

# Rapture or Tribulation - Which Are You Ready For?

*Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*

I just wanted to give you something to think about: There are so many things going on in this world, and in case you haven't been paying attention, we are living in the last of the last days! We are experiencing earthquakes, pestilences, seeing wars and catastrophic events all over the world like never before! We are seeing lawlessness and the love of people grow cold. There are unthinkable things being done to people, both to the young and old alike, with no natural affection. All of the signs are there that the Bible prophesied. Good is considered as bad, and bad is considered as good, just as God said would happen. Sin and evil in every aspect has been rampant and we see it getting worse every day.

On the bright side, though, as we see all of these things coming, we will also see Jesus coming and rescuing His bride (the church) out of all of the terrors that will be taking place on earth. Just think: Right now, our enemy the devil, is causing all of the trouble on this earth. One day very soon, it will be God who will be pouring His wrath out on the people left on the earth after the rapture, who rejected Him and who lived their own selfish ways. This is what the Bible calls the tribulation period, which will be seven years long. God's Word says that it will be the worst time that the earth has ever seen! God will pour out terrible plagues on the earth. There will be much suffering, heartache, and pain! This will happen to the people who were against God, His Word,

and His way. It will happen to the people who were against God's sons and daughters and for the ones who didn't truly serve God and actually KNOW Him! They may even have been faithful to attend church, but they didn't spend the time that it takes in God's Word (the Bible) and in prayer, in order to have a good relationship with Him! They didn't do what He says to do in His Word, and they weren't led of Him because they didn't recognize His voice! They were led by the flesh and not by the Spirit. The Bible says that eternal life is to KNOW the Lord! (John 17:3) The Bible also says that God's sheep hear and know His voice and are led by Him! (John 10:3, 4) *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:6-8)*

The Bible says that if you are lukewarm, God will spew you out of His mouth – you won't make heaven! (Revelation 3:15-16) There are many people who call themselves Christians, who are deceived into thinking that just because they quoted a prayer, that they are ready for heaven and for the rapture! The Bible says to pray that you are counted worthy! It says to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling! (Philippians 2:12) God is very serious about sin – He sent His only Son to suffer and die for your sins, and if you are still in sin in any way, (word, thought or deed) even though you prayed a "sinner's" prayer, you will spend eternity with the one that you obeyed (the devil) in hell and eventually in the lake of fire. God is a just God and He shows no favoritism – He loves everyone the same and will judge every person according to their obedience to His Word.

You may think this sounds harsh, but just think about it: we were all born sinners thanks to Adam. Every single person born after him is doomed to go to hell, but God sent Jesus to earth so He could take our place and die for OUR sins so we don't have to! We can now CHOOSE to receive Jesus and what all He did for us as our payment for our sins and make Him the Lord of our lives and receive forgiveness of sins and be reconciled back to God! You see, Adam was put in charge of this world after God made Him. God gave Him dominion over all of the works of His hands – the earth, the animals, the plants and trees – everything! Adam was in charge! When the devil tempted Eve and she ate of the tree, Adam followed in her steps. They did what God told them not to do, which was to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and they became spiritually dead – God's Spirit left them! Satan now had the dominion and authority over the world that God had given to Adam! He handed it over to him! Satan became the god of this world. (1 Corinthians 4:4) Now you understand why all of the bad things are happening around us! The devil knows that he is about out of time, so he's been working overtime to do everything he can do to deceive as many people as he can - to steal from them, and to kill and destroy them! (John 10:10)

When we receive Jesus as the Lord of our lives and repent of our sins, God's Spirit that had left Adam when He sinned, comes back inside of us! We become new creatures (1 Corinthians 5:17) – We become the person that God originally made us to be! After you get born again (saved) the next step you must take is to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit! Jesus told His disciples to wait for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4) – God's Holy Spirit that Jesus sent to them when He ascended into heaven. God filled them with Himself by filling them with His Holy

Spirit to overflowing! Now they had the power of God within them to be witnesses for Him! (Acts 1: 8) Then God could do signs, wonders, and miracles through them! Ephesians 5:18 says to be filled with the Spirit! Read the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25. Only the five who were filled with the Spirit (oil) were the ones who went in the rapture and to the Supper of the Lamb when the bridegroom (Jesus) came to get them! They were the wise virgins who stayed full of God – the ones who read His Word and stayed faithful to Him – who had a relationship with Him and were obedient to Him. They were filled with God’s Spirit and were ready and waiting for His return!

Our heavenly Father has given us so much time to repent. He is so merciful, and isn’t willing that any perish, (2 Peter 3:9) but soon the door will be closed and no one else will be able to enter the boat! Matthew 24:37 says that the coming of the Son of man will be as the days of Noah was. We are there now – look at the signs all around you - even the signs in the sky! Wake up! The temple in Israel is being set up now! They have the altar all ready for the red heifer to be sacrificed on it! They have what they need for inside the temple: the priestly garments, the trained men who will be working in it, the utensils, and what they call the furniture. They still have to build the temple, but they can sacrifice without it being built. Do you realize what this means? Do you understand how close we are to the return of Christ? The very day that the peace treaty is signed between Israel and the other nations around them, is day one of the tribulation period which is seven years to the day! The One World Kingdom will be set up, the mark of the beast will be put in effect, and the antichrist will be known throughout the world! The mark of the beast will probably be a chip and it will be put in peoples’ right hand or their forehead. Without it

you won't be able to buy anything – no food, water, medicine – nothing! In the second half of the tribulation period, which is the last three and a half years, whoever doesn't comply and receive the mark will be put to death by beheading! (Revelation 20:4) Whoever takes this mark will have absolutely no chance of ever making heaven! *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. (Revelation 14:9-11)*

Look around you at all of the signs – we are already in the beast system. In Daniel 2 it tells us about the five ruling kingdoms that would be on the earth and you may have remembered who they were from your school history book! The first one prophesied was Babylon, the second were the Medes and Persians, and the third were the Grecians with Alexander the Great. The fourth was the Roman Empire, which was the one in charge while Jesus was on this earth. The fifth ruling kingdom to be on the earth is the one being set up right now, which will be part of the old Roman Empire. In the book of Daniel, in the dream that King Nebuchadnezzar had, this world ruling kingdom was represented in the ten toes of the statue that he dreamed about. The toes in the dream were the iron mixed with clay. There will be ten nations coming together as one who will rule this entire earth.

Many people don't have a clue to what is going on and why so many bad things seem to be happening. My advice to you is to get in to the Word of God for yourself and see! The most important thing is to be ready for Jesus' return and to be waiting for Him to rescue you out of this chaos - You don't want to be left behind! Repent of your sins and live the righteous, sinless, and victorious life that Jesus gave you the authority through His name to live! Be filled with God to overflowing through His Spirit and receive the power it takes to do what He called you to do! Get in a Spirit filled church that teaches you how to use your God-given authority to live in victory over all of the devil's attacks! Learn how to use the promises of God in every area of your life and how to help those around you. *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (Mark 16:17, 18)*

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father. (John 14:12)* God wants to use you in mighty ways! He wants to show Himself strong through you and use you to bring people to Himself! He wants His power to be seen in and through you! Don't get discouraged – keep moving forward and do what God called you to do. *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)*

*And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. (Luke 21:28)*

If you want to read more about the last days, read Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 17 and 21, 1 Thessalonians 4-5, 2 Thessalonians 2, 2 Timothy 3, and the book of Revelations of course!

Jody