

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## FACING THE ANTI-CHRIST

RLJ-1266

JOHN S. TORELL

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### PART 4: SURVIVING DURING THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Most believers in Christ believe they are going to be raptured before the Tribulation period and don't see any need to prepare, but look at these verses:

*"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. **And except those days should be shortened**, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."* (Matthew 24:21-22)

The apostle Paul was not saved when Jesus spoke these words and none of the books in the New Testament existed at that time. Jesus didn't give a further explanation of what the Great Tribulation was going to be but just told His disciples that there was going to be a time of great trouble and it had been shortened for the sake of the believers in Christ.

### JESUS WARNED HIS DISCIPLES

It was a good time on earth in the early days of Jesus' ministry as He displayed great power by healing people, casting out demons and creating food for thousands to eat. The disciples didn't understand Jesus had come down to earth to pay for the sins of the human race.

James and John were excited and wanted to secure a great position in Jesus' kingdom but were told that He did not have the authority to grant their request but they would drink the same cup of suffering that Jesus was going to drink. **Matthew 20:20-23**

Jesus began a strong teaching of what the future would hold for his disciples after He came out of the temple in Jerusalem. First he gave a prophecy about the temple in Jerusalem which was fulfilled some 37 years later when the Romans took Jerusalem and killed every man, woman and child in the city and destroyed the temple down to the last stone. **Matthew 24:1-2**

Jesus then began to outline the future of the end of time. **verses 3-12, 14**

1. Deception
2. Wars and rumors of wars.
3. Christians to be hated, arrested and executed.
4. Offense and betrayal among Christians.
5. False prophets preaching a false Gospel.
6. The love of many Christians will grow cold.
7. The Gospel will be preached in every nation on this earth.



All of these events have occurred during the last 1,900 years but Jesus also said that the end of the world system is near and the coming of Jesus is close when all these events occur at the same time.

The believers in Christ who refuse to surrender despite all these hardships will be saved in the end. Jesus was not talking about salvation but about being rescued from the clutches of the Devil. **verse 13**

Some thirty years later Paul explained the rescue mission. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

It was not general knowledge at the time of Christ that the people living south of the equator had an opposite climate season so when it is winter on the northern half of the earth, it is summer in the southern half. Jerusalem is located in the northern hemisphere.

Remember now that the New Testament did not exist when Jesus spoke these prophetic words and he referred to the temple in Jerusalem, an abomination standing in the temple, and that the believers should pray that the coming of the abomination will not be in winter or on the Sabbath day. **verses 15-20**

**IT IS AT THIS TIME THAT THE GREAT TRIBULATION BEGINS ON THE EARTH!**

After the resurrection, Jesus prophesied that Peter would be taken prisoner and taken to a place he did not want to go. **John 21:18-19**

Jesus did not promise the disciples would be spared persecution, imprisonment or executions, but He did promise to be with them to the very end and that He would never leave or forsake them. **Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 13:5-8**

It is in the Book of Revelation that we learn many will be killed for the name of Jesus. **Revelation 6:9-11; 7:9-17**

Those who are killed for refusing to take the Mark of the Beast are declared to be blessed. **Revelation 14:9-13**

## **WHAT ABOUT ALL THE JUDGMENTS FROM GOD?**

God is going to send one catastrophic judgment after another on the earth during the reign of the Antichrist, but before that begins, God is going to set a seal of protection in the forehead of each believer in Christ. **Revelation 7:1-3; 9:1-4**

Paul told us that believers in Christ are appointed for salvation, not the wrath of God. **1 Thessalonians 5:9**

Has God ever done such a thing when He would judge one group of people and sparing the other? Yes, we find this during the time that God started to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt. **Exodus 8:22-23; 9:4-7, 23-26; 10:21-23; 11:4-7**

## **SUMMARY**

There will be persecution from the world government during the Great Tribulation and many Christians will die rather than submit to Satan.

Christians will be supernaturally protected from the judgments of God and will suffer no harm from the punitive judgments.

A number of Christians will survive a portion of the Great Tribulation up to the Catching Away by Jesus.

Only the believers in Christ who have spiritually prepared themselves will be able to withstand the pressure of the Great Tribulation. By faith God will take care of them just like He did with the prophet Elijah. **1 Kings 17:1-6**

God sent Elijah to a widow outside Israel when the brook dried up. **verses 7-16**

When fear overtook Elijah and he ran for his life, God sent an angel who baked special bread that gave him the strength to live on it for 40 days. **1 Kings 19:1-8**

***In for Christians to survive until Jesus comes back a second time, we need to be busy building our faith in God and learning to walk a holy life. James 1:1-8***

Are you planning and working to be a survivor in the future or are you just drifting and will become a victim?

***Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!***

***Have you made plans on how to finish your life or are you just drifting?***

**DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?**