

The Great Tribulation Has Begun

'These people are those who came out of the Great Tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb so for that reason they are before the throne of God and they serve Him day and night in His temple. God Who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again, neither will the sun beat on them nor any heat trouble them for the Lamb Who is in the midst of the throne shepherds them and leads them to springs of waters of life. God will wipe away every tear from their eyes' (Revelation 7:14 to 17).

'Those who walk blamelessly do what is right and they speak truth in their heart' (Psalm 15:2).

'Indeed there is no truth, nor goodness, nor knowledge of God in the land. There is cursing, lying, murder, stealing, adultery, they break boundaries, bloodshed causes more bloodshed' (Hosea 4:1 & 2).

Psalm 15:2 and Hosea 4:1 & 2 are two extremes of modern life written thousands of years ago. People who live in the Truth of God automatically do and say what is right. People who hate truth live in the darkness of cursing, lying, murder, theft, sexual promiscuity, lawlessness and violence. There have been many Scriptural prophecies revealing what life will be like in these last days. These are the days of the Great Tribulation as the Bible foretold. These are the days when the Bible says people will hate and suppress the Truth of God and of the Bible. 'The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness' (Romans 1:18). 'They refused to listen and turned their backs, they covered their ears so they might not hear. Yes, they made their hearts as hard as flint lest they might hear the laws (of God) and the Words (of the Bible), which the Lord has sent by His Holy Spirit by the former prophets (the Old Testament writers). Therefore great wrath came from God' (Zechariah 7:11 & 12). 'Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter' (Isaiah 5:20).

God is a God of love, mercy and forgiveness but when wickedness exceeds His tolerance, He will judge the ungodly with righteousness. He is The Righteous Judge (2 Timothy 4:8). The easy way to escape the wrath of God is to turn to Him, repent and walk with Him for life. When there is no repentance and wicked behaviour continues He does eventually become very angry. For your own sake, heed the warnings spoken by Jesus and written for us in the Bible! God sits on the universal throne but when our Creator God is dethroned by overall wickedness and evil people do not want Him to be in control, terrible things can and do happen because when people refuse to allow God to be in charge, they give the devil the authority to control their lives on earth. Before Noah was asked to build the Ark in preparation for the destruction of the entire earth and everything on it, sin, violence, rape, corruption and evil was rampant on the earth. 'When mankind began to multiply on the earth (increased population) and daughters were born to them, the (created, not born) sons of God (wicked fallen angels) saw the daughters of mankind were beautiful and they took for themselves women of all they chose (they raped the women) ... The Nephilim (wicked giant offspring born to fallen angels and human women) were on the earth in those days and also after that. When the sons of God (fallen angels) came in to mankind's daughters, the women bore children to them ... God saw the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth and every imagination of the thoughts of their heart was only evil continually ... The earth was corrupt before God and the earth was filled with violence. God saw the earth was corrupt for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth"' (Genesis 6:1 & 2, 4 & 5, 11 to 13).

Jesus warned us, before He returns to earth, the world will again be filled with these wicked behaviours. "As were the days of Noah, so will the world be before the coming of the Son of Man" (Matthew 24:37). The pre-flood population had completely turned away from God and were utterly wicked. Only Noah was seen to be righteous and the Lord saved his family solely to continue mankind through Noah's bloodline and dynasty. 'Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time. Noah walked with God ... God said to Noah, "Come with your entire household into the ship for I have seen your righteousness before Me in this generation"' (Genesis 6:9; 7:1). 'By faith Noah, being warned about things not yet seen, moved with Godly fear, prepared a ship (Ark) for the saving of his house (dynasty) through which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith' (Hebrews 11:7).

There were millions of people living on the earth during Noah's day yet he was the only person whom God said was righteous. If anyone in the world today is righteous and walks closely with the Lord, and is forced to live among wicked, godless people, think of Noah and be encouraged. God sees your righteousness. Imagine how hard life must have been for Noah living amongst millions of wicked people. Think how hard it was for Abraham being the only righteous man in his entire family of idol worshippers (James 2:23). Lot was very distressed and tortured his soul due to the wickedness of the people of Sodom, Gomorrah and the

surrounding cities (2 Peter 2:7). Job was the only righteous man amongst his neighbours (Ezekiel 14:20). Daniel was righteous and greatly beloved by the Lord but the pagans who lived around him were godless (Daniel 1:8; 10:11). Ruth was the only righteous woman among the Moabites and became an ancestor to Jesus Himself (Ruth 1:16 & 17). We are in the days of godlessness and tribulation because God is being dethroned by wickedness plus the lie of evolution, which has led more people away from God and the truth of creation than any other evil belief. There are many righteous believers who are forced to live among evil people. Stay close to God believers, and be encouraged no matter how wicked your neighbours or family are, because as we overcome these difficult circumstances we will all be rewarded by the Lord on Judgement Day. 'Those who overcome will be arrayed in white garments and I will in no way blot their name out of the Book of Life and I will confess their name before My Father and before His holy angels' (Revelation 3:5).

Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5) and just like the people in Noah's day rejected his warnings of judgement, so also in our day people reject the warnings of the Gospel of Truth and refuse to have faith. For the past four thousand years, Jewish people have been killed for their faith in God and for their steadfast adherence to the sacred Word of God – the Tenach, the Book we call the Old Testament. Over the past two thousand years since Christianity began, many millions of Christians and more Jews have been killed for their faith. One day they will all be avenged but not until all those who are to be killed for their faith have 'completed their course' and that is happening right now. Jesus warned us about the terrible times the earth would endure prior to His return. We are called to endure and be patient at this time (Revelation 13:10 & 14:12). Genuine Christian believers should support all Jewish people wherever they are around the world and we should also support Israel during this time of terrible persecution and trouble, even if it costs us our life. 'When the Lamb (Jesus) opened the fifth seal, I (Apostle John) saw beneath the altar the souls of those who had been killed for the Word of God and for the testimony of the Lamb Whom they had followed. They cried with a loud voice saying, "How long Master, the Holy and True until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" A long glistening white robe was given to each of them. They were told they should rest yet for a while until their fellow servants (other Christians) and their brothers (Jewish people) who would also be killed even as they were, should complete their course' (Revelation 6:9 to 11). 'They overcame the evil one with the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. They did not love their life even when facing death' (Revelation 12:11). 'I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus (Christians) and for the Word of God (Jewish people) ... They lived and reigned with the Messiah for one thousand years' (Revelation 20:4).

When we study the Bible, we can all learn what the Old Testament prophecies say about Israel in the era the Bible calls the time of the end, end times, last days or latter days, which is occurring right now but the Old Testament does not say a lot about what will happen to Gentiles and Gentile nations during the last days. All Gentiles who walk steadfastly with Jesus are people who are grafted into the pure 'vine' of Israel (Romans 11:17 to 24). Our spiritual roots are the teachings of the Old Testament given to the Jewish people from whom our Saviour Jesus came. Jesus was a direct descendent of Jesse, the father of King David. The Lord declared, "A Shoot (Jesus) will come out of the stock of Jesse and a Branch (Nazarene) out of his roots will bear (spiritual) fruit ... It will happen in that day (after the resurrection of Jesus to our present day) the nations (Gentiles) will seek the root of Jesse (Jesus) Who stands as a signal (sign, banner, flag, ensign) to the (Jewish) peoples" (Isaiah 11:1 & 10). 'There will be the Descendant of Jesse, He Who arises to rule over the Gentiles. In Him the Gentiles will hope' (Romans 15:12). Our lives with God are inextricably intertwined with the Jewish people and Israel. What they suffer, Gentiles will suffer. When they are persecuted so too will genuine Christians be persecuted. When they are blessed, Gentiles are blessed. The Lord's pattern is always the Jew first then the Gentiles (Romans 1:16).

Our only hope of eternal life is in Jesus and as Gentiles many of us were not raised in the knowledge of the Lord like Jewish children normally are. It is very important for us to study the Bible and look to the words of Jesus and the apostles to help guide us through the difficult life as it will be, during the Great Tribulation. However, the New Testament gives us many warnings regarding the end times. We have written here some dire warnings spoken by Jesus and the apostles regarding the Gentiles during the last days to warn Gentiles what to expect before our Messiah comes again. We need to look up to Him because our salvation draws nearer (Luke 21:28). Jesus said several times, "Those with ears, let them hear" (Matthew 13:43). Or in other words, those who have opened their spiritual ears, let them hear and take notice of the warnings. Jesus said we would be persecuted (Matthew 5:10 to 12) but victims of persecution will be greatly rewarded in heaven. 'All who desire to live godly lives in Jesus will suffer persecution' (2 Timothy 3:12). In some nations in the past and currently in some Islamic countries, Jewish people and Christians are beheaded just for believing in the God of Israel. Persecution of Jewish people and Christians has increased dramatically but we must keep our eyes firmly on God and on our eternal life, and not be fearful of intense persecution. 'Do not be afraid of them ... Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul. Rather fear God Who is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna' (Matthew 10:26 & 28). 'You will be hated by all people for My name's sake but those who endure to the end will be saved' (Matthew 10:22). 'Blessed are you when people

hate you and when they exclude and mock you, and throw out your name as evil for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy for behold, your reward in heaven is great for their forefathers did the same thing to the prophets' (Luke 6:22 & 23).

Jesus warned us about family breakdown and hostility within our own households because of our strong belief and faith in Him as our Saviour. 'Brother will deliver up brother to death and the father his child. Children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death ... Our enemies will be those in our own household' (Matthew 10:21 & 36). 'They will be divided, father against son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against her mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law' (Luke 12:52 & 53). Jesus said the incidences of war would increase. 'You will hear of wars and rumours of wars (civil war) ... Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom' (Matthew 24:6 & 7). 'When you hear of wars and disturbances do not be terrified for these things must happen first but the end will not come immediately' (Luke 21:9). Ethnic groups within a country who have previously lived side by side in harmony for hundreds of years, are suddenly turning on each other causing violent civil wars as neighbours, friends and family turn on each other, just as we were warned.

Jesus told us 2,000 years ago the sun, moon, stars, climate and weather patterns would change. Those occurrences cause famine, disease and epidemics. Earthquakes and volcanic activity are on the rise. Meteors streak across the sky more frequently, some landing on the earth. Strange things are happening around the world, like unidentifiable noises coming from the sky, fish in the thousands falling from the sky, strange lights glow at night and other weird things. The sun will sometimes be dim and weak and other times it will become seven times brighter and hotter. 'The earth quakes before them (the ungodly). The heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened and the stars withdraw their light' (Joel 2:10). 'There will be famines, plagues, epidemics and earthquakes in various places (around the world)' (Matthew 24:7). 'There will be famines and troubles' (Mark 13:8). 'There will be fearful sights, terrors and great signs from heaven ... There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth there will be anxiety and bewilderment in the nations, perplexed for the strange roaring of the sea, increased sea levels and the waves (tidal surges, tidal waves, tsunamis), men fainting for fear and expectation of the terrible things which are coming on the world for the powers of the heavens will be shaken ... When these terrible things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads because your redemption is near ... When you see these things happening, know the Kingdom of God is near ... Be careful or your hearts will be loaded down with ... cares of this life and that day will come on you suddenly' (Luke 21:11, 25 to 34). 'The light of the moon will be as bright the light of the sun and the light of the sun will be seven times brighter' (Isaiah 30:26). 'The fourth holy angel poured out his bowl on the sun and permission was given to the sun to scorch men with great heat. People were scorched with great heat and people blasphemed the name of God Who has the power over all these plagues, but they did not repent and give God glory' (Revelation 16:8 & 9).

Apostle John warned us one third of the earth would be destroyed then one third of the world's population would be killed, causing a dramatic drop in the world's population. That will cause people to be rarer than gold. 'The first shofar (ram's horn) sounded and that brought hail and fire mixed with blood to be thrown to the earth. One third of the earth was burnt up. One third of the trees were burnt up and all green grass was burnt up. The second angel blew the shofar and something like a great burning mountain (perhaps a massive meteor) was thrown into the sea. One third of the sea became blood. One third of the living creatures in the sea died. One third of the ships were destroyed. The third angel blew the shofar and a great star (perhaps a comet or a rock of toxic gas) fell from the sky burning like a torch, and it fell on one third of the rivers and on the springs of the waters. The name of the star is called, 'Wormwood' (bitter, sulphuric, poisonous, toxic). One third of the waters became wormwood (poisonous). Many people died from drinking the waters because they were made bitter (poisonous). The fourth angel blew the shofar and one third of the sun was struck, one third of the moon and one third of the stars so one third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for one third of it and the night in the same way ... Four angels (of death) were freed who had been prepared for that hour, day, month and year so they might kill one third of mankind' (Revelation 8:7 to 12; 9:15). These judgements are because of sin and wickedness. God warned us all these things would happen around the world in these last days. 'The hands of all wicked people will be feeble and everyone's heart will melt. They will be dismayed. Pangs and sorrows will seize them ... They will look in amazement one at another. Their faces will be like red flame. Behold, the day of God comes with wrath and fierce anger to make the earth a desolation and to destroy its sinners out of it. The stars of the sky and its constellations will not give their light. The sun will be darkened and the moon will not cause its light to shine. I, the Lord will punish the world for their evil and the wicked for their iniquity. I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease and will humble the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make people more rare than fine gold, a person rarer than pure gold. I will make the heavens tremble and the earth will be shaken out of its place in the wrath of God ... The Jewish people (who have not yet returned to Israel) will turn to their own people and will flee to their own land (Israel) (Isaiah 13:7 to 14).

Jesus alerted us to the fact the love Christians should have for each other will grow cold. That is happening right now. Weaker Christians will stop loving God and each other, fall away from Jesus then begin to hate the more dedicated believers. Crime, lawlessness and sin will increase dramatically. 'Many will stumble (fall away from Jesus) and will deliver up one another and will hate one another ... Because iniquity and lawlessness will be multiplied, the love of many Christians will grow cold' (Matthew 24:10 & 12). 'As the days of Noah were evil, so will be the days before the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating, drinking and marrying (living normal lives) until the day Noah entered into the Ark. They did not understand the warnings until the flood came and destroyed them all, so will be the sudden coming of the Son of Man' (Matthew 24:37 to 39). One of the things that marked Noah's generation was violence and we live in a very violent world. Wars, street violence, domestic violence, gang violence, abortion, rape and murders are rampant around the world. Violent crime is on the increase all over the world. Violence brings God's judgement. The earth was filled with violence in Noah's day and the Lord said He would destroy the earth because it. Wickedness and violence were the reasons the Lord was going to destroy Nineveh (Jonah 1:2; 3:8). The Lord hates wickedness and violence (Psalm 11:5).

Other evils that permeated Noah's generation were corruption on every level of their society, selfishness, self-centredness, greed, dishonesty, homosexuality and every form of sexual immorality was rampant. That was one activity that helped bring down the Lord's judgement. According to written history, in the days of Noah homosexual couples were given certificates of marriage, publicly sanctioning their depravity. The whole population ignored Noah's warnings and continued living their depraved lives as though nothing was going to happen, just like people do today. Jesus said the people did not understand until it was too late – and the flood came. 'God did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness. He brought a flood on the world of ungodly people' (2 Peter 2:5). The world's population increased (Genesis 6:1). As the population increased, so did the depravity increase, knowledge increased, sin increased, rebellion increased, immorality increased and it seems there was no moral fibre within those people to bring restraint and the world is currently going in the same direction. The Lord has written the story of Noah, Sodom and Gomorrah to inform and warn us (2 Peter 2:6; Jude 1:7).

God hates all sexual sin but He especially hates homosexuality, incest, paedophilia and lesbianism. He does not hate the people He hates their sin and disobedience to His divine order. If they repent and give up their depravity He will forgive them and accept them as He does for anyone who repents and turns to Him. Sadly, the world hates the truth of the Bible so they hate hearing about how much God hates homosexuality because it is a form of idolatry. 'Put to death your members of lust, all sexual immorality, uncleanness, depraved passion, evil desire and covetousness which is idolatry, for which things the wrath of God comes on the children of disobedience' (Colossians 3:5 & 6). If people refuse to repent of their homosexuality, eventually God gives up on them. 'God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness so their bodies should be dishonoured among themselves, who exchanged the Truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature (themselves) rather than the Creator Who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason, God gave them up to vile passions, women changed the natural function into what is against nature. Likewise the men, leaving the natural function of the woman, burned in their lust toward one another, men doing what is inappropriate with other men and receiving in their bodies the due penalty (illnesses) of their sin. Because they refuse to have God in their knowledge, God gave them up to a reprobate mind to do those things which are not appropriate' (Romans 1:24 to 28). It is shocking for modern churches to accept practising homosexuals, lesbians or paedophiles in leadership when we consider how much God hates that type of sin. Those who repent and stay clean should be accepted as any other repentant person but those who continue in their sin should never have any church leadership. The words homophobic and homophobia are greatly misused. A phobia is great fear. Genuine God fearing believers are not homophobic, they do not fear homosexuals, they are obedient to God's Word and are repulsed and disgusted by the depth of depravity of the homosexual act.

Jesus warned us about false teachers, false prophets and false messiahs. In our lifetime we had an evil false teacher/prophet/messiah named David Koresh who helped create a massacre of his deceived followers in Jonestown. Some of the survivors of the massacre still foolishly believe Koresh was the messiah. Our true Messiah was Jewish, born in Israel, observed the laws of Moses, preached in Synagogues and founded Christianity with His apostles after His resurrection (1 Corinthians 3:11). His Hebrew name was Jeshua, meaning Saviour or Salvation, pronounced Yeshua but the Greek translation of His name is Jesus. His name was given to Him by God before He was born (Matthew 1:21) and He will forever be known as Jeshua the Messiah (Hebrews 6:20; 13:8; 2 Peter 3:18). Jesus/Jeshua is the one and only Way, Truth and Life and nobody can enter heaven unless we accept Him (John 14:6) as the one true Messiah. There is no other Messiah so we must be on our guard and focused on the Lord and the Bible so we are not deceived and led astray by any false messiah or false prophet. Jeshua warned, "Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but are inwardly ravening wolves," (Matthew 7:15) and, "Be careful no one leads you astray. Many will come in My name saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and will lead many astray ... Many false prophets

(and false teachers) will arise and will lead many astray ... If anyone tells you, 'Behold, here is the Messiah,' or 'There He is,' do not believe it, for there will arise false messiahs and false prophets and they will show great signs and wonders so as to lead astray, if possible even the elect (Jews and Christians) ... If they tell you, 'Behold, the messiah is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, the messiah is in a secret room,' do not believe it ... Behold, I have warned you beforehand" (Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, 23, 24 to 26).

We also have to be aware of some ministers of religion who push their own 'religious' agenda, usually for financial gain, as they deny the power and sovereignty of God, they ignore the blood and cross of Jesus but continue teaching a watered down Gospel. 'Know this, in the last days grievous, perilous times will come. Mankind will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, unforgiving, slanderers, lacking self-control, fierce, no lovers of good, traitors, headstrong, rebellious, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying the power of God. Turn away from these people. There are those who creep into houses and take (emotionally) captive gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning yet are never able to come to the knowledge of the Truth. These people oppose the Truth. Men corrupted in mind, reprobate concerning the faith ... Evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived' (2 Timothy 3:1 to 13). Notice they have a 'form' of godliness or religion but they oppose the Truth of the Gospel, the Bible and the Truth of God Himself.

We also have to be on our guard against people who profess to be Christian but are in reality, evil people in the guise of Christianity. Jesus called them 'wolves in sheep's clothing' (Matthew 7:15), 'tares' or 'darnel' which is a false, toxic form of wheat (Matthew 13:25 to 40) and 'goats' (Matthew 25:32, 33 & 41). They too have a form of godliness but deny God (2 Timothy 3:5). These cults are extremely destructive and have caused generational destruction. Scientology is one such wicked cult that claims to be a religion for the sole purpose of tax avoidance. Islam is another false religion founded by a false prophet/teacher and they are the only religion that beheads God's people (see Revelation 20:4). Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses and closed Brethren are all false religions without conscience but there are others. Those who have spiritual ears, listen to and take notice of what the Bible says. 'False prophets arose among the people, as false teachers will be among you who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, denying the Master who bought them to salvation, bringing on themselves swift destruction. Many will follow their immoral ways and as a result, the way of the Truth will be maligned. In covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words ... They are as unreasoning creatures, born natural animals to be taken and destroyed, speaking evil in matters about which they are ignorant, will in their destroying be destroyed, receiving the wages of unrighteousness, people who count it pleasure to revel in the daytime, revelling in their deceit while they feast with you, having eyes full of adultery and who cannot cease from sin, enticing unsettled souls, having a heart trained in greed, children of cursing, forsaking the right way they went astray ... they are wells without water, clouds driven by a storm for whom the blackness of darkness (in Sheol) has been reserved forever. Uttering great swelling words of emptiness they entice in the lusts of the flesh by materialism, escape from those who live in error, promising liberty while they themselves are slaves of corruption, for a man is brought into bondage by whoever overcomes him' (2 Peter 2:1 to 19).

The Bible also tells us, 'These people speak evil of whatever things they do not understand. What they understand naturally, like creatures without reason, they are destroyed in these things. Woe to them! ... These are hidden rocky reefs in your feasts when they feast with you, shepherds without fear who feed themselves, clouds without water carried along by winds, autumn leaves without fruit, twice dead (going to Sheol), plucked up by the roots, wild waves of the sea foaming out their own shame, wandering stars for whom the blackness of darkness (Sheol) has been reserved forever. Enoch, the seventh generation from Adam prophesied saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His holy angels to execute judgment on all wickedness and to convict all the ungodly of all their evil works of ungodliness. Things they have done in an ungodly way and of all the wicked things the ungodly sinners have spoken against the Son of God." These are murmurers and complainers, walking after their lusts and their mouth speaks proud things, showing favouritism to gain advantage' (Jude 1:10 to 16). 'They refuse to have God in their knowledge so God gave them up to a reprobate mind to do those things which are not appropriate, being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil habits, secret slanderers, backbiters, hateful to God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, unforgiving, unmerciful, who knowing the ordinance of God, those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but approve of those who practice them' (Romans 1:28 to 32).

Jesus said there would be obvious signs His arrival is imminent and the first of those signs is the Great Tribulation. 'As Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives the disciples came to Him privately asking, "Tell us, when will these things happen? What is the sign of Your (second) coming and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3). Jesus could not at that time answer the question of when He just said, "No one knows that day and

hour, not even the holy angels of heaven nor the Son (Jesus Himself) but My Father only" (Matthew 24:36). The sign preceding His second coming is the wickedness of the world, which will usher in the Great Tribulation of war, famine, plagues, pestilences, earthquakes, volcanoes, violence, sexual promiscuity and persecution of Jews and Christians and these are just the beginning of earth's sorrows (Matthew 24:7 & 8). We all have to be ready for His return. Jesus said, "When you see all these things happening, know that it (His second coming) is near, even at the doors ... Watch therefore, for you do not know in what hour your Lord comes ... Be ready, for in an hour you do not expect the Son of Man will come ... but watch, keep alert and pray for you do not know when the time is ... Watch therefore, for you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether at evening or at midnight or ... in the morning, lest coming suddenly He might find you sleeping (complacent). What I tell you I tell all; Watch" (Matthew 24:33, 42 & 44; Mark 13:33, 35 to 37). Notice the apostles asked about the end of the age not the end of the world. The end of the age will be the fulfilment of the age of grace, which began when Jesus began His ministry and will end at His return.

Jesus did not say we would be 'raptured' out of these terrible world events. He did say several times, "Only those who endure to the end (of the tribulation) will be saved" (Matthew 10:22; 24:13). Only those who have endured the difficulties throughout the Great Tribulation will enjoy the rewards revealed in the opening verses. The Bible reveals to us Jesus will return only after the Great Tribulation is over and He will come as suddenly as a flash of lightning. Jesus said immediately after the Great Tribulation the sign He is about to arrive will be seen, then after more troubles and many people from around the world have mourned and repented of their sin, He will appear as suddenly as a flash of lightning and the whole world will see Him and know He has finally arrived. 'Immediately after the Tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. All the tribes of the earth will mourn and then (after a period of mourning) they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory ... for just as lightning flashes from the east and is seen in the west, so will be the (sudden) coming of the Son of Man' (Matthew 24:27, 29 & 30). 'They (all humanity) will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory' (Luke 21:27). We need to take every opportunity to share the Gospel of the Kingdom because until the whole earth in this generation has heard the Gospel, Jesus will not return and the suffering will continue. 'This Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached around the entire world for a testimony to all the nations and then the end (of the Tribulation) will come. There will be great oppression (tribulation, distress), such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever will be again' (Matthew 24:14 & 21). Jewish people and Christians along with the ungodly of this age will suffer through the Great Tribulation but only the righteous ones will be invited to reign with Jesus. 'They will see His face and His name will be on their foreheads. There will be no night and they need no lamp light for the Lord God will illuminate them. They will reign forever and ever' (Revelation 22:4 & 5).

We have to prepare ourselves for His coming and we must be ready. God will not make us ready, we have to make ourselves ready. 'Let us rejoice and be exceedingly glad. Let us give God the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His Bride has made herself ready' (Revelation 19:7). Jesus warned us repeatedly to be ready for His coming. It is to our own peril we ignore the warnings of Jesus and the apostles. We need to watch, wait and expect Jesus to come. There is no way out. We must endure right to the end of this Great Tribulation, which is happening right now. Jesus warned, "Be careful, or your hearts will be loaded down with ... cares of this life and that day will come on you suddenly. It will come like a snare on all those who dwell on the surface of all the earth. Be watchful all the time, praying you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will happen and to stand (righteous) before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:34 to 36). We cannot risk allowing His coming to be a snare to us but by waiting expectantly, preparing our hearts and praying we will be found worthy to escape judgement, His coming will be a wonderful experience. "Who are these who are arrayed in white robes and from where did they come?" "These are the elect (genuine, dedicated, Godly disciples both Jewish and Christians) who came out of the Great Tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:13 & 14). Jesus said, "Behold, I will come suddenly. My reward is with Me to repay to each person according to their work ... Yes, I will come suddenly." Amen! Yes, come quickly Lord Jesus (Revelation 22:12 & 20).

Amen and God bless you.

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