

# TRIED IN THE FIRE

By: Phillip Hayes

*He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. [Daniel 3:25]*

*That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. [1Peter 1:7]*

Although the scriptures seemingly are very clear as to just what will transpire before the second coming of our Lord, many Christians are confused and misled concerning the end time.

Many today sit transfixed to their television sets as they see this earth reeling with wars and unparalleled atrocities being committed in the name of God. Tremendous earthquakes, tidal waves, and extreme weather conditions happening world-wide. Many are shocked at the carnage they see almost daily as hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children lose their lives in these horrible wars and catastrophes.

I believe these are the beginnings of God's last call to planet earth! And according to Jesus, the apostles, and the prophets of old; it is going to get much, much worse!

*For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be*

*gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. [Matthew 24:27-34]*

These very familiar scriptures describe the time setting when Jesus will come back for His church. Even though these scriptures PLAINLY tell us that Jesus comes back IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TRIBULATION, the predominate teaching among the church world is a PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE of the church! Jesus said, "*When YE shall SEE all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.*" They are teaching that the church will be raptured and will not see all of these things come to pass. Jesus was speaking to the church, (His disciples) and He was letting them (and us) understand that in the last days there was going to be a time of trouble such as the world had never seen. It was going to be a time of great earthquakes and famines. It was going to be a time of both war, a time of worldwide chaos unparalleled since the world began.

Jesus began giving signs to the church of what would actually transpire just before His coming, in order for them to be PREPARED.

His Word is coming to pass, as we are now witnessing His prophesies being fulfilled. We have seen during our

lifetimes the Jews returning to their homeland after almost two thousand years of exile. Since 1948 they are recognized around the world as a nation for the first time, during the past two thousand years. In 1967 we saw them (although greatly outnumbered militarily) capture the city of Jerusalem in a stunning victory that lasted only six days. Jerusalem came under the Jews control in 1967 and this had to come to pass in order for the Lord's prophecy to be fulfilled concerning the last generation.

Jesus' prophecy concerned the city of Jerusalem, not necessarily the nation of Israel! He said, *"When you see Jerusalem (NOT ISRAEL) compassed about with armies know the desolation is nigh."* Jesus said, *"This generation shall not pass until all of these things that are written shall be fulfilled."*

He did not say the end would come at the END of that generation, He said it would not pass until everything would be fulfilled. This is why I say, "The end of this age is upon us and there will not be another generation on the face of the earth that will live as we are now living. The world is going to be changed." All one needs to do, is look at the prophecies of Jesus concerning the end of the world, and compare them with the history of the past two thousand years and especially what has transpired concerning Israel and Jerusalem the past few years. In doing this you will get a clear understanding that the Master's Words could not possibly come to pass without Israel becoming a nation once more, and could not come to pass without Jerusalem becoming a Jewish city once again! THE STAGE IS NOW SET! After two thousand years, the scenario for the last generation is falling into place like a great puzzle!

One thing should be crystal clear to every Christian no matter your view of the end: when you see Jerusalem compassed about (surrounded) with armies, you will know the end is very, very near!

The Jews in their homeland after two thousand years of wandering! Jerusalem under Israeli control once again! A

united one world religion almost set in order under the banner that we are all serving the same God (Deity), just in different ways! This has been stated publicly by President Obama!

Worldwide unrest and dissatisfaction with all present governments, and a cry for someone that has the answers to lead the world! The stage is indeed being set for a WORLD LEADER.

The one world government is coming together faster than most of you realize!

However, most preachers today are teaching that the church will not go through the tribulation, and will be taken away in a "rapture" before the trouble begins. And many honest hearted folks have accepted this teaching from well known scholars, theologians, and pastors. Of course there are some ministers that will not get into a discussion about the end time because they do not know which way is which, and they are too afraid to take a stand either way for fear they may be wrong.

First of all, we must understand that the tribulation period is not the wrath of God. It is the wrath of Satan! The book of Revelation reveals there are two wraths spoken of. In the twelfth chapter you see the wrath of Satan turned totally against the church, and against the man child. And we think we have fought some battles! We have not fought anything yet, but God is going to give us grace and power to overcome Satan. Always remember "they" overcame him.

In Revelation chapter twelve, Satan is cast down to the earth and the first thing he does is persecute the woman (church) that brought forth the man child (manifested sons of God). I have said over and over that Satan is not concerned with the denominational churches or the peoples of the world, he already owns them. Satan's warfare is against the true saints of God. Those of you that have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, that have been translated into the kingdom of His dear Son, that have been born again by the power of the

Holy Ghost, that have received Jesus as Lord over your life. Satan is after you! You are his target! When Satan comes down to earth the warfare begins and he is going to persecute you, and this is the beginning of what is commonly known as the Great Tribulation. The wrath of Satan is the Great Tribulation.

My friend, the church will be here during the Mark of the Beast. If this is the time of the end, you will be here to either receive or reject the Mark of the Beast. Here is another thing about the Mark of The Beast that is sure: Those whose names are NOT WRITTEN in the Lamb's Book of Life WILL TAKE IT! Those whose name ARE WRITTEN WILL NOT TAKE IT! (See Revelation 13:8).

Do you know the purpose of the Mark of the Beast? It is to separate the true vine from the false vine, the true church from the false church. The Word of God now separating the tares from the wheat. Only the bride of Christ will know what the Mark of the Beast really is. The world is going to want it. They are going to think it is the greatest thing that man has ever devised. It is going to be the greatest concept man has ever devised although it will be demonic. You can't buy or sell without the Mark of the Beast.

During this dreadful time, there will arise an overcoming army of saints that will destroy the works of the devil!

Let me tell you without hesitation, God has a people He is raising up that will never bow to this world's antichrist religion and system. These chosen vessels will prefer death rather than eat at the antichrist's table. These will be fully committed to Christ and ready to die for their Lord. They will be like the Apostle Paul of old who testified, "*To die, is to gain.*" I am talking about a great number of chosen people that are going to shake the foundations of the world. They are *the* called, the chosen, and the faithful!

A great example of the OVERCOMERS were the three

Hebrew children. They were real men of God, and they faced a real furnace of fire. They said, "Whether God saves us from the fire or whether He doesn't, we are not going to bow!" How many of you have the conviction and commitment to make such a bold declaration in the midst of a very real trial? Sadly, most professing Christians today want to fly away from this kind of trouble!

Let me tell you something, you are not going to fly off anywhere before tribulation! The saints that will be alive during the rise of the antichrist will have to face the Mark of the Beast, and great tribulations and persecutions. Now is the time to make our calling and election sure. Now is the time to make sure that you are filled with the Holy Ghost and Word of God.

There is going to be a people in this earth that is going to OVERCOME the devil. Your confrontation with the devil is just around the corner, and you will have to make your choice of continuing to worship God, or bowing to the image of the beast! The Mark of the Beast will be the final separation for God's seed and the seed of the serpent! Thank God, the tares will finally be eternally separate from the wheat!

I have heard preachers tell folks that no one will be able to survive during the great tribulation and that God will not allow any of His children to suffer the agony of tribulation. They tell their congregations that God has devised a plan to evacuate His people before all the tribulation comes. They call it the Rapture! In other words, they believe Christians are too fragile to endure tribulation, and couldn't withstand the powerful Antichrist and Mark of the Beast that rises during this time. So, they have *invented* a great escape! Frankly, I don't believe that God's people are wimps! I believe that the true seed of God are MORE THAN CONQUERORS and cannot be overcome by anything or anyone!

You show me one man or woman of God that turned and ran away when the devil threw anything at him! Do you

believe God's Word is true? Well if you do, then we do have what the Bible says we have, don't we? We are flesh of His flesh, and bone of His bone aren't we? God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and a sound mind, hasn't He?! Come on Christians, whom should we fear?! "GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD." Jesus said, "BEHOLD, I GIVE YOU POWER OVER ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY." We are suppose to be in a place with God that when destruction comes, WE WILL LAUGH AT IT! And, when famine comes, WE WILL LAUGH AT IT! (See Job 5:22) Is there any weapon formed that can prosper against us? God is going to have a people standing in the last days with the whole armor of God, fighting for what is right. Not running or flying away from the enemy!

In the gospel of Matthew, the 24th chapter, Jesus said, "*In your patience possess ye your souls.*" He also said, "*Remember Lot's wife.*"

Lot's wife desired the things of the world. She looked back. The last call in this end time is to get you ready for the coming of Jesus, it is to turn your attentions away from materialism and worldliness and get your eyes on the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. That is why I preach so much against worldliness, prosperity and materialism. It is not to condemn you because you have things, but it is to get your attention off things, and get your attention on Jesus. Because if you are not careful, you are going to be caught in a snare. These prosperity preachers are getting people enslaved in debt, and getting them caught in a snare. Indebtedness is going to be the ruin and collapse of a lot of people.

People are thinking that God has blessed them with a new car they owe \$30,000.00 for, or a new home that they owe \$200,000.00 on. Some ministers have indebted their congregations with millions of dollars for buildings, while others brag about their ten or fifteen million dollar buildings

that are debt free. All the while preaching that Jesus is coming back at any moment to rapture the church! How hypocritical can you get! Surely, if they really believed that these are the last days, and Jesus is about to rapture the church, they would put all their money in soul saving missions and crusades, instead of in buildings, cars, and fancy homes!

Here is the patience of the saints: Being tried by fire in the tribulation that we might be the OVERCOMERS that God will grant to sit in His Throne, and rule all nations with a rod of iron (Revelation 3:21 & 2:26,27)

Tell me, who is going to rule and reign with Christ a thousand years? ". . . The saints that were suppose to have been raptured up to the other side of Mars while everybody else is left on earth to face the Mark of the Beast and go through the horrors of tribulation?" Are they the ones that will rule and reign with Christ? If that was your idea, then my friend, I am afraid that you have been deceived!

*"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." [Revelation 20:4]*

The Bible says plainly the ones that will rule and reign with Christ those thousand years are the ones that overcame the Beast, and the Mark. These over-comers suffered for their testimony of Jesus! They endured the persecution and tribulation for Jesus! The Apostle Paul wrote, *"Through much tribulation we enter the kingdom of God."* *"If you suffer with Him, you will reign with Him."* Paul once wrote of his desire to experience the *"fellowship of His sufferings."* And Jesus said, *"Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil about you falsely for my name sake."*

I know this all strikes to the core of your comfort zone!



I hardly know anyone that would suffer as a Christian anymore. I know everyone wants to be well spoken of, and perhaps that is our problem. We don't want any persecution, we don't want any tribulation or suffering for Christ's sake; we want to live on easy street, have things our way, and be religious, without any real commitment.

We are so much like the generation of Noah! Remember, Jesus said before He came again it would be like it was in Noah's time: Men and women would be wholly given over to the flesh! Eating, drinking, marrying, wickedness and violence would fill the earth.

*And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Genesis 6:5*

Look at what is happening all over the world, nothing but evil continually partying, paganism; you can't tell the church from the world. Look how they have turned their celebration of the birth of Jesus into a party, nothing but a time of drunkenness, a time of revelings, a time of pure paganism. There is nothing but evil continually on the minds of the people. They are either partying, or they are running to and fro, looking for some kind of carnal excitement. They're looking for something in the flesh.

Never before in the known history of man has there been so much sexual perversion. We hear of homosexuality among great personalities and leaders of nations. We hear of sick, disgusting acts committed on children, women, and yes, even corpses! Beheading and crucifying men, women and even children! Murder, theft and all manner of mayhem is on the rise, more and more each year. Even the public schools are not safe; knives, guns, explosives, drugs, and alcohol are discovered almost every day in raids on schools in this country.

A lot of public schools have now installed metal detection devices to try and slow the influx of dangerous weapons into the classrooms. The whole world it seems is reeling and

rocking with lust and perversion! And believe it or not, it is WORSE in many other countries, and it is going to get worse in this country. Wake up saints!!

Jesus said: *"Evil men shall wax worse and worse and the love of many would wax cold because iniquity (Lawlessness) would abound."*

God has warned the church by prophecy that the cities of the world would become so wicked and so wholly given over to every abominable sin, that it would be impossible for a man to raise a Christian family in them. The cities of the nations, the Bible tells us will fall.

The islands would be destroyed. Tremendous tidal waves like you have never seen are about to impact the world. Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes will destroy millions of people. All manner of plagues are about to be unleashed. World wide famine is a definite probability. Floods, draughts, unbelievable weather patterns, crop failures are all now in the making. And there is no escape! God is going to turn the world upside down with His judgments and finally the full fury of His wrath! The Bible says that the earth will be moved out of it's place.

My friend, if we don't get right with God, and get prepared; when it does happen you will be like those in the Book of Revelation that cursed God because of all the judgments He sent! *Today is the day of salvation, now is the appointed time!* God will give the unsaved a spirit of darkness. People will be like those of old that had eyes, but could not see; ears to hear, but they could not hear.

I want you to know this one thing, God is able to erase everything out of your mind. He can turn you over to a reprobate mind and you will not know right from wrong. You'll go your own way, thinking that you are doing God's will and be eternally lost. He can send you such a strong delusion you will believe a lie and be damned. He is able to make you a vessel of honor or a vessel of dishonor. He can harden your heart or

soften it. Believe me, God has power over the clay. You can say what you want to. Folks better wake up and quit playing church! Many of you are actually going to have to give your lives for what you believe! You better make your calling and election sure. You better make sure that what you believe is right, for you may be the very one that will face the executioner in these last days. Are you ready to die for what you believe?

We know the scripture is plain, *"As in the days of Noah,"* the wicked WERE TAKEN AWAY, DESTROYED! But also we know that Noah was kept by the same power that destroyed the old world, Water! God has promised not to destroy the earth again with water, but in the last days He is going to destroy it with FIRE! Peter said that *"the elements and the earth also, would melt with fervent heat."* **"HEAVEN AND EARTH** would be DISSOLVED!"

I guarantee you that the same tribulation fires that will destroy the wicked will be the ultimate salvation for the righteous! How? Because the tribulation is for the church, it will bring us into unity and perfection. The scripture says, *"Through much tribulation we enter the kingdom of God"*.

Look how God so loved the Hebrew children that He stood IN THE FIRE WITH THEM! He didn't keep them from the fire, HE KEPT THEM IN THE FIRE! They were not harmed by the fire, but that same fire destroyed the men that put them in it. Oh, Praise The Lord!

Thus in the tribulation, our God will be in the fire with us.

*And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Revelations 20:4*

THE OVERCOMERS! They were not "taken away", no sir, they stood in the fire just like all God's holy saints have throughout the ages. They refused the Mark. They refused to bow and worship the beast. And many gave their lives for their witness of Jesus. God was with them! *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. Revelations 21:7*

One very significant commandment that God has given is for His people to come out of her!

God's call to His elect bride is to COME OUT! Come out of every lie, every false doctrine, every false spirit. God wants His children separated! "Light hath no fellowship with darkness." And when you separate, I mean really separate, from the false religious and political systems of this world, YOU WILL BE PERSECUTED! I believe with all my heart, that the three Hebrew children, Job, Noah, Enoch, Elijah, and the others that so perfectly type this last day church, were a SEPARATED PEOPLE. They had nothing in common with the world.

Job suffered the tribulation of his time, and endured many things. At the end of it all, God gave him more than he ever had before. Just as in this age, many things will be taken away from us, and we will have to suffer much, but after the tribulation, we will be Kings and Priests unto God. We shall reign over this earth with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here is the climatic event of His coming:

*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

*Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 1Thessalonians 4:16-17*

*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, that is to come down out of heaven, "the heavens must receive Him until the times of restitution of all things."* The Lord is waiting

for His Word to be fulfilled. And then, Jesus comes down out of heaven and we meet Him *in the air* (atmosphere). We don't go up to heaven as some have taught. No sir! The Bible plainly says, "*We meet the Lord in the air (not in heaven).*" No secret rapture here! At the last trump, the dead in Christ shall rise first and those which are alive shall be caught up with Him! It is a perfect type. Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection compares exactly to what will happen to the body of Christ.

God told Noah, "*For thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.*"

Isn't it wonderful that although God looks at our righteousness as nothing but filthy rags, when we put on the righteousness of Christ, we are found in Him faultless, blameless, and perfect in this generation.

But knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ will soon be revealed from heaven taking vengeance on them that know not God and obey not the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; shouldn't we all examine ourselves to see if we be in the faith.

We should make our calling and election sure. In other words, we should make sure that we have not believed lies or fables!

Them that know not God, are those that have heard the gospel, but failed to accept it through repentance and baptism.

Them that obey not the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, are those that heard the gospel yet failed to walk in the commandments of God.

Those that obey not God should know, He is going to take vengeance. *If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the wicked and ungodly appear.*

I believe God has told me to lift up my voice like a trumpet and shout it from the mountains, to the valleys, from the countries to the cities, that Jesus is coming back with vengeance! That the wrath of God is about to be revealed from heaven. The Bible says in Second Thessalonians chapter one verses seven and eight:

*". . . Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

I have warned people of the coming destruction from the presence of the Almighty God. I have warned them to gather together; to come out from among the world, to love one another and reach out to God.

Many Christians are going to be taken by surprise when the "Day of God" begins to unfold (See 2Peter3:12). *"Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."* [1Corinthians 1:8] They thought they would be "raptured" but then they will realize they had been deceived. I hope those that listen will take heed and not be caught unaware. We are the "goodman" of the house. Be prepared!

Now is the time we must fully commit and submit ourselves; spirit, soul and body to Jesus. Give your every thought, your will, your ambitions, your plans, submit your all to Jesus. God is about to reveal His glory, not only through the Antichrist, but also in His chosen saints. Jesus is going to be glorified in His saints in the midst of the worse trouble that mankind has ever faced.

Remember what He said, *"If ye abide in me, and my Word abide in you."* In other words, if you live in me and I live in you! You must understand that if you have received Jesus, He is living in you. But, are you living in Him? If you live in Jesus, and He (He is the Word) is living in you, He said, *"You shall ask what you will and it shall be given unto you."*

If we are serving a God that made such a bold promise, then what is our problem? Whom shall we fear if there is no weapon formed that can prosper against us? What army shall we be afraid of? What people shall we tremble before?

*"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."* [Revelation 22:20]

The trial of your faith is at hand. Be faithful!