodicean Horn of Gods Church, and the messenger to that era, or organization, or horn has become big and important in his own eyes and has made himself a prophet. He doesn't teach the plain truth, but rather he prophecies out of his own heart and mind. He has deluded himself and his followers into believing that God gives him revelations. The truth of the matter is that he and his followers are spiritually blind, as it speaks of them in Revelations chapter three verse seventeen. He has told his followers that if they support him and his work that they will be taken to a place of safety during the great tribulation.

I am one of Gods true witnesses, (*probably not one of the "two witnesses"*) and I tell you the truth: Being completely obedient to God and living by the way of love for God and all that he stands for, and loving your fellow humans as your self is the key to being protected from unnecessary suffering and tribulation. We need to understand one thing here though: Often times it is necessary for Gods own faithful saints to suffer tribulation in order that they may be made spiritually perfect. The book of Daniel chapter twelve speaks of this Great Tribulation as a time of trouble greater than has ever been on this earth since there was a nation. Even the evils of World War II were not as bad as this time of trouble will be. Verse ten tells us that many people will be purified and made white and tried, or tested by this time of trouble. Daniel chapter eleven, verse thirty five tells us that

some of the people will even fall away from God in this time of trial and testing and purging. We need to understand that God requires that we all be made white; that is made righteous before we can be given eternal life. (Rev. 19:8)

Because of the lukewarm condition of Gods end time church, God has counseled them that they need to go through fiery trials, which will be the tribulation, in order that they may have the true riches of God's word, and wisdom, and love in their lives. They think they are righteous, and have spiritual vision, but God says that through the trying times that they must go through, some of them will be clothed in white, and given eye salve that they may truly see. (Rev. 3:18) This is speaking of Gods end time church; people who have actually been called of God and baptized, and given a portion of Gods own Holy Spirit. The problem is; they have not carefully followed the lead of the Holy Spirit, and have not stayed close to God, They have let the cares of this life lure them away from following Christ. They have also grieved the Holy Spirit by forcing themselves into believing false teachings, in order that they may be in agreement with the physical organization, and its leader, or prophet. The true and faithful saints follow Christ even though it gets them put out of the church organization. (Rev. 14:4) Yes the end time Church of God will go into Great Tribulation to purge, and clean up, and make righteous as many as will allow it. Christ stands outside the Laodicean church's hearts and is knocking on the door of their heart. (Rev. 3:20) If any one of them will hear Christ's knock and let him in; he will help them to feed on the real truth, and lead them into righteous living, and overcoming their weaknesses, as well as this whole Satan influenced world. Then they also will be rewarded with eternal life and opportunity to rule with Christ in the new world that Christ will build here on this earth; a world based on truth and love, and good character. Those who will not repent and start following Christ, and quit following vain men, will be destroyed along with all the rest of the wicked of this evil world.

Friends, we need to all understand this very important truth: When Christ comes back to this earth to establish his righteous world; he will not allow any man, woman or child to live past his wrath unless they truly repent and humble themselves, and become completely willing to obey all of Gods commands. Read

Revelations chapter nineteen, and especially verse twenty one. Yes the rest of the stubborn, rebellious people will be slain with the sword that proceeds out of Christ's mouth; this is his word. Yes all of the people who will be allowed to live over into the new world as physical humans will be submissive and surrendered to obey Christ and his saints. It will take some time of course for these people to develop Holy righteous character, and to grow in the knowledge of God, and gain the wisdom of God. These people will simply be like new converts are in the church today. Satan will be removed, and not be allowed to deceive them anymore, at least for one thousand years; then Satan will be released to go out and try deceiving that world into the selfish way of sin. This will be their final test before they are given eternal spirit life and be actually born again into the family of God. (Rev. 20:7-10)

Know this my friends; the Great Tribulation is not God's wrath. This tribulation is the wrath of Satan the devil, who will try to spiritually destroy the church, and try to get man to destroy all flesh off of the earth. Satan knows that he has but a short time, (Rev. 12:12) and Christ will have to come and stop it, lest there be no flesh left alive. (Matt. 24:22) The Tribulation of those days will be cut short by God sending frightening signs in the heavens. (Matt. 24:29-31) Satan the devil knows that God's purpose for man is; that man might be converted from his way of selfishness, lust, greed, vanity, hate, and competition to the way of love, truth, honesty, giving, peace, unity, and cooperation: and then God can give man everlasting life, and powers like God has. Satan knows that God will throw him off of the throne of the earth, and Christ and His saints will take over and rule. (Dan.7:27) (Rev. 20: 4-6) Satan hates our destiny and will try every way possible to get God's saints to compromise on keeping God's commandments, and try to make them feel so despaired that they will turn away from their love of God and his way of love, and obedience to truth. Satan wants the church that does have the Holy Spirit to turn away from God, which would be the unpardonable sin. That would cause God to simply destroy us, lest we live forever in a sinful, hurtful, evil state of mind as Satan and his demons are. God will not allow any more creatures to have eternal life until they first prove by their lives even in trial and testing, that they love God and his way more than anything, even their own lives.

Satan will stir up the false prophet, and the Beast Empire to persecute the church and cause all people to receive the Mark of the Beast in their forehead, or in their right hand. To decode this message for you; the final revival of the so called Holy Roman Empire that is being formed in Europe right now will be ruled to a great degree by the Pope and they will again force their false Satanic religion including the Sunday worship on the whole world. Europe will become the financial hub of the world, and thus they will force compliance if you buy or sell (carry on commerce with them). People will receive this mark in the forehead, (being deceived into agreeing with it) or in their right hand, (by their works). People will be forced again as was in the middle ages, to violate Gods seventh day Sabbath command. Only those who love God more than their own lives will remain faithful to God. God will help his faithful saints with a little help, but for our own good God will let us be tested. (Dan. 11: 34)

This present financial crisis in America and the whole world is going to plunge the nations of the modern day descendants of ancient Israel into a complete financial collapse. The United States of America, and Britain are the descendants of Josephs two sons which have received the birthright blessings of God, bestowing on them the Greatest wealth of the world; yet they are about to lose it because of their sins, and rebellion against the true God. This Land is full of churches, and religious people, yet they hate Gods commandments, especially the test commandment of the seventh day Sabbath. The way in which people treat one another is witness that they are not of God, no matter how much they go to church. People like to present an outside appearance to their families , friends, co-workers, and business associates as being honest, trustworthy, faithful, just, caring, and good; yet deep in their own nature people are selfish, and will do whatever they think they can get away with while they pursue their own happiness, or at least what they think will make them happy. This is why there are so many divorces in the land. This is why businesses have to figure in theft loses in their prices. This is why there are so many lawsuits. This is why there are so many child abuse cases. This is why so many parents won't even pay their child support. This is why there is so much road rage. This is why you have to be

on guard wherever you go to make sure someone doesn't take advantage of you or your children or wives.

Satan has stirred up the average human to live selfishly, peoples lusts pit them one against another. Satan has divided humans against each other. But, people living this way are all only in the pursuit of happiness. Satan has deceived people into thinking that this way of selfishness is the way to be happy. I tell you the truth; real happiness can only come when we live the way of Give, instead of the way of take. Real lasting happiness can only be had by loving your fellow man or family as you do your own self. Treat other people like you would want to be treated. All of Satan's ways may, and often does have a degree of pleasure for the moment, that is to a simple minded person, but they always have a poisonous sting in the end of it. The end result of all sin is very bitter, for others and even your own self. That is the big problem in this evil world; Satan has deceived the average person into not thinking very deeply about the consequences of sin, but rather just think very shallow and pursue the thrill of the moment. This world has been living this way all through history to some degree, but it has got much, much worse in the latter years. This world is blindly pursuing happiness and reaping pain, agony, and suffering, and mental anguish. God help this world wake up!

Well God Almighty is going to wake up this world soon! Satan has had great success in causing people to live the way of destruction, and the cause of all hurt and suffering because he has this world deceived. Yes, the whole world has been deceived. (Rev. 12: 9) But my friends, that is what the Great tribulation is all about: This world is about to see Satan's face. This world is about to see the real result of Satins influence on mankind; and it won't be pretty. Revelation chapter twelve, verse fourteen reveals that some of Gods church will be nourished away from the face of the serpent. Satan's deceptions will be disclosed and people will have opportunity to experience and see the results of Satan's selfish ungodly ways in their own, as well as other people's lives.

When this financial collapse takes place in America, and Britain it will trigger the Europeans to realize that democracy has failed, and they will resort back to what has always seemed to work for them in past ages. Choose a dictator!

Democracy won't let swift emergency action take place. But a single dictator who offers them hope can make the decisions for the people whether they like it or not. God Almighty says he will put it in the hearts of ten kingdoms to give their kingdom over to the Beast until Gods words shall be fulfilled. (Rev. 17: 17) When this empire is finally united under one dictator, they will cause war and destruction upon the end time tribes of Israel including the United States of America, and Britain like this world has never seen. As a result of this war there will be severe famine, and diseases that will claim millions of lives. When the whole nation is afflicted by these plagues, it will not bring out the best in the peoples human nature; far from it. It will bring out the most selfish and cruel and wicked aspect of human nature. There will be no place to turn to for real help, but to God. But this world doesn't know God, this worlds preachers are deceived ministers of Satan. They don't know God!

This time of Great Tribulation is spoken of in many prophecies in Isaiah, Jeremiah, and many of the so called Minor Prophets. Read Jeremiah chapter thirty. Modern day Israel will go into captivity again just shortly before Christ returns to earth. Look at verse six: "Ask you now, and see whether a man does travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." This is not just talking of the little nation of the tribe of Judah, that calls its' self Israel. This is speaking of all of Jacobs tribes, all twelve of them, including the United States of America, and Britain. The rest of chapter thirty talks of God delivering them out of their captivity: that is the ones who will repent of their sinful, rebellious way, and humble themselves before the true God, to obey him. Chapter thirty one speaks of God bringing Israel back and re-establishing them in their own land that God gave to their forefathers. He will also establish a new covenant with them. He will put his Holy Spirit in them so that they may have a heart to obey righteousness. There will be an innumerable multitude of all the races of people who will repent and be led in the way of God unto fountains of living waters, which is the Holy Spirit. God will wipe away all tears from their eyes, for their sins is what causes their tears and sorrows.

Those rebellious people who will not repent in this Tribulation and are still alive will also suffer the Trumpet plagues. These Trumpet plagues start in Revelation chapter eight. Those people who will not repent during the trumpet plagues and are still alive will suffer the very wrath of God in the seven last plagues. Chapter sixteen tells about these seven last plagues from God. Any one left alive after this who still won't surrender to God will be killed by Gods sword, his word. (Rev.19: 21) There will be no flesh left alive on this earth who will not submit to obey God.

Those people who are smart will quickly repent of their sinful way and turn to God when they know that God is real, and is setting his hand to punish this evil world for their sins. Satan will be very active though all through the tribulation, trying to prevent the people from obeying God. Satan will put many of Gods faithful saints to death trying to get them to surrender to him. It is wise not to wait to the last minute to obey God: under severe circumstances you may not have the faith to do the right thing.

What about a place of safety, is there such a place? Some people think that Petra, over in Jordan is the place where God will protect his faithful saints. Whether God chooses to protect some people over there or not; I do not know for sure, neither do you, but one thing I do know: no place can protect you. Looking for a place of safety is much like Pounce De Leon looking for a fountain of youth. You will never find it as a physical place on this earth. Unless you live a holy righteous life in complete obedience to God and his way of love, then you could be standing right beside of a righteous man and still have no protection. As I said earlier, even many of the true saints will be martyred during the Great Tribulation. (Rev. 6: 11) If you truly want to know about a place of safety then read Psalm 46.

The book of Ezekiel, especially chapters three through chapter seven tell of this time of tribulation to come upon the whole house of Israel. At the time that God gave these prophecies to Ezekiel, the ten tribe house of Israel had long been taken into captivity by the Assyrians, and the nation of Judah had been taken into captivity by Babylon. Ezekiel was among the captives at the time he wrote this. (Ezek. 1: 1, 2) What happened to Israel and Judah anciently was only a type, or

forerunner of what is about to happen at this end time to the modern day descendants of these nations. Only at the end time tribulation it will be much worse. Daniel chapter twelve verse one tells us that it will be the greatest time of trouble that has ever come on the world since their ever was a nation. This time of trouble is prophesied even in the book that Moses wrote, Deuteronomy chapter twenty eight. I realize that most of you will not care to study this until you are experiencing the evils of this, but I will give you the places to read in your bibles anyway. Soon you will know that Gods witnesses did speak to you to warn you, and they spoke the true word of Almighty God. Read in Deuteronomy chapter twenty eight, verses fifty two through verse fifty eight; how that the famine will be so bad that the worst in human nature will come out. People will even be eating their own family and little children. Yes, people will get a chance to see the real “face of Satan”. Satan’s way of selfishness seems to be the way people think will serve themselves best now: look out for self above all others, pursue your happiness regardless who may get hurt in the process, Think, what he don’t know won’t hurt him, satisfy the fleshly appetites to find happiness, and don’t consider who it may hurt. This world don’t want to be viewed as this evil, so most people present a false outward appearance to others, especially their family and friends, but deep in the human heart is selfishness, lust, greed, vanity, and downright wickedness. In this time of severe trial and tribulation, when the whole world is affected, especially the modern descendants of Israel; the true inside character of people will be revealed not only to self, but to everyone around you. Yes, people will see Satan’s face, and the outward image will be uncovered; the true evil of the human heart under Satan’s influence will be revealed. The Jews and to some degree the whole world had a chance to see Satan’s face in World War II, but most of the people here in the United States of America and even Great Britain still had a relative degree of comfort and wellbeing. But my friends when the Great Tribulation is on the modern nations of Israel; no one will have any comfort or wellbeing. Famine, disease epidemics, war, death, pain and anguish, and terrible fear will grip all. There will be no government agency or any person who will seek to help you. They will all be competing against you for their survival and wellbeing. The worst in human nature will come out. People will then see that the way of Satan and sin is not as

good as what they thought when they were reaping the selfish thrills of it and deceiving their friends and family and even their own self into thinking that they are really a good person. The human heart is wicked. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart; I try the reins, even to give every man according to the fruit of his doings.” (Jer. 17:9, 10)

The only hope of any kind of help that will be available to the troubled people will be to: acknowledge your way, and your whole life is wrong and repent, not just for some things you have done, but repent of who you are, and surrender to the true God and let him and his Son Jesus Christ clean you up and change you into an obedient, faithful follower of the real Jesus Christ. This world and its false deceived ministers don't know the real God, and Christ.

So how will you know who you can trust in, to teach you the true knowledge of God? We are living in times very similar as Israel was during King Ahab's rein. The nation was worshiping this false god called Baal. They called Baal the Lord. This nation calls on one they call God, and Jesus Christ, but it is not the true God or Christ of your bible. Ignorant and deceived men have made a God and Christ in their own image. They interpret what God is like and will not let Gods Word reveal the truth to their minds. They are contrary to God, so they make God to be like themselves. Often times they won't even follow the life style of the false image of God, because human nature lusts to be free to do as they please; only they want to appear to be good on the outside, so that they can get what they want from other people, including being respected and thought of as a good person.

But, as was the case in the days of King Ahab, so will it be in this end time. God sent Elijah the prophet to show all Israel who the true God is, and who his faithful prophet is. You should read of this awesome event in I Kings chapters 17, and 18. God is again going to send a man in the spirit and **Power** of Elijah to show this nation and the entire world who the true God is and who His servants are. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong did teach the called out Church of God who the true God is, but **then** this whole world will be **forced** to take notice, and recognize that

those two witnesses are sent by a very powerful and Almighty God! Malachi chapter four, and verse five says that before the coming of the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord, that he will send Elijah the prophet. This is the main reason. People can't be taught the right way to live and treat their families and other people until they first learn who the true God is, and who faithfully speaks his words. The book of Revelation chapter eleven speaks of the two witnesses as having power as God gave to Elijah and Moses. The false counterfeit "Christianity" and all other religions will be exposed as fakes by the power of God through these witnesses. These men will be viewed as enemies of this evil world, but they will send plagues on the people to cause as many as possible to repent, and surrender to the true God, that they may be forgiven, and be instructed in the truth, and eventually be saved from God's wrath against the wicked. God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that they may be converted and saved. (Ezekiel 18: 20) (Ezek. 33: 11) Unless God does expose this modern "Baal" religion for what it is, and prove to the people of this earth who are the true servants of God; the deceived people wouldn't know where to turn to when they suffer the punishment of God. God will not send his full wrath on deceived and ignorant people; he will **prove** that He is God and that his witnesses are his servants **by his Almighty Power!**

There will also be a famine of hearing the true words of God during those days, because of persecution, but the two witnesses of God will give them enough to let them know to repent and surrender to God and keep his Commandments. They will later be lead more perfectly in the way of God. (Rev.7: 17) Always remember God expects his people to obey the Ten Commandments from the heart, even the fourth commandment. Remember to keep the seventh day Sabbath Holy, and don't work on that day. Use the Sabbath to rest, study Gods word and pray, and if possible communicate with other converted obedient to God people. This will be a great test commandment even as it was during the middle ages. Love other people by treating them even as you would like to be treated. Be considerate of others needs and sufferings even if you are suffering yourself. Remember the widow who shared her last meal with Elijah, and how God provided for them. God help you to have faith in God and his way of life and his purpose for you. The

reward of the righteous is awesome! We have heard about it, but soon we will experience it.

A true friend, and witness of God and Christ,

Gary Stowers