

GOD'S WORD

WAKE UP! GET READY

We WILL go through the Great Tribulation. Be ready!

This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

II Pet. 3:1-4

*For More on this subject see, **ESCAPE OR ENDURANCE?***

Speaking of nonChristians? Unfortunately not. Look again! God, through Peter, writes, "...I stir up your pure minds by way of *remembrance*: ...," to Christians! The Book of II Peter is meant as a reminder to the saved. Nor is this an idle reminder of what some will do; it is a reminder to the Church as a whole of the danger of the last days: the fate of many or most Christians, and a restatement of the responsibilities of the Christian in the light of it. Scripture is full of warnings of the state of many or most in the Church in the last days:

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

II Thes. 2:1-3 9

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My Name's sake.

10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Matt. 24:9-14

"...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?"

Lu. 18:8

The same theme is stated repeatedly throughout Scripture, including the fact that we shall be required to endure a time of great tribulation, (as Paul and Barnabas were)

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Acts.14:22 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.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Matt. 24:21-22

But we are nevertheless inundated, overwhelmed with a flood of populist teaching suggesting that we shall be removed from the earth by a, "secret," catching away, a second of **three** comings of Christ, before any real hardship hits the Church. This doctrine of a secret, imminent, and exclusive, "rapture," was invented in the 1830's in Glasgow, Scotland, by a 15-year-old girl by the name of Margaret McDonald. It had not seen the light of day before that, nor does it have much following in the countries experiencing tribulation today, countries like China, North Korea, many African and middle Eastern countries, etc. Corrie ten Boom, who endured the holocaust from inside an extermination camp, considered the doctrine nonsense, pondering how the Church could consider itself immune to what she, a Christian, had had to endure. This author is impressed by just how many honest, thinking Christians he meets who also refuse to subscribe to escapist ambitions. In many Evangelical denominations, it seems, correct understanding is held almost always, "underground," but by very large numbers of honest Christians who study Scripture for themselves and are surrendered enough to God to believe Scripture, not populist, bandwagon-type doctrine.

WHY STUDY PROPHECY? The third chapter of II Peter, which began this pamphlet, continues,

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

II Pet. 3:10-14

It is estimated that 20% of Scripture is prophecy. The above passage explains the reason for it.

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Matt. 24:42-46

While the Holy Spirit is being poured out upon all flesh, as foretold in Joel 2, in North America and Europe the outpouring is not being accompanied by repentance. Instead, the great falling away of II Thes. 2 has begun as we prepare for Christ's return. This "falling away" refers, of course, not to the un-saved, but to those who call themselves, "Christian." Scripture is dedicated to the glory of God, and to the achievement of that by the sanctification and improvement of God's people. What never ceases to fill this author with wonder is the fact that what is good for God is always what is best for His people; the two are inseparable. What is best for His people is that which brings the most glory and honour to God!

For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

II Cor. 4:15

So to do that which brings Him the most honour is what is best for us!

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

II Cor. 7:1

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Heb.12:14 16

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

I Pet. 1:16

What's more, beyond receiving only an exhortation by Christ, we are given a practical, obviously beneficial reason to be holy: to enable ourselves to endure to the end and to be able to wait patiently for the return of our Lord, with all confidence that we will spend the rest of eternity with Him. According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

II Pet. 1:3-12

Verse twelve again speaks of "remembrance." The entire Book of II Peter seeks to remind the believer of things with which he is already familiar; it seeks to teach little that is new. But, in so doing, it seeks also to exhort and almost scare those same believers to, "make your calling and election sure (1:10)." While we are told throughout Scripture that, in effect, "once saved, always saved," we are exhorted in this Book in particular, to strive to emulate the qualities of Christ and His followers in order to make certain that we are not one of the poor seed as Christ explained in His parable of the sower, (Matt. 13), but that, if necessary, we grow from being the poor seed to being the seed that springs up, well grounded and without distractions to choke us, to produce for Christ: to become the good seed that does endure. We are therefore, in II Peter: a) Warned that many or most Christians will fall away during the coming time of uniquely great tribulation; b) Exhorted to grow in holiness to make sure of our commitment and thereby salvation, so that we might endure the coming great tribulation, and have confidence that we will see God. 'And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.'

Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

I John 2:17-19:

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness...

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

II Pet. 3:3-14, 17-18

Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

Rom. 13:11

For More on this subject see, [ESCAPE OR ENDURANCE?](#)