

We have just passed the midpoint of the Tribulation; now, about to begin, is *the Great Tribulation*, the *Time of Jacob's Trouble*.

The Two Witnesses preached and prophesied in Jerusalem for 3.5 years; they rebuke the Antichrist, warning everyone of who he really is and what is about to begin (as well as declaring the truth of all that has been happening for the past 3.5 years and Who it is that has caused it: God Almighty). The Antichrist is about to be killed and then brought back to life as Satan enters into his dead body, stands up and produces the counterfeit to the Lord Jesus Christ's genuine resurrection: Jesus Christ's was a birth, life, death and resurrection of Holiness and Righteousness; Satan's/the Antichrist's is a life, death and resurrection of evil and deception. He will enter the Holy of Holies in the Temple, declaring himself to be god and demand that all worship him and receive his mark on their right hand or forehead. The Mark of the Beast will be either his name, the number of his name or his sigil: 666 or some stylization of it.

Billions all around the globe watched all that the Two Witnesses said and did; many will have come to faith through their ministry and that of the 144,000. When Antichrist reveals his true nature, millions will refuse to take his Mark and they will be forced to hide out or be killed; hiding out will prove to be very difficult; we can already see the coming together of the prophesied One World Government with its 24/7 surveillance over everyone, everywhere, all the time.

When the Antichrist enters the Temple and commits the Abomination of Desolation of which Jesus Christ warned, based on Daniel's prophecy of the 70 Weeks of Daniel, Jews in Jerusalem and Judea will flee to the wilderness, possible to Petra, where God will protect them for the remainder of the Tribulation until the Lord Jesus Christ returns, at Armageddon, in all Glory and Power.

Rev. 12:6: *'And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.'* (the final 3.5 years of the Tribulation)

Up to this time, Satan and his fallen angels have still had some access to Heaven where he has been busy accusing us before God which we'll see, 5 verses further.

Verse 7: *'And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, ⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.'*

Notice that God is not the One Who fights against Satan and expels him from Heaven; it's Michael, the Archangel, the only Archangel, and his angels who do the work; this is one more disgrace upon Satan who believed himself to be like God: all powerful and able to defeat and replace God; God doesn't even have to be involved; it will be angels, created beings like Satan/Lucifer who will be his conquerors.

Satan and all his angels are not, yet, confined to the Earth; *'Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:'* Eph 2:2 He is identified as 'in the air' until he will be conquered and cast down to the Earth, only to the Earth; imagine the ignominy, the disgrace and shame of one who has, for countless eons had the gift from God, the ability to not only fly but to be able to cover vast distances in no time at all, to be sentenced to be only able to walk like the humans he has, for so long, hated and despised.

And this won't be the first time the Lord Jesus Christ has put Satan and his angels to open, public shame; regarding His finished work on the Cross when He put away our sin, forgiving us all our trespasses and breaking the power of sin and Satan, it says: *'And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.'* Col 2:15

Verse 10: *'And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.'*

Never again will Satan have the ability to accuse us before God. Now is finally come the complete and righteous Kingdom of God in Heaven; no more will evil have any place in Heaven. Now the Lord Jesus Christ will exercise all His salvation, strength and power as He completes the work of displacing the usurper of the kingdom and throne of God in the Earth. That final work is now ready to begin. Till now, He has been judging and punishing the World, the men of Earth who had, for so long, despised and rejected God's Love, His Grace, His Mercy and His Righteousness; now He will finish that work while disentangling all areas of Satan's evil hold on the Throne of Earth. Remember what we read in chapter 2: *'And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; ¹³ I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat/throne is'*. Satan has, or had, a throne in Pergamos; my guess is that his throne is now in the United Nations building or at the European Union in Strasburg.

Verse 11: *'And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.'*

Millions on Earth will reject the Antichrist/Satan's lies; they will resist and trust in God's Salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ. They will overcome Satan by trusting in the Lamb of God and in His shed blood on the Cross as they open their mouths to confess the Lord Jesus Christ as their own Lord and Savior while entrusting their lives and the lives of their loved ones into the care of God, even, or especially, to the point of death.

Imagine: you and your family are hiding out in forests, eating rabbits and squirrels; the Stormtroopers of the Antichrist find you after you've been betrayed by a cousin or brother; I don't think you'd cower in fear; I think you would stand up, confess Jesus Christ and completely welcome the bullet or guillotine, knowing that physical death is but a split second to opening your eyes in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in Heaven.

We face this, ourselves, as evil and persecution grow in depth and width all around the World. We, as believers must also choose, sometimes even daily, whether or not we will overcome by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony; the proof lies in whether or not we love our lives here and now or if we, rather, love not our Earthly lives even unto death.

One of the major avenues this persecution takes, today, is in pushing and forcing all to bow before the idols of homosexuality, transsexualism and fornication of every other sort. It's still possible to remain silent but soon, it will, increasingly, be demanded that we not only accept and tolerate but, rather, that we condone and celebrate every aberrant lifestyle imaginable. We live in dark days, the darkest of our lifetimes and it will only get darker by the day; the cry is, 'Tolerance!' It's tolerance for everything except truth and righteousness.

Verse 12: *'Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.'*

Finally! After countless millennia, Heaven will become free of the stench of Satan and his angels; up to this point, they have always retained access to Heaven and even to God's throne as he has constantly accused us before God: remember from verse 10, above: *'...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.'*

Heaven rejoices that Satan has finally been cast out but woe to those on Earth; he will be filled with wrath, knowing that the worldwide worship he has so diligently worked toward is in his grasp but that it will only last for 3.5 years and even then, everything will be disrupted by God's Wrath poured out on him, his angels and all the humans who've submitted to his unrighteous rule.

The final act of human government, under the direction of Satan is about to commence. From the time of Cain to Nimrod and the Tower of Babel of Babylon, through the empires of the Medes and Persians, Greece, Rome and to the refitted Roman Empire under the direction of the United Nations, all human government has been led and directed by Satan and his angels; all of it has been planned, purposed and executed to finally bring about the world of humans worshipping and following Satan and all the time, God has laughed in the knowledge that they have all been ultimately directed by Him; God has always been in complete control of all things, in all places and at all times.

There has always been a worldwide conspiracy of government. David wrote of it:

'Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, ³ Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. ⁴ He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision. ⁵ Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. ⁶ Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. ⁷ I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. ⁸ Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. ⁹ Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. ¹⁰ Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.' Psalm 2

Their plans, their conspiracies, their evil governments are all about to be snuffed out!

Verse 13: *'And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.'*

Remember, the woman in this vision is Israel out of which, came the child, the Lord Jesus Christ; as soon as Satan is cast down, out of Heaven, unto the Earth, he will unleash his vicious wrath on Israel, persecuting and killing them like never before: far, far worse, even, than the Nazi Holocaust.

This begins the second half of the Tribulation: the Great Tribulation, the time of Jacob's trouble.

'Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.' Jer 30:7

This is the time of which Jesus warned them, in Matt 24, when He referenced Daniel's 70 Weeks:

'When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)' ¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: ¹⁷ Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: ¹⁸ Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. ¹⁹ And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! ²⁰ But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: 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 25:15

He was referencing Daniel's prophecy of 70 Weeks:

'And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.' Dan 9:27

Verse 14: *'And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.'*

We don't know what this means, exactly, but we can guess that, possibly, two wings of an eagle to fly into the wilderness could be something like as airlift by the U.S., seeing that our National symbol is the bald eagle but it could also be true that, since we never see a clear reference to the U.S., the U.S. has since ceased to be any kind of key player in the End Times; obviously, we now have a government which seems determined to completely destroy this Nation and any good it has ever promoted.

On the other hand, it could simply mean that God, through His miraculous power and protection is how the Jews get from Israel to the place of protection in the wilderness like He did in the time of Moses: *'And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; ⁴ Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.'* Ex. 19:3

Somehow, Israel, a large portion of the Jews, will be provided safe passage to the hiding place God will provide and He will, like He did with feeding them Manna and quail in the 40 years of wilderness wandering, feed and protect them there for final 3.5 years of the Great Tribulation until the Lord Jesus Christ returns, at Armageddon, and when their eyes will be opened and they will recognize Him for Who He is: their true Messiah, the One they crucified, and they will mourn and turn to Him in faith unto Salvation.

'And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.'

Zech 12:10

Verse 15: *'And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. ¹⁶ And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.'*

This could be that Satan moves many heathen nations to invade Israel... many nations being many waters. We'll see that picture in Rev. 17: *'And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.'* Rev 17:15

It may be that God actually opens the Earth to swallow many of these heathen invaders. He'd done it before during Korah's rebellion: *'And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them: ³² And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. ³³ They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.'* Num 16:31

During this terrible time, there will be absolutely no recognition of Israel's borders or sovereignty; they will be completely overrun by the World which has always hated the Jews.

Verse 17: *'And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.'*

Very, very angry is Satan; this is not working out the way he always planned for it to be; he has all the government; he has the worldwide worship he always dreamed of; he has all the power and prestige, fame, wealth... everything the world has to offer and God is just ruining everything; it's all slipping away!! If he had a Mom, he'd want to climb up on her lap.

He hates God, he hates Jews, he hates Israel, he hates Christians; he hates everybody! Imagine how miserable a creature like that must be... all that's left to him is to kill as many as possible but even that offers no satisfaction because the lost are going to Hell anyway; what's a day, a week, a month, a year or a century compared to Eternity... and the saved are not afraid; they face death and simply trust God to draw them to Himself at the blessed moment of their long desired physical death, the absolute greatest moment in any believers life if they were not part of the Rapture.