

UNDERSTANDING THE TRIBULATIONS

By Apostle Jacquelyn Fedor

The original adversary, that brought so much anguish to humanity from the beginning of mankind, continues to afflict God's family today as we try to make our walk. He burdens us with illness and poverty, causes us to suffer persecution and ridicule, as God's people are quite different than the world and her religions. The family of God is pressured and crowded into a narrow lifestyle, because the world that surrounds them is against their principles and the commandments of God. There is little in today's culture acceptable to God, so His family must be separate. Satan knows this, so it is his idea to either absorb God's people into his culture of good and evil or let it's systems rub and wear at God's people so severely that it forces them into a rut so to speak, tires them out in doing good causing their way or lifestyle to seem quite narrow by the world's standards. Isaiah calls this narrow way the King's highway however. As the path is walked, the enemy fires spiritual darts and throws spiritual stones. He tries to feed intellect, false doctrine and lies to pull them to his ways so the Lord's people will forget His holy convocations and commandments. Do we fully understand what it is we are experiencing?

If we can relate to any of the grief mentioned above, then guess what, we are in the middle of the tribulation mentioned in Revelation 7:14, and Satan is

pushing harder on humanity, and in fact all creation, than ever before in history as he knows the time is short.

Revelation 7:14

14 And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

Notice, there are those that come through the tribulations with white robes. These know the laws of God and can testify successfully, in prayer and praise against evil. They are the righteous through God's grace and the blood of the Lamb, and therefore protected by the laws or commands of God. These are ones that see the narrow way through the eyes of the One that says in Matthew 7:13 and 14,

Matthew 7:13-14

13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.”

14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Revelation chapter 14:12 shows us what makes those with white robes

different from the rest of the world's churches.

Revelation 14:12

12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. (they keep God's commandments or laws)

God's people that will make it through the Tribulation are those who really understand Hebrews 10:16-18.

Hebrews 10:16-18

16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,”

17 then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

Jesus tells us, if we love Him we will keep His commandments, Paul explains in **Romans 3:31**,

31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the

contrary, we establish the law. (We speak the law through our testimony and God enforces it through His angels, thus the law is established on earth.)

You see, the enemy has hidden the laws of God from His people as they would enforce in their favor the defeat he experienced when Jesus resurrected from the grave. All evil spirits were brought to shame. Jesus conquered death, hell and the grave for us, but that victory will not be experienced by any part of humanity that is lawless or that will not develop a hunger for truth. If we do not crave truth we will continue to believe false doctrine and accept the fruit of Satan's lies. Without awareness and obedience to the law of God on our hearts, we will stand in our trials defenseless, helpless. God's laws protect those that are covered by them. The church can never be the Bride of Christ with the spots of sin, such as man's traditions and pagan ways mixed with pure worship or the wrinkles of division the lawless walk in. Denominations, ethnic groups, even gender separate God's family today, all are against scripture, against law. Immorality and worldliness are overlooked by the church if the offenders are good tithers, or politically popular.

Mankind is being tried. Humanity is being tested or is on trial, both as a body and as individuals. God is looking for those that love Him to build His Kingdom and restore all things. The enemy challenges our right to even be here. That is why tribulations are being thrown at us by Satan, to drive us to

being lawless so we will lose. Let us look at the meaning of tribulation in the Strongs dictionary. It's quite interesting as Satan has painted a much different picture of them to catch God's people off guard and hide the fact they are even being tried.

Hebrew dictionary:

6862 tsar tsar or tsar {tsawr}; from 6887; narrow; (as a noun) a tight place (usually figuratively, i.e. trouble); (Has the enemy ever drawn you into a tight place? Has he crowded you into making bad decisions causing distress and trouble?) also a pebble (as in 6864); (transitive) an opponent (as crowding):--adversary, afflicted(-tion), anguish, close, distress, enemy, flint, foe, narrow, small, sorrow, strait, tribulation, trouble.

6864 tsor tsore from 6696; a stone (as if pressed hard or to a point); (by implication, of use) a knife:--flint, sharp stone. (fiery darts, arrows, spear or sword)

6865 Tsor tsore or Tsowr {tsore}; the same as 6864; a rock; Tsor, a place in Palestine:--Tyre, Tyrus. (remember who or what force operated through the king of Tyre in Ezekiel 28:12-19)

6697 tsuwr tsoor or tsur {tsoor}; from 6696; properly, a cliff (or sharp rock, as compressed); generally, a rock or boulder; figuratively, a refuge; also an edge (as precipitous):--edge, X (mighty) God (one), rock, X sharp, stone, X strength, X strong. See also 1049. (Here is Jesus, Satan's ultimate end)

1049 Beyth Tsuwr bayth tsoor' from 1004 and 6697; house of (the) rock;

Beth-Tsur, a place in Palestine:--Beth-zur.

6869 tsarah tsaw-raw' feminine of 6862; tightness (i.e. figuratively, trouble);

(Has stress caused a tightness in your chest making it hard to breathe?)

transitively, a female rival:--adversary, adversity, affliction, anguish, distress, tribulation, trouble. (Leviathan is the exact opposite of the Bride of Christ.

She is your worst enemy as far as your faith is concerned. She is at the core of all the above. A name she is not readily recognized by is "religion".)

Greek:

2347. thlipsis thlip'-sis from 2346; pressure (literally or figuratively):--

afflicted(-tion), anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble. (If you have ever exposed false doctrine or have taken a stand for truth, you understand 2347 well.)

2346. thlibo thlee'-bo akin to the base of 5147; to crowd (literally or figuratively):--afflict, narrow, throng, suffer tribulation, trouble.

5147. tribos tree'-bos from tribo (to "rub"; akin to teiro, truo, and the base of 5131, 5134); a rut or worn track:--path. (The enemy tries to weary you in well doing, wear you out through negative thoughts being fed into your mind.)

5131. tragos trag'-os from the base of 5176; a he-goat (as a gnawer):--goat.

(Satan is the he goat, and it is he who gnaws at you to defeat you, chews at your mind and tries his best to swallow you into his world and systems.))

5176. trogo tro'-go probably strengthened from a collateral form of the base of 5134 and 5147 through the idea of corrosion or wear; or perhaps rather of a base of 5167 and 5149 through the idea of a crouching sound; to gnaw or chew, i.e. (generally) to eat:--eat. (The enemy chews at your nerves, gnaws away at your dreams, your relationship with God and His people.)

5134. trauma trow'-mah from the base of titrosko (to wound; akin to the base of 2352, 5147, 5149, etc.); a wound:--wound. (The enemy means to wound our spirits and bring physical harm to our bodies.)

5149. trizo trid'-zo apparently a primary verb; to creak (squeak), i.e. (by analogy) to grate the teeth (in frenzy):--gnash. (Have you ever been so angry or hurt so badly you grit your teeth?)

I know it is boring to read from a dictionary, but it is vital that we understand where our opposition comes from. Many blame God for their problems and instead of praying for their brothers and fighting the evil forces coming against them, they suffer defeat. In these definitions you will not only find the tactics of the enemy against God's house, but God's method of retaliation against the evil one, the he goat as well.

Court is in session, the Judge is the Rock, Jesus is also the Sword of Truth as He is the Word of our testimony. He is the tried Stone that set the precedent for God's people to follow and trust, and will, through us, defeat the enemy,

declare us not guilty of the accusations of the accuser of the brethren, and return to humanity, the earth and all on it as originally planned. As Christ was tried, so are those that follow in His footsteps. As He conquered the enemy so will we as it is Christ in us the hope of glory, but we must fight. Ephesians 6 shows us how.

In closing, next week we will look at the word “tried” or trial to better comprehend what the church is experiencing today, and to help us receive the white stone of pardon at the end of our day in court.

Revelation 2:17

17 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna (truth) to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”

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