

Should we Prepare for a Time of Tribulation/Terror?

In January of 2009, I started feeling in my spirit that I/we must begin preparing for the time that Jesus called “...**a time of Great Tribulation**” (Matthew 24:21). Because conditions in our world are spiraling/spinning downward at such an accelerating rate, more and more I am feeling in my spirit that the time Jesus spoke about is very near. Yes, it will be a time of unimaginable warfare, deception, pain, suffering, hopelessness, and death. The Bible says that a third of mankind will die (Revelation 9:18). By my figures, that is over 2 billion people. And, I am convinced it will be a nuclear holocaust.

Now, many don't believe a loving heavenly father will permit such a thing. Did he not permit a holocaust in Noah's day when innocent little babies drowned by the millions? Did he not permit a holocaust in the days of Hitler, Stalin, and Mao Zedong when probably more than 100 million were killed? Didn't he allow the whole nation of Israel to be destroyed in 586 BC because of their idolatry, sins, and rebellion? After Jerusalem was rebuilt, God once again allowed the whole nation to be destroyed 656 years later: in 70 AD. Hasn't he permitted a holocaust in this world's abortion clinics—now approaching 50 million dead in America the last 45 years? And if our new president has his way (this being written in 2009), there will be many more. (China's abortion clinics have probably killed a lot more than the American abortionists.) He, our new president, has said that he will promote laws that require all hospitals to provide abortion services. At the same time, the Catholic Church said that if those laws ever pass they, the Catholics, have said they will shut down every Catholic hospital in America—almost 600 of them.

The heavenly father has also given me to understand that the time of **Great Tribulation** will be a short war; it will not last seven years as many preachers, ministers, theologians, Bible scholars are teaching. (He has also confirmed this to me.)

Now, the big question: How does a person prepare for **the Time of Great Tribulation**? Two ways: The first and most important answer is prepare spiritually; that is, draw near to God, repent of all of our sins, seek a close, intimate relationship with our heavenly father, put away our sins. For most people, this will be an individual matter.

However, there could also be a physical preparation. Few will prepare for such, and who among us knows how to prepare for such a time of terror/tribulation? This is just my thoughts on this matter; the heavenly father has not spoken this to me: The book of **Revelation** also speaks of “the camp of the saints”. It seems to me that there will be many such groups/camps throughout the world. Small groups of believers will gather in remote areas of the world and help one another as if they were a natural family. There is a saying that goes: “Spirit is thicker than blood.” Our spiritual relationships are stronger ties than those with our natural blood relatives. These will not be easy to establish. Most people have their own agendas and pre-conceived notions of how things should be done. Yes, each will have to humble him/herself down and submit to the unity of the whole group. Outsiders seeking to join will also need to be accepted according to our Lord's teaching: “I was a stranger, and you took me in.” When the enemy approaches, we will need to look to God's protection rather than to lean on the arm of flesh. Study again in the Bible the stories how Israel was delivered by divine intervention rather than by armed warfare:

① The destruction of Jericho —Joshua chapters 5&6

② Daniel’s deliverance from the den of lions —Daniel chapter 6

③ Daniel’s three friends delivered from an overheated furnace —Daniel chapter 3

④ Paul and Silas delivered from the Philippian jail —Acts 16:19-34

⑥ Peter delivered from prison twice: Acts 5:17-20 & 12:1-11

⑦ Under King Jehoshaphat’s leadership —2nd Chronicles 20. This king put his choir (his praisers) at the head of the army praising God, and God destroyed the enemy. Jehoshaphat’s army did not do any fighting.

⑧ And there are others in the Bible and history.

According to Jesus’ own teachings, most will not walk in his way and trust him. When he was asked if few would be saved, his answer indicated that the answer to that question is Yes, only a few would be saved. We have many examples in the Bible:

This is how he answered them: “Make every effort to enter through the narrow gate, I’m telling you, many will try to enter in, but will not be able to” Luke 13:24. Millions have heard this message, but have made light of it. Others just don’t believe it—but they continue to call themselves Christians. Some know that great evil lies ahead, but are so driven by their own cravings and lusts, that their minds cannot think of anything else but their momentary pleasures.

There are plenty of places in the Bible that point to a minority or a remnant being saved:

In Noah’s day, only 8 people out of a possible population of one billion.

In Lot’s day, only 3 from the whole district—about a half dozen towns and villages.

The frequent use of the word “remnant” in the Bible.

In Elijah’s day, there were only 7000 who did not bow the knee to Baal out of the whole nation.

At the end of his life, Paul said, “All men have forsaken me”

At one time, Jesus brought out a message that was so strong that the Bible says that everyone forsook him except the 12—and he looked at them and said, “don’t you want to go also?” And even among them, only one, Peter, gave Jesus a positive reply.

What can we say if God chooses only a minuscule remnant? He is still God, and he knows things that we do not know. To you, my readers, I say again, Make every effort to enter in, make it the primary quest of your life, put everything you have and are into entering into God’s kingdom. We are playing with serious things—with all of eternity.

Amen.

Written by Brother James