



*“Let not your heart be troubled . . . “*

John 14:1

Perhaps it is time to ask the question: “As we listen to recent news reports—what gives? Are people simply troubled, today, or angry?”

Both, and neither. We may each find ourselves being both troubled *and* angry over current events and trends. Yet our God is not troubled, nor is He angry (distressed) by the happenings that now dominate the attention of Western society and, indeed, our very world. Bible prophecy (God’s program for the future) has forecast these events within Scripture and—although this is not easily projected within the public square—we can be certain that He yet has everything under control. It is true that some have violated basic guidelines for interpreting these events and placed themselves (ourselves) out on a limb, occasionally. Yet, as things begin to “heat up” western Christians must begin to suspect that we are now learning what our brothers and sisters in closed countries around the world already know: that when we take the time to seriously read Scripture itself, we come away with a feeling similar to what the apostle John must have felt when addressed by an angel.

Said the angel to the apostle John,  
 “take the little book, and eat it up,  
 “It shall make your belly bitter, but it shall be in your mouth sweet as honey.” (Rev. 10:9)

Why would he first say that Bible prophecy is bitter in my stomach and *then* becomes sweet in my mouth? Does not food first pass through my mouth, before entering my stomach? Ah, yes, a good observation. Yet for Christians willing to take the time to actually digest the subject of God’s judgments, we soon begin to understand that the end result will be truly good, and sweet. For true justice is something the human heart yearns for. When

*( continued . . . )*

we truly come to terms with the God of the Bible, we soon realize that the reason for His, “Thou shalt not”’s is just so that, after we have come to a halt at one of His “stop lights” . . . we may be able to proceed *safely and securely* across the road of life into His blessing.

Those who rebel at the red light (and get flattened by an approaching truck, or two) may find that they never get another chance to stop at a corner again . . . For just as many within secular society are starting to confuse a Christian’s “I disagree with your agenda” with the words “I hate you” –so too, many Christians may now confuse God’s allowance of trial and tribulation within our lives . . . with His wrath.

In other words, just because we may observe hardship within a well lived life; this does not indicate a need to feel *rejected* by God. Personal tribulation—even great tribulation, is not the same as God’s rejection, and wrath. Trial and difficulty are an integral part of true, personal, character building and maturity [first article].

Our second consideration follows naturally on the heels of the first: What is, exactly, the difference between “tribulation” and the “wrath of God”? Glad you asked. For just as a simple ability to discern the difference between red and green may make all the difference in this world at the next street corner; knowing the difference between tribulation and wrath may actually spell the difference between being “troubled” about current events, or eternally at peace with God [second article].



## WHEN THE SPARKS FLY UPWARDS!

*And you will be hated by all  
for My name's sake.*

*But not a hair of your head shall be lost.*  
Luke 21:17-18

**W**e have all heard of the patience of Job, and are made painfully aware of how difficult life can be—even without provocation. As said the first of Job’s “miserable counselors” (to paraphrase): affliction may seem to come our of

nowhere, and “ . . . Yet man is born to trouble, As the sparks fly upward” (Job 5:7)! Ever since being thrown out of the Garden of Eden, trouble and anguish may sometimes simply appear to be our lot.

Yet there is something that those forming public policy understand that the man on the street, apparently, does not. It is a concept that many terrorists have also embraced, yet many Christians have abandoned. Failure to understand this concept has left many of us standing in shock and awe on the battlefield of life while falling back onto the side lines to lick our wounds. Some (many?) now lay both

wounded and confused—some contemplating defeat, others considering total surrender, because we have not yet understood that we are dramatically engaged on a battlefield of ideas and of very intense convictions.

On this battlefield, so long as the man on the other side of the line is not afraid to challenge his opponent: to actively engage and actually *take a risk*—he wins by default. Further, the winner of one battle then understands that so long as he is not afraid to further press his point, and he is willing to actually call your bluff, most persons will find that they are not truly battle ready, and simply fold under pressure.

Some will talk a grand game, but like a football player afraid to actually get “hit” on the playing field, they prefer to loose a “little ground” rather than to endure real pain for an advance.

They are not real soldiers.

They are not ready to truly cross the scrimmage line, because they have not stopped to actually count the cost.

For some Christians this lack of preparedness is derived from a genuine misunderstanding of what truly pleases God, or may initiate His wrath. Like a little child who has not yet understood the seriousness of life, or actually committed her or himself to a conscious obedience of the Father—they are so afraid of “daddy’s spanking” that they fail to understand that His painful correction is a sign of true love.

<sup>4</sup> *Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.* <sup>5</sup> *And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:* <sup>6</sup> *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.* <sup>7</sup> *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

Hebrews 12:4-7 AV

**E**ven while inserting the above text into our discussion, the sting of its words awakens me to the lateness of the hour: how alien they sound to post-moderns who insist, and actively teach, that “corporal punishment does not work”—so that we spoil our children and imprison our adults when they fail to “willingly” pay taxes, for example. Hasn’t anyone informed the IRS and government? Corporal punishment (corporate punishment, or government correction) does not work?!

So we must now damn vast blocks of our society to simply being “put away” when it is too late?

What hypocrisy.

Yet the faithful Christian realizes that the Scriptures are yet true: faithful and thankful is the one who endures the chastening/correcting hand of our loving

heavenly Father. Patient endurance in the face of life’s trials is a necessary part of growing up into gainful maturity. The politically correct who confuse “spanking” with hatred or rejection, are much like Christians, today, who also confuse the tests and trials of life, with God’s wrath.

**T**ests and trials (“tribulation” and suffering) are definitely part and parcel of the human experience. We can no more be fully human, and without pain and disappointment—than we can become a prize winning swimmer without getting wet.

There is no testimony without a test.

There is no victory without a battle.

There is no character building without personal endurance.

Even though difficult for some Christians to understand, Christ *intentionally* engaged this aspect of our humanity on the road to our redemption.

<sup>8</sup> *though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.* <sup>9</sup> *And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,*

Hebrews 5:8-9

“In this world,” Jesus assured us, “you will have tribulation” (John 16:33). Only those swimming upstream can escape the torrent of destruction that results from being washed over the edge of Niagara. Yes, righteous living is often an uphill battle, and yet this is also why the believer is promised the indwelling Holy Spirit *with power*.

<sup>8</sup> *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Acts 1:8

That word translated “witnesses” in the above text, is the Greek word *martus*—from which we get the word “martyr:” a person willing to seal their testimony in blood. Christians are at war with evil—not to destroy men’s lives (or to blow them up!), but to save and to rescue them. Just because we have experienced a “civil” battlefield, to date, within the West where we still have religious freedom—this does not mean we are thereby exempt from the requirements of deadly combat. Those in the National Guard must be prepared to pay the same price as those dispatched to the battlefield in foreign lands.

Jesus *assured* His followers, “In this world you shall have tribulation.” Period. Whether this consists of *great* tribulation (as in Muslim lands dominated by Sharia law) or more moderate “National Guard” assign-

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## KNOWING THE DIFFERENCE

*Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.<sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.*

*<sup>42</sup> Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.*

Matthew 24:40-42

In the hey day of pre-tribulation literature, wherein Christ's returning was described as a secret event and the unprepared were simply left ("LEFT BEHIND") to fend for themselves—the world they imagined would suddenly turn hostile towards basic Christian principles, and the above opening text was seen as an easy proof text confirming Christ's second (secret) coming. However . . . .

Although many familiar with the Left Behind series may not be aware of it, the above passage is not universally accepted as describing Christians who escape prior to Christ's returning at the end of John's Revelation (in the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter, for example).

Although contrary to the Left Behind (book) scenario, this is actually quite logical. For how could anyone who lived through the 9-11 attacks, and have observed the unusual response by rank and file persons within the West (particularly, in the US) —possibly forget how the churches *filled up* after those attacks! Yet, consider, that was only *two* jet liners crashing into tall buildings — and the Left Behind scenario presents the possibility of dozens (or more) air liners suddenly losing their pilots and bringing havoc and mayhem from the sudden disappearance of Christians the

world over—and at that, after having sold *millions* of books from the "Left Behind" series!

Come now, please do not tell too many agnostics that you believe such a thing: that the sudden collision of dozens of air craft, piloted by persons confirmed to be Christians, would not peak a sudden interest in the Christian faith! Such a view may spark an incredulous response from people investigating Christianity! No, a careful exegesis by Bible scholars demands that the events described in our opening text *must necessarily* be at the end of the age *after* humankind has already made its final decision on whether or not to follow the Antichrist. Therefore, we must admit that the Scripture cited above can only take place *after the tribulation* at the end of the age (which is exactly what Matthew 24:29 states).

In fact, since we have come this far along the path, we must also acknowledge that the event cited above concerning the catching away of the saints will also take place *prior* to the outpouring of God's wrath, which is what the verse *immediately before* the above text states by using very graphic images. Specifically, the verses before read:

*<sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

Matthew 24:37-39

In other words, just as Noah was spared personal harm from the onset of a world-class cataclysm

(through the world-wide flood, of his day) —so too will the saints be spared the heaven shaking, earth rattling, events foretold by the prophets, that are scheduled to take place just as Christ begins bursting from Heaven's dimension, into our own.

<sup>19</sup> *The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly.* <sup>20</sup> *The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again.*

Isaiah 24:19-20

Such an event as that described above in which the earth actually “totters” —or turns on its side, would cause the very heavens appear to rock and reel, as the relative position of the stars shift across the sky and “the stars . . . fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken” (vs. 29) —even before we consider the effects of distant stars having their constellations becoming unstable—just experiencing the effect upon this planet would be enough to generate the horror described by the prophets, wherein people cry out to the mountains, as they observe:

*. . . the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.*

<sup>15</sup> *And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, . . . hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,* <sup>16</sup> *and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"* <sup>17</sup> *For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

Revelation 6:14-17

What is it, exactly, that prompts this cry of despair? It is the sudden realization that the very God of Creation: the One Who put the stars in their places to begin with, has become displeased with His creation

(humankind) upon this planet. *Realizing that God's vengeance* has started to become unleashed, will give reason for the extreme anxiety cited above!

You can tell how devastating such an event would appear to those left upon this planet, particularly by those who depend so much upon the primacy of the natural universe in which we live. Notice, if you will, the way scientists resist even *considering* the concept, when saying that the poles that now tilt ~30° could not

Such an event . . .  
would cause the very  
heavens to . . . rock  
& reel.

possibly move any radial distance—without it taking millions of years(!).<sup>1</sup> Yes, nuclear war is terrible, but the shifting of the *entire planet* beneath our feet, resulting from rocking poles is altogether unbearable! We are so dependent upon the God of Creation for the stability of our environment, and yet how we take it utterly for granted. Truly *this* is the wrath that God will spare the saints from: a fury that only *He* can unleash.

Note, again, Christ's similar statement when comparing His return to Lot's departure from Sodom:

<sup>28</sup> *Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;* <sup>29</sup> *but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.* <sup>30</sup> *Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.*

Lk. 17:28-30 [emphasis added]

Notice what, exactly, it was that

Lot was spared: *God's answer* to the sin of Sodom, which was to rain down fire upon the city, as a direct act of God, Himself. Of course, the “true” rapture passage, that would illustrate an escape from tribulation (which event all Christians are *guaranteed* to experience — John 16:33) or even *great tribulation*—is supposed to be found within the Pauline epistles, such as 1 Cor. 15:52. It is there, some have assured us, that we have a description of a secret removal of the saints prior to the great tribulation: presumably, taking place in a quiet manner, that would not upset the transportation systems of the world or call undo attention to the wide spread disappearance of millions of Christians—lest, instead of facilitating the rise of Antichrist . . . they foster possible revival.

*Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Oops. Forgive me, this must be a mistake, as well, for the passage just quoted from the Paul's writing does (clearly) state that this is a description of Christ's returning with great noise, even with “the trumpet of God” — which, Paul carefully informs us, in the previous chapter, is a signaling for war (1 Cor. 14:8). Even the Thessalonian passage given to describe the procession of both living, and those previously dead, mentions both the sounding of trumpet *and a shout . . .* loud enough to awaken the dead (1 Thes. 4:16,17).

Interesting.

On another front, you may have noticed how insistent the politically correct are today, when proclaiming a near apocalyptic danger resulting from “climate change”: so that even

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the President now appears more concerned with this perceived event than the defense of our country from a ground or air based nuclear terrorist attack<sup>2</sup>—or even crude EMP weapons that could send our country back a hundred years, in technology.<sup>3</sup> Have you ever wondered why this is? Consider, just for a moment, the ramifications of offending the God of creation, Himself, and then meditate on a statement made by the apostle Paul regarding how the natural world about us begins to groan in its anticipation of Christ's returning, as persecution of the saints intensifies:

<sup>18</sup> *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

<sup>19</sup> *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.*

Romans 8:18-19 [emphasis added]

Or, consider the prophet Isaiah's observation:

<sup>5</sup> *The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant.*

Isaiah 24:5

And why is this? Isaiah explains:

<sup>6</sup> *Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, And few men are left.*

Isaiah 24:6

And Paul elaborates:

<sup>21</sup> *because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty*

*of the children of God.*

Romans 8:21

In other words: in some mysterious way, the ecological systems of our world are starting to groan in anticipation of Christ's returning. As this "groaning" increases, it becomes ever more obvious that "something is wrong"—so that the enemy of our souls starts to find it necessary to provide some sort of spin to explain the increasingly unusual happenings in the torturous wrenching of the environment around us (with increases in the prevalence of tornadoes and violent storms, for example). "Climate change" is merely a cover, or an attempted explanation, for the unusual turn of natural events that now seem to be occurring at intervals of ever increasing frequency all about us. Yet, Christ clearly warns that the events most significant, as we move ever closer to His returning, are not mere temperature and weather changes, but geological activity (earthquakes), pole shifting, and eventually the very destabilizing of the cosmic universe (Heb. 12:26).

**So** where will *you* be, and on which side of the line will you be standing, when the God of creation suddenly rends the veil and bursts into our dimension with power and majesty? On whose side, as the nations of the world finally begin the execution of humankind's "final solution"—seeking to complete what the man with the funny little mustache had only *begun* within his ovens and camps at Auschwitz and Dachau (Zech. 14:1-4)? Or even . . . after the insanity of the age launches its *next* demand, after having utterly violated the "bathrooms" of our land?

Insane? Unbelievable? It would be . . . except, it's already happening!

These are issues that every believer in the Man of Galilee, the Christ of Calvary, and the Savior of

humankind, Who came to offer *His life* for *our* salvation, must now consider. Yes, we must stop to consider them, as uncomfortable as it may seem, as the Western world marches with ever more determined step back towards the darkness from which the Christian faith once delivered us.

**Will we follow the crowd back into the Dark?**

—And, where will we be when the vilest and most heinous offense one can pronounce, becomes being called a hate-filled (sh-h-h-h) "Christ lover" or Christian who is so intolerant as to believe that after the God of Creation sent His Son to (gasp!) *die* for *our* sins upon the Cross we now have the temerity to believe that there is only *one way* to have our souls saved (John 14:6, Isaiah 53:1-6)?!!

As Christ Himself answered at His trial when asked His identity:

. . . *Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the [Messiah], the Son of the Blessed?"*

<sup>62</sup> *Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."*

Mark 14:61-62

When He *does* return in those clouds of heaven, directly above the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:8, Zech. 14:4) will you be ready?

We can be ready: you and I really can be, by repenting of our sins and turning our hearts ever heavenward, towards the Messiah of the Jews (the Christ) today. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and be saved. Be ready to "lift off" with the saints when He returns (Job 19:25,26)!

*And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'*

Acts 2:20-21

Amen.



(Continued from page 3) ...Sparks fly Upwards!

ments, we both serve under the same banner.

This is the banner *of the Cross*, where Christ died for our redemption, by shedding His own blood.

We serve this same Lord, for the same purpose, to glorify Him—just before Jesus returns in the skies! The *mature* Christian knows that enduring tribulation does not mean that God does not love us: only babies believe that “daddy doesn’t love me,” when spanked, or not allowed to have their own way at every turn.

Again, enduring tests and trials is part of growing up—and for the believer, this is part of preparing for eternal reward.

<sup>10</sup> *that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,* <sup>11</sup> *if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

Philippians 3:10-11

Tribulation, though it may be painful, is *not* enduring the wrath of God. Only non believers experience that ultimate loss.

<sup>36</sup> *He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."*

John 3:36

Okay. So we get the point: tribulation, even *great* tribulation, is not enduring the wrath of God. Therefore consider this: that whenever Jesus spoke of tribulation, even great tribulation, He was very careful to distinguish it from the wrath of God. Further, when God’s wrath *is* unleashed, **it often includes a breach of the natural protections normally afforded by the Father.** —For, as Jesus carefully noted, God sends the rain on the good and the bad, the just and unjust (Matt. 5:45). When God’s wrath becomes fully unleashed there is a withdrawal of those protections so often taken for granted by humanity in general—as was the case with Noah’s flood, where a *total wipe out* of humanity appeared imminent.

We must also realize, as well, that as Christ started to describe the end of the age, as we are now approaching it, **He knew that humankind would have breached the dread possibility of being able to destroy ourselves on a very large scale, using weapons of mass destruction.** In other words, Christ knew that the *wrath of man*, while not equal (thankfully) to the

wrath of God, would nonetheless reach a point of actually being able to extinguish the whole human race, as well.

**T**herefore, when describing the end of the age Christ, as He was known to do, used illustrations the common man could readily identify: images of power and destruction that would make clear the full extent of the final conflict at the end of this present age. —**And it is for this reason He said that the close of this age must be shortened (restricted, in length and duration) or no one would be left alive (Matt. 24:21,22)!!**

All living humanity will one day experience devastating tribulation, but only those outside of God’s pro-

tection will experience the wrath of God, as was the case with those outside of Noah’s ark.

Because our intent, at present, is to simply focus on the intensity of the culture war, and to realize the need to be totally committed before entering Eternity—we will not now explore, exactly, how Jesus made a clear distinction between those experiencing tribulation and others who will also experience God’s wrath.

Further, as stated in our opening: we must assure ourselves of our allegiance to the Almighty; to God, Himself—**for we also know that when our enemy smells fear, like a shark on a feeding frenzy, he may attack with all the more fury.**

Yes, for though our lives be extinguished “as the sparks fly upwards”—yet our God will redeem our souls, save our every tear, and put them into His bottle (Ps. 56:8): reviving us to return with Him in victory, in the skies overhead.

And not a hair of our head will perish.

*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.* <sup>17</sup> *Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

<sup>18</sup> *Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus. Amen.



**We serve the same  
Lord, for the same  
purpose, to glorify  
Him!**

# What Must I Do?

*"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."*

Acts 16:31

## How?

*... If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Romans 10:9,10

## In Other Words

**Acknowledge:** your need

—as a sinner (Romans 3:23, II Cor. 5:14-15)

**Accept:** His work on the Cross —to be your Savior

**Confess:** your acceptance of His lordship over you.

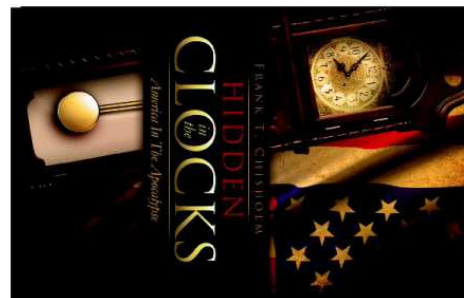
**Live for Him:** with your new life.

*For the scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be ashamed."*

Romans 10:11

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**America, America,  
You haven't much Time!**  
Hear me read its introduction online @  
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### ENDNOTES;

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pole\\_shift\\_hypothesis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pole_shift_hypothesis), Pole Shift Hypothesis, Wikipedia, 6/18/2016

<sup>2</sup> See "PENTAGON ORDERS COMMANDERS TO PRIORITIZE CLIMATE CHANGE IN ALL MILITARY ACTIONS." Feb. 7, 2016. < Washington Times <<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/feb/7/pentagon-orders-commanders-to-prioritize-climate-c/>> accessed 6/21/2016.

<sup>3</sup> Note: "EMP" warfare involves the detonation of a relatively low yield nuclear device, from a position strategically placed several hundred miles above the mainland of our country: the result would be the massive overloading of electronic & computer controlled systems. See "Failure to Protect Against Electromagnetic Pulse Threat Could Make 9/11 Look Trivial Someday." Forbes. July 31, 2014.< <http://www.forbes.com/sites/peterdetwiler/2014/07/31/protecting-the-u-s-against-the-electromagnetic-pulse-threat-a-continued-failure-of-leadership-could-make-911-look-trivial-someday/#3c8cf0577fcd>> accessed. 6/20/2016

