

WHEN DO CHRISTIANS RISE TO MEET THE LORD?

5/3/23

Qualifier... These notes in no way support or allude to the 'secret rapture' nor any other futurist concepts.

1. The first aim of this short study, is to distinguish the age ending actions brought about by mankind, as opposed to and in conjunction with, the age ending destruction by the hand of God (accompanying the return of Christ).

2. The second is to establish what happens to the saints (overcoming Christians), while God's fiery judgment is in process. Many people seem to be confused as to what happens when these two events collide. Some saints feel that God's people are going to be subject to the fiery judgment of God while others feel that God is more loving and merciful than to allow that to happen. There are a few different opinions on these things, but the following is a consistent theme.

Learning starts with the nature of God... if you know God's nature, it simplifies getting wisdom and knowledge from the scriptures.

God wants us to know who he is and what he stands for. JER 9:24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD. While we are in the world we are subjected to diseases, violence, war and natural disasters; to all of which the Lord has strongly suggested, that prayer can be very effective counter measure. However, at the point when God determines that the Holy Spirit will no longer be poured out (the end of the New Testament age), and the fiery judgment of God begins... at this point the saints will be gathered together by the Lord, while the earth faces God's wrath. This cleansing process is both catastrophic, yet vital; as it allows the earth to get a fresh start without the pollution of 6000 years of human rebellion and corruption. This study will reveal that the saints are protected from the wrath of God... the rest of the world isn't. However, the judgment at the end of the millennium (the thousand year rule) is the final judgment and is not the same as the Lord's fiery judgment at his return.

The principles of God never change... if you know the principles you can work out the answers.

The bible reveals and confirms that Noah's ark and the events surrounding that watery judgment, to be a precedent for the next judgment. We are clearly told that judgment by fire, would be the second major judgment to fall on a wilfully ignorant world. **2PET 3:6** Whereby the world that then was, being **overflowed with water**, perished: **7** But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, **reserved unto fire** against the day of judgment and **perdition** (sentencing) of ungodly men.

Comparing the scriptures with themselves.

We will start by comparing what happened with Noah and the ark and current prophecy. GEN 7:16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and **the LORD shut him in**. God shut the door of the ark, not Noah. The door was shut before the rain came, but after all the animals had been collected and loaded. Very clearly, the judgment came after those that were to be delivered were in a place of safety. The rain and floods surrounded the ark, but had no effect on the occupants.

Jesus is very specific when he compares the almost identical nature of the water and fire judgments.

He also gives clear details on the like nature of the protection and survival offered to the saints. LUK 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. **27** They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. The first example... The flood came after Noah was in the ark and the door was shut and sealed by God himself.

28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; **29** But the **same day that Lot went out of Sodom** it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. The second example... At the same moment that God's people were safe... then came the destruction.

30 Even thus shall it be (same conclusion for both Noah and Lot) **in the day when the Son of man is revealed.** Jesus confirms that it will be just the same at the end of this age... the sequence and manner of our deliverance is clearly confirmed by God.

Jesus, again confirms that there is a way of escape. LUK 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted **worthy to escape** all these things that shall come to pass (Acts 2:38), and to stand before the **Son of man**.

MAT 24:29 Immediately after the **tribulation** of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: **30** And then shall appear the **sign of the Son of man** in heaven: and then shall **all the tribes of the earth mourn**, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. **31** And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds (the whole planet), from one end of heaven to the other (not in chronological order, however the next references are time specific!). **&37** But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **38** For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, **39** And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the **Son of man be** (Jesus identifies with his humanity in the new world). This is another account that confirms the link between Noah and the return of the Lord.

2PET 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto **fire** against the day of **judgment and perdition** (sentencing) of **ungodly men**. (The fiery judgment is against the ungodly... not the saints).

The gathering of the Lord's people is not secret and will be obvious to those who are with or near them.

Other observations relating to Christ's return. LUK 17:34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two *men* in one bed; the **one shall be taken**, and the **other shall be left**. **35** Two *women* shall be grinding together; the **one shall be taken**, and the **other left**. **36** Two *men* shall be in the field; the one shall be **taken**, and the **other left**.

Gen
Exo
Lev
Num
Deu
Jos
Jud
Rut
1Sam
2Sam
1Kin
2Kin
1Chr
2Chr
Ezr
Neh
Est
Job
Psa
Pro
Ecc
Sol
Isa
Jer
Lam
Eze
Dan
Hos
Joe
Amo
Oba
Jon
Mic
Nah
Hab
Zep
Hag
Zec
Mal

Mat
Mar
Luk
Joh
Act
Rom
1Cor
2Cor
Gal
Eph
Phi
Col
1The
2The
1Tim
2Tim
Tit
Phm
Heb
Jam
1Pet
2Pet
1Joh
2Joh
3Joh
Jud
Rev

PSA 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. **2** I will say of the LORD, *He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.* **3** Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and from the noisome pestilence.* **4** He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: **his truth shall be thy (defence) shield and buckler. &7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee** *(the saints are protected).* **8 Only with thine eyes** shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

This scripture also reveals the fate of those who fail to believe God... it will not end well for them; but they have a choice.

MAT 13:29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. **30 Let both grow together until the harvest:** and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, **Gather ye together first the tares,** and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. *The burning happens after the gathering... not before and not during.*

The Tribulation...

'Great tribulation' is not a scriptural singular event; rather, the term 'tribulation' and 'great tribulation' are often used interchangeably. However, the term... 'The great tribulation' and 'The antichrist' are both false statements that are wrongly used to justify the secret/rapture and conspiracy theories. The word 'the' is never placed before 'great tribulation' nor is it used before the word 'antichrist' in the bible. This is the only three times when the phrase 'great tribulation' is used. The phrase 'The great tribulation' and 'The antichrist', is never used in scripture... is only used to promote false prophecy by people with limited scriptural knowledge..

MAT 24:21 For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. *This phrase doesn't single out any particular event. Rather, the surrounding context warns about the armies surrounding Jerusalem (holy place) and then goes on to warn about false Christs and false prophets.*

REV 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into **great tribulation**, except they repent of their deeds. *This was written to the church at Thyatira.*

REV 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of **great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. *This is a clear reference to all overcoming saints, not just a select group. They don't have to overcome the end time destruction, because we have already seen that the Lord will deliver them before it takes place. Great tribulation is common for many, both within and without the church, but for differing reasons. The church struggles with the failings, criticisms and persecution of the Godless; while the unbelievers struggle to live without Godly principles and the unsolvable mess they create trying to reinvent the purposes of their existence.*

The target of God's wrath. **REV 16:8** And the fourth angel poured out his vial **upon the sun**; and power was given unto him to **scorch men with fire**. *Prophecies often have more than one layer of application... consider the consistent use of fire.* **9** And men were **scorched with great heat**, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. *This is to the unsaved... not the saints.*

MAL 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall **burn as an oven**; and all the **proud**, yea, and all that do **wickedly** *(not the saints... compare with the wheat and tares)*, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch *(all cultures and families will be destroyed due to the poor choices they have made).*

The Moment of Christ's' return... his saints are already in safety.

MIC 1:3 For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth. **4** And the mountains shall be **molten under him**, and the valleys shall be **cleft** *(split and divided)*, as **wax before the fire**, *and as the waters that are poured down a steep place. Molten earth flowing like water.*

NAH 1:5 The mountains quake at him, and the **hills melt**, and the **earth is burned at his presence**, yea, the world, and **all that dwell therein**. **6** Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? **his fury is poured out like fire**, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

PSA 97:5 The hills **melted like wax** at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

Biblical covenant changes are done without destruction to God's faithful people... the bible precedent is consistent. God provided animal skins when Adam and Eve were removed from the garden.

When the 10 plagues came upon Egypt, the Israelites were protected.

Also protected them from the Red Sea judgment against the Egyptians.

Noah... door shut before the rain came.

Lot was out of town when Sodom was destroyed.

LUK 21:18 But there shall not an hair of your head perish.