

The “Secret Place” in the “Day of the LORD”



Message by: **Leroy Surface**

*A “Behold the Lamb” publication
of Calvary Outreach Ministries*

Let’s Sing About Jesus

A song of rejoicing by Keith Surface

Chorus:

Let’s sing about Jesus
What a wonderful savior
Let’s sing about Jesus
What a wonderful Lord
He delivered me from sin and shame
Now forever I will praise his name
Let’s sing about Jesus
What a wonderful Lord

He’s the rock on which I stand
He rescued me from the sinking sand
He broke the chains of sin in me
Now I sing because I’m free!

It’s not a tune about earthly things
That makes me want to rejoice and sing
O the joy I can’t explain
When I hear my Savior’s name!

Songs in the Night

**Where is God my maker, who giveth songs in the night?
Job 35:10**

The song that I have placed on the cover this month is another of many new songs that God has given to the music ministers at Calvary Outreach. *"Let's Sing About Jesus"* is a song for those who love to rejoice in Jesus, our savior. A God given song can impress its message upon the hearts of the congregation oftentimes better than the sermon that is preached. We offer this song for the edification of all who will hear it. If you would like to receive an audio of *"Let's Sing About Jesus,"* I will send it to you upon your request. My address is on the outside back cover.

If you have not yet received your copy of these Bible commentaries by Leroy Surface, they are available now, and the commentary of your choice will be sent to you upon your request. (choose one please)

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IF I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or IF I command the locusts to devour the land, or IF I send pestilence among my people; If MY PEOPLE, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; THEN WILL I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will HEAL THEIR LAND.

II Chronicles 7:13-14

There are four hypothetical situations given in this text, beginning with “*If I shut up heaven that there be no rain.*” There are very few people in the world today who will believe that God has any hand in the everyday affairs of this life. Most will refuse to believe that God would “*command the locusts,*” or “*send pestilence*” among the people. I personally do not believe that every tragedy is caused by the direct hand of God. It is true that bad things sometimes happen to good people. The greatest of saints sometimes face times of great sorrow, and great men and women of God have sometimes died of horrible diseases. There are times, however, when God stretches forth His hand against a nation, a group of nations, or a culture because of their rejection of Christ. That is certainly true of America and the western nations of the world at this present time. In such a time as this, God has promised to “*heal the land*” of those who will “*humble themselves and pray*” and “*turn from their wicked ways*” to seek the Lord. This was God’s promise to the children of Israel in Solomon’s day; if they would humble themselves and seek His face, they would be blessed even while those around them were “*cursed*” for their sins. When drought would be upon the nation, they would have “*rain in due season.*” When the locusts would “*devour the land,*” they would not touch the fields of the righteous man (Revelation 9:5).

When pestilence would come and thousands would die of the plague, it would not come to the house of those who had set their love upon the Lord. (Psalms 91:10).

Woe, Woe, Woe

Revelation 8:13: *“And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, **Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth** by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!”*

The apostle John tells us in “The Revelation” about “*three great woes*” that are coming upon the inhabitants of the earth in these last days. The greatest of these is the third one, which is the second coming of Christ at the sounding of the seventh trumpet (Revelations 11:15). That day will bring the greatest joy to the righteous, but greatest imaginable “*woe*” to the ungodly. Paul explains that day perfectly to the saints at Thessalonica, saying, *“It is a righteous thing with God to recompense **tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, WHEN the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; WHEN he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe** (because our testimony among you was believed) **in that day**”* (II Thessalonians 1:6-10). Notice that “*tribulation*” to the ungodly and “*rest*” to the saints of God will both come in one day, the “*great and terrible day of the Lord,*” which is climaxed by the second coming of Christ to earth.

The First Woe

Revelation 9:1-4: *“And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And **he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and***

unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but ONLY THOSE MEN WHICH HAVE NOT THE SEAL OF GOD in their foreheads."

The first of the great "woes" comes with the sounding of the fifth trumpet, which tells of a pit being opened and locusts, with the power to torment men, swarming out of the smoke of the pit. This "trumpet" has been sounding for over a dozen years at this time for those who have ears to hear it. I first heard its sound on September 11, 2001, which is what we commonly speak of as "9-11." We had seen signs of the "locusts" for at least two decades, but we did not understand what they were. It was on "9-11" that they really began to "swarm." When I saw the smoke rising out of the pit where only moments before the "twin towers" had stood, I realized that the locusts, which were prophesied in the scriptures, were even now swarming. The "locusts," spoken of in both the second chapter of Joel and the ninth chapter of Revelation, are radical Islam. In both of these chapters we see a great swarm of locusts, and in both we see a "common denominator" that ties them to radical Islam. The "common denominator" is the "suicide bomber." The prophet Joel tells us, "When they **fall upon the sword**, they shall not be wounded (Hebrew: 'shall not be stopped')" (Joel 2:8). The phrase "fall upon the sword" is a slang term for "suicide." In Revelation 9:17, we are told they will wear "**breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone.**" Jacinth speaks only of a deep blue color, but a "breastplate of fire and brimstone" speaks of a "suicide belt," which is very often the weapon of choice for the radical Islamist.

According to Arab tradition, Mohammed received a revelation from God about fourteen hundred years ago that his "army" was "the locust army of God." It may seem incredible to some, but it is God, our God, who has called for the locusts. Joel 2:11 says, "And the LORD shall utter his voice before **his army**: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth **his word**: for the day of the LORD is **great and very terrible; and who can abide it?**" Does it seem strange to believe that God would use a religion that does not believe Jesus is the Son of God to punish nations which

once professed to trust in Jesus Christ? He used the heathen king of Assyria to punish the northern kingdom of Israel for their backsliding. He used King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, to punish the inhabitants of Jerusalem for their idolatry. Today, God is using radical Islam to punish America and the western world for their rejection of Christ. Further confirmation that the “*locust army*” is the army of God’s judgment is found in His promise to those who will repent and turn to Him with all their heart (Joel 2:12-13); “*I will restore to you the years that **the locust hath eaten**, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you*” (Joel 2:25).

Why Judgment is Coming

Revelation 9:20-21: “*And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet **repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.***”

There are five sins of the western culture that is bringing the anger of God’s judgment against our nation. I wrote about these things repeatedly during the administration of President George W. Bush, because God had told me that his administration would be a “*space for repentance*” to America, and if she did not repent, the things to come would be too horrible for a person to even speak of. America did not repent and does not repent until this day, but has embraced every sin that God says will bring His wrath upon the nations. We are moving rapidly toward the day that the prophet Joel calls the “*great and terrible day of the LORD*” (Joel 2:11, 2:31). I will list briefly the five sins that are bringing our nation to that terrible day.

1. Idolatry: America honors many different God’s while dishonoring Jesus Christ.

2. Murders: America murders over a million babies each and every year. We call it “*legalized abortion.*” Almost every major problem in our American system can be traced directly to abortion.

3. Sorceries: The Greek word is “*pharmakeia*.” It speaks of our drug culture. During the same time that our nation has waged a losing war against illegal drugs, our medical and psychiatric professions have created a culture that is addicted to “*legal drugs*.” They have successfully created a medical monster that has bankrupted our nation’s economy for many years.

4: Fornication: The Greek word is “*porneia*.” It speaks of America’s sex industry and our total lack of moral values. Almost fifty percent of all children in America are born into a home without a father. Millions of men and women are living in fornication because they reject the restrictions that marriage would bring upon them. Our nation approves of pornography and is light on pedophilia. According to polls, most Americans approve the homosexual lifestyle and seek to change our nation’s laws to legalize homosexual marriage. Beware! Every culture since the beginning of time that has embraced sodomy (homosexuality) has been destroyed by God.

5. Thefts: While our prisons are filled with men and women that have stolen to support their drug habits, it is those “*thefts*” that are legal in America that God will judge. I do not have time or space in this message to go into detail, but greed is the great innovator and motivator for legal theft in America. Consider the pool of liability insurance money that was created, not for the protection of the people so much as for the enrichment of unscrupulous lawyers. Consider the vast rivers of tax money that flows to the enrichment of unscrupulous politicians. Then, there is the “*tithe*” that was ordained by God Himself, that has been so abused by covetous preachers for their own enrichment. The apostle Peter said these will receive the same reward “...as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time” (II Peter 2:13). They are counted to be no better than a common thief who would take your money with a knife or a gun, and they will receive the same reward in the Day of Judgment as those who find their pleasure rioting in the streets. This “*greed*” consumes every segment of our culture today, from the “*poor*” to the “*rich*,” and is hastening the total collapse of America as we have known and loved her. These five sins, which the scriptures warned us against thousands of years ago, have

brought us to the time spoken of by the angel of God when he cried “*Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth*” (Revelation 8:13).

The Second Great Woe

Revelation 9:13-15: “*And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, **Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.** And the four angels were loosed, **which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.**”*

The “*sounding of the trumpets*” does not come as a single blast of a trumpet. It is not such as the natural ear can hear, but for those who have ears to hear, they continue to sound until they reach their fullness. The first four trumpets began to sound at the beginning of this generation, which began when the Jews gained possession of Jerusalem in 1967, and will end with the return of Jesus Christ to earth. I first began to hear them in 1982 while visiting the city of Jerusalem. I began hearing the fifth trumpet on September 11, 2001 as I watched the smoke rise out of the pit and cover the sun when the towers fell. I knew then that the locusts were already swarming to their places worldwide. I heard the blast of the sixth trumpet on March 19, 2003 when America invaded Iraq, because it was there, at the Euphrates River, that the “*four angels were loosed*” that are “*prepared*” to “*slay the third part of men*” (Revelation 9:14-15). It is these “*four angels,*” which I believe to be the spirit of ancient Babylon, that are even now raising their vast army of two hundred million. It is the “*locust army of God*” that will “*cover the land of Israel like a cloud*” (Ezekiel 38:9), and bring death and destruction to the entire earth. I said earlier in this message that radical Islam is “*the locust army of God.*” Consider that the worldwide Muslim population is 1,600,000,000 as of 2010. If only thirteen percent of these can be radicalized, the result is an army of 208,000,000, more than enough to fulfill the prophecy of an army of two hundred million. There is something about the natural locust that we should understand; when they begin to “*swarm,*” they cannot stop until they have devoured every green plant or tree in their path. It is God who has “*commanded the locusts*” (II Chronicles 7:13, Joel 2:11), and He “*commanded that*

they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads” (Revelation 9:4). They will not stop until they have accomplished what God has commanded them to do. It is “*the great and the terrible day of the LORD*” (Joel 2:11) but there is a place of safety prepared for the children of God in that day.

We know by the scriptures that a “*great and terrible day*” is coming to the entire world. The prophet Isaiah spoke of it as the “*final destruction*” that will come upon the entire earth. “*Be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong: for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth*” (Isaiah 28:22). The Hebrew word “*kālāh*,” which is translated “*consumption*,” speaks of an “*end*,” a “*completion*,” and a “*destruction*.” “*Kālāh*” is the same Hebrew word the angel Gabriel used in Daniel 9:27 when he spoke to the prophet Daniel concerning the final end of those Jews who would continue to reject Christ. “*...for the overspreading of abominations He (the Christ) shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*” Jesus left Jerusalem desolate when the Jews delivered Him up to Pilate to be crucified, and it has been desolate from the presence and blessing of God for two thousand years, and will be so until a “*remnant*” of Jews “*look upon (unto) Him whom they pierced*” (Zechariah 12:10), and cry, “*blessed is He that cometh (came) in the name of the Lord*” (Matthew 23:38-39).

The “*consumption*” that is “*determined upon the entire earth*” is that time which Jesus spoke of as “*...great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be*” (Matthew 24:21). Jesus continued in the next verse to say, “*And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened*” (Matthew 24:22). Worldwide, one third of men will be slain during that horrible time (Revelation 9:15). In the nation of Israel, “*...two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein*” (Zechariah 13:8). That “*third part*” of the inhabitants of Israel will be the “*remnant*” that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, “*The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God. For though thy people Israel be as*

the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness. For the Lord GOD of hosts shall make a consumption, even determined, in the midst of all the land” (Isaiah 10:21-23).

A “Hiding Place”

When we dwell only upon the judgment of God against the nations of the world, we leave the children of God in a state of fear and apprehension. The usual “*remedy*” for the fear factor which is used by many, and perhaps most teachers of prophecy, is to teach a “*secret rapture,*” which will take the “*Christians*” out of this world before the time of trouble comes. Wake up! “*Trouble*” has always been with us. God did not “*take us out*” before millions of believers were tortured and murdered during the great persecutions of the past. There will be a “*rapture,*” which simply means “*caught up,*” but it will be at the sounding of the seventh trumpet in the eleventh chapter of Revelation. Paul tells us in I Thessalonians 4:16, “***The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be CAUGHT UP together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.***” In I Corinthians 15:51-52, he tells us exactly when this will happen; “***Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the LAST TRUMP: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.***” Notice that it is the “*last trumpet*” that sounds the return of Jesus Christ and the rapture of the church. The apostle John tells us of that “*last trumpet*” in Revelation 11:15, saying, “*And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*” We should understand that the scriptures were not written in theological terms, but in the common language of the people. If the Lord would ask me “*when*” I want Him to come, I would answer in the words of the apostle John, “*Even so, come, Lord Jesus*” (Revelation 22:20). I would say, “*Come today; come tonight; or better still, come right*

now.” He did not ask me when He should come, but He did tell me in the scriptures when He will come. It will be at the “*last trumpet*,” which is “*after*” the horrors of the other six trumpets have sounded. What then is the “*hope*” of the children of God?

Christ; Our Hope

It is the prophet Joel that introduces us to the “**great and terrible day of the Lord.**” In Joel 2:31-32, he says, “*The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered....*” In Joel 3:15-16, the prophet recaps the same event, saying, “*The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be THE HOPE of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.*” The Hebrew word “*machāšeh machseh*,” which is translated “*hope*” in this verse, is the same word that is translated “*refuge*” in Psalms 91:2, and means “*a shelter.*” The psalmist said, “*I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust*” (Psalms 91:2). He is “*the hope of His people,*” a “*refuge*” from the storm (Isaiah 4:6), and a “*fortress*” from the adversary.

Isaiah 26:20-21: “*Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.*”

There is a “*secret place*” for the children of God. In Isaiah 26:20, He calls “*His people*” to enter into “*thy chambers,*” and “*shut thy doors about thee.*” It is a “*hiding place*” for the children of God, which the psalmist calls “*the secret place of the most high*” (Psalms 91:1). We who enter now will be “*hidden*” in our “*secret place*” while God “*punishes the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity.*” I will seek, for the remainder of this message, to show God’s provision for His people who “*humble themselves, and*

pray, and seek His face, and turn from their wicked ways” (II Chronicles 7:14). God says He will “*heal **their** land.*” The apostle Paul tells us to “*put on the whole armor of God;*” if we do, we will not only “*stand,*” but we will “*withstand in the evil day*” (Ephesians 6:13). We will go into the very strongholds of the adversary to deliver souls from the power of darkness, and we will not be afraid if we are clothed with the “*whole armor of God.*” We will not be “*hiding in a cave*” or in “*the dens of the earth.*” Those are places that are prepared for “*...kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men...*” (Revelation 6:15-16), but to no avail, for they will find no hiding place from the anger of God almighty. Our “*hiding place*” is in Christ, and it is for those who have “*set their love upon Him*” (Psalms 91:14).

The “Secret Place of the Most High”

Psalms 91:1-2: “*He that dwelleth **in the secret place** of the most High shall abide **under the shadow** of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, **He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.**”*

The “*secret place of the most High*” is not a physical place; it is instead a “*place*” in God Himself. It was prepared at Calvary through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus promised, “*I go to prepare a place for you;*” not just “*a place in heaven,*” but “*a place in Christ,*” who is our “*refuge and fortress.*”

Psalms 91:3-4: “*Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall **cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: HIS TRUTH shall be thy shield and buckler.**”*

Jesus referred to Himself as the “*secret place*” in His message to the scribes and Pharisees shortly before they delivered Him up to die on the cross: “*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, **how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!**”* (Matthew 23:37).

Psalms 91:5-8: “*Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at*

noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.”

“Thou shalt not be afraid...it shall not come nigh thee,” because *“under His wings shalt thou trust.”* It is obvious that this text is a promise to the children of God for those *“extraordinary times”* when God rises up to punish the wicked. It should also be understood that it is a promise to an *“extraordinary people,”* that is, those who *“abide in Christ.”* These have found *“His truth”* to be their *“shield and buckler.”* Jesus said, *“Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (from sin)”* (John 8:32). There are many *“extraordinary things”* that are spoken about those who *“know the truth.”* The apostle John says, *“And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not”* (I John 3:5-6). That is truly *“extraordinary.”* They do not sin because they *“abide in Him.”* The last phrase of verse six says, *“whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.”* Only four verses previous, the apostle tells us, *“We shall be like Him for (because) we shall see Him as He is”* (I John 3:2). In the *“seventy weeks prophecy”* in Daniel 9:24-27, verse twenty four reveals the purpose of Christ, the Messiah’s, coming into the world; He would *“finish the transgression...make an end of sins...make reconciliation for iniquity...and bring in everlasting righteousness.”* The prophecy reveals that He would accomplish all these things when He would be *“cut off, but not for Himself”* (verse twenty six), which speaks of His death on the cross. This incredible prophecy even reveals the exact year of His appearing in earthly ministry, and the exact time of His crucifixion three and a half years later. When Jesus cried with a loud voice from the cross, *“It is finished,”* He was referring to this same prophecy, and declaring that He had accomplished everything He came into the world to do. He had *“finished the transgression and made an end of sins”* for all who would trust in Him, and He did it through His sufferings and death on the cross. Those who say they believe and yet continue in sin have never *“seen Him as He is,”* because they have been blinded by the traditions of religion, which describe *“another Jesus”* (II Corinthians 11:4).

Living a life that is free from sin is not the result of our human abilities, will power, or even a special endowment of power from God to overcome sin. It is instead the result of trusting in Christ, who came into the world to “*take away our sin.*” It is He who has made us free from sin (Romans 6:7, 18, 22), and we continue in that glorious freedom only as we “*abide (continue) in Him.*” If it seems extraordinary that Christ makes His people free from sin, consider that He will also “*keep us from falling (Greek; ‘from sinning’), and present us faultless*” when we stand before God “*with exceeding joy*” (Jude 1:24). Christ, who has “*delivered us from sin and Satan,*” and “*keeps us from falling,*” will have no problem keeping us in the day that He punishes the nations for their iniquities. “*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will KEEP THEE (Greek; ‘guard from loss or injury’) from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth*” (Revelation 3:10).

“**Thou Shalt Not Be Afraid...**”

The Psalmist lists four things we will not be afraid for during the “*great and terrible day of the LORD:*”

1. “***Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night;***”

The children of God who turn from their own ways to “*seek the face of the Lord*” need not fear the things that are coming upon America and the world. It is God who “*commands the locusts*” (II Chronicles 7:13). He has “*commanded them*” to hurt “*...only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads*” (Revelation 9:4). Terrorism has come to America, and terror will soon follow. God has promised His people, those whom He will seal, however, “*Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night*” (Psalms 91:5).

2. “***Thou shalt not be afraid...for the arrow that flieth by day;***”

The “*arrows*” of ancient warfare were replaced by “*bullets*” several hundred years ago. When bullets are flying, “*thou shalt not be afraid.*”

3. “***Thou shalt not be afraid...for the pestilence that walketh in darkness;***”

The definition of “*pestilence*” in English dictionaries says “*specifically, the bubonic plague,*” which killed over one third of the population of Europe in the fourteenth century. One of the favorite weapons of modern terrorism is germ warfare and chemical weapons, such as Saddam Hussein used to kill 180,000 Kurds in 1988, and used more recently by Syria against the rebels. God has promised those who abide in His secret place, “*thou shalt not be afraid.*”

4. “*Thou shalt not be afraid...for the destruction that wasteth at noonday;*”

What better description of modern warfare could be given than this which was given thousands of years ago? When the “*iron curtain*” of Soviet Communism fell in 1989, it seemed that “*peace*” was breaking out all over. Many people actually believed that the “*dawning*” of the seventh millennium would usher in “*a thousand years of peace*” without the necessity of the second coming of Christ. There was, of course, the continuing problem over who should control Jerusalem, but that seemed to be the only “*hot spot*” on the planet at the time. Then came the attack on the twin towers on “*9-11,*” less than one year into the new millennium. This single event signaled the sounding of the fifth trumpet and we saw the “*swarming of the locusts*” as radical jihadist worldwide rejoiced in their “*victory*” over America, whom they called “*the great Satan.*” Radical Islamist is the enemy which our God has raised up against America because of our sins as a people and as a nation. Instead of repenting of our five national sins, which I have delineated earlier in this message, America has greatly increased her rebellion against God. If America would have repented of her sins and turned to Jesus Christ after “*9-11,*” we would not be faced with worldwide terrorism today. God made a promise to Israel in the second chapter of Joel that if they would repent and turn to Him with all their heart, He would destroy their enemies, even in the day that their annihilation seems certain.

Joel 2:15-20: “*Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the*

breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people. Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen: But I will remove far off from you the northern army (the locust army), and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things.”

America has reached the point of no return. The Spirit of the Lord spoke to me in January of 2001 that the administration of George W. Bush was a “*space for repentance*” for America. I was encouraged by Franklin Graham’s inaugural prayer of national repentance. The new president chose a “*Spirit filled*” Christian to be his attorney General, which also greatly encouraged me. Regular prayer services were held in the White House, as well as Sunday worship services. I heard the President speak of Jesus many times in the early days of his presidency, but after “9-11” it seemed that Jesus was the only one banned from national conversation. The Spirit of the Lord had told me that if there was not true repentance and turning back to Him during the Bush presidency, “*The things that will come upon America will be too horrible to speak of.*” II Chronicles 36:15-16 records the events that led to the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar’s army; “*The LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised HIS words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, TILL THERE WAS NO REMEDY.*” That is where America stands today, and “*there is no remedy.*” Over fifty percent of Americans, according to the polls, approve of homosexual

marriage. Almost fifty percent of all babies born in America are born outside of marriage. We are still murdering a million babies a year in their mother's womb. Only last week, at this writing, our "*Supreme Court*" gave a ruling that opens the door to redefine marriage to include homosexual marriage. In six thousand years of human history, every culture that has embraced sodomy has been utterly destroyed and ceased to exist. That includes Sodom and Gomorrah, the inhabitants of Judah before the first destruction of Jerusalem (I Kings 14:24), and the Great Roman Empire. America will be no different. We are facing the anger of God against our nation and culture.

There is always a "*remedy*" for sin and rebellion. God says, "*Turn to me with all your heart*" (Joel 2:12). Jesus says, "*Repent ye, and believe the gospel*" (Mark 1:15). It is when men do not repent that the anger of God rises against them until there is no remedy but to pour out His fury. The ancient scribe recorded what God did to Jerusalem and the inhabitants of Judea when there was no other remedy; "*Therefore HE brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand*" (II Chronicles 36:17).

When the towers fell on "9-11," it was "*only*" a "*trumpet*" (the fifth trumpet; Revelation 9:1-4), sounding a warning of "*wrath to come.*" America could have repented, but she did not. The national sins of America have increased five-fold in the years that have followed. Sadly, the "*church*" in America has embraced a "*gospel*" that tells us that sin no longer matters if you "*believe in Jesus,*" because He has "*taken the penalty for our sin,*" and has "*forgiven every sin we will ever commit, before we commit them.*" Can anyone who has any understanding whatsoever question the wisdom of Peter when he says, "*...the time is come (is coming) that judgment must begin at the house of God...*" (I Peter 4:17).

Abominations Bring Desolation

Matthew 24:15-16: "*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:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.”

Jesus referred to a prophecy in Daniel 11:31, which says, “...and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.” Daniel 12:11 says, “...from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.” Jesus gave this as a sign to His disciples concerning the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. “Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains” (Matthew 24:16). In Luke 21:20-23, Jesus told his disciples, “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains.” It was three and a half years after the armies first surrounded Jerusalem that the city and temple were destroyed. Those Jews in Jerusalem who trusted in Jesus and believed His words had ample time to leave the city before it was destroyed by Nero’s army. Jesus, when foretelling that destruction forty years before it happened, said, “For these be **the days of vengeance** (Isaiah 61:2), that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and **wrath upon this people**” (Luke 21:22). This was the second time that Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by the wrath of God.

The First Destruction

Ezekiel 8:6: “He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.”

The presence of God had departed from the temple in Jerusalem long before God commanded the armies of Babylon to destroy it. When the presence of God departs from a people, a church, or a nation, that is what Jesus called desolation, which will be followed by destruction. Jesus told the Jews in Matthew 23:38-39, “Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall

not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” With those words, He spoke about the departure of the presence of God from that nation which has lasted unto this day, and will continue until the day a small “*remnant*” of one third of the population will turn to Jesus, saying, “*Blessed is He (Jesus) that cometh (who came) in the name of the Lord (Christ).*” In Luke 19:43-44, Jesus, while weeping over them, spoke of their destruction, saying, “*...the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.*”

The Spirit of God took the prophet Ezekiel into the temple at Jerusalem to show him why it must be destroyed. In the temple, he found an “*image of jealousy (an idol)*” standing at the entry to the altar of God (Ezekiel 8:5). He found a secret room, where the seventy elders burned incense to images of every manner of creeping thing and abominable beast (Ezekiel 8:8-11). He found the women of Israel sitting at the entry to the temple, weeping and worshipping Tammuz (the god of flocks). Finally, Ezekiel says, “*He brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, **between the porch and the altar**, were about five and twenty men, with **their backs toward the temple of the LORD**, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east*” (Ezekiel 8:16).

Ezekiel 8:17-18: “*Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. **Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.***”

God’s anger had turned into wrath against His chosen people, and there was no other remedy but to destroy their city and temple. It should be noticed that they were His “*chosen people,*” but that was

not enough to quell His great wrath against them. There were, however, those among them whom God would protect “*as the apple of His eye*” (Deuteronomy 32:10, Zechariah 2:8). Ezekiel gives that account beginning in the next chapter.

Ezekiel 9:1-6: “*He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar. And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: BUT COME NOT NEAR ANY MAN UPON WHOM IS THE MARK; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.*”

How many there were in Jerusalem that God protected during the time of His wrath, we do not know. We do know, however, that among them was a young man named Daniel, and the “*three Hebrew children,*” Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. There was also a young virgin girl named Esther, and her older cousin, who was named Mordecai. All of these were spared in the day of God’s wrath against Jerusalem, and each of them became very great in the kingdom of Babylon, where God sent them for the seventy years of the captivity.

Safe in the Day of God’s Vengeance

When God destroyed the world with the flood, he saved “*righteous Noah* (II Peter 2:5)” and his household in the ark. When God

poured His wrath upon Sodom and Gomorrah, He sent angels to get Lot, “*a righteous man*” (II Peter 2:6-8), and his two daughters safely to the mountains. When He destroyed Jerusalem and the temple the first time, He placed His mark in the foreheads of those who were righteous, and commanded the destroyers not to come near them. When He destroyed Jerusalem and the temple the second time, He gave certain signs to those who trusted in Jesus, and they knew exactly when to leave the city and where to go. Jesus gave the “*signs*” of the approaching day of God’s vengeance in the twenty first chapter of Luke:

Luke 21:11: “*And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.*”

These signs would come to pass before the destruction of Jerusalem, all of which happened exactly as Jesus said. The Jewish historian Josephus wrote in his book, “*The Wars of the Jews,*” of an earthquake in Judea which happened shortly before the destruction of Jerusalem; “*...for there broke out a prodigious storm in the night, with the utmost violence, and very strong winds, with the largest showers of rain, with continual lightnings, terrible thunderings, and amazing concussions and bellowings of the earth, that was in an earthquake...anyone would guess that these wonders foreshadowed some grand calamities that were coming.*” In Acts 11: 28 we read about a prophet named Agabus who foretold a great famine that was to come upon the entire land. “*And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.*” Claudius Caesar ruled as emperor over the Roman Empire from the year 41 to 54 A.D. According to the record of the historian Josephus in his “*Antiquities of the Jews,*” the famine came in the years 46-48 A.D.

Luke 21:12: “*But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name’s sake.*”

Luke 21:16-17: “*Ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake.*”

With these words, Jesus tells of the persecutions and tribulations His disciples would suffer at the hands of men, beginning immediately after the Day of Pentecost. All of His apostles, with the exception of John, would die at the hands of their enemies in the great persecution against them. Notice that the persecutions and tribulations against the believer would be “**before**” the day of God’s wrath in 70 A.D. which came against those who rejected Christ and persecuted His church.

Luke 21:18: “*But there shall not an hair of your head perish.*”

What an incredible statement Jesus gave just moments after saying to them in verse sixteen, “...*some of you shall they cause to be put to death.*” It indicates a wonderful “*change*” that takes place in the affairs of men when God arises to punish the world for its iniquity (Isaiah 26:20-21). He tells those who have “*sought His face* (II Chronicles 7:14)” and “*set their love upon Him*” (Psalms 91:14), that “*it shall not come nigh thee*” (Psalms 91:7). Nothing that God does in the day of His wrath will harm a single hair on the head of those who abide in His “*secret place...under the shadow of the almighty*” (Psalms 91:1).

Luke 21:19: “*In your patience possess ye your souls.*”

This is the incredible “*word of patience*” which is spoken of in the message Jesus sent to the church of Philadelphia; “***Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth***” (Revelation 3:10). The Greek word “*hupomone*,” which is translated “*patience*” in this verse, means “*cheerful endurance*” and “*constancy.*” Now is the time to “*possess your soul*” with “*cheerful endurance.*” Jesus said, “*Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before*

you” (Matthew 5:11-12). Again, Jesus spoke to His disciples concerning the things they would suffer; “*And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved*” (Mark 13:13). Most people “*endure to the end,*” but very few do so cheerfully. Enduring to the end is not the secret of salvation from sin or from wrath. “*Cheerful endurance*” to the end, however, is the secret of “*salvation*” from the “*wrath of God*” which He has poured out many times in the past, and will again at the end of this generation in which we live. Jesus tells us the time to “*possess our souls*” is now, while the world may persecute us. Be faithful; turn to the Lord with all your heart; set your love upon Him. Cheerfully endure all that man can do to you, because you know your reward is great in heaven. The apostle Paul, when being warned of bonds and afflictions that awaited him in Jerusalem, said, “*None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy*” (Acts 20:24).

If you understand the truth of this matter you will truly rejoice if and when your name is cast out as evil because of righteousness. You are not a sinner if you have truly trusted in Christ who came to “*take away our sin*” (John 1:29, I John 3:5). Peter spoke to those believers who were coming under severe persecution in his day, saying, “*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified*” (I Peter 4:12-14). He warns them in the next verse, however; “*But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters*” (verse fifteen).

Many believers suffered and died a martyr’s death during the first generation of the church, but there is no record of even one who trusted in Christ, yet perished in the destruction of Jerusalem. The “*believers*” were not in the city when the destroyers came, because they believed the words of instruction that Jesus had given to them.

Luke 21:20-23: “*And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and WRATH UPON THIS PEOPLE.*”

The wrath of God always brings the end of something, whether it is a nation, a kingdom, a culture, or “*an age.*” The next “*age*” will begin with the second coming of Jesus Christ to reign on earth for a thousand years. That “*age*” will also end with the wrath of God against Gog and Magog (Revelation 20:7-10), and will bring the end of the present heavens and earth. Every sinful and ungodly thing will be cast into the lake of fire, and we will see the dawning of “*a new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness*” (II Peter 3:13). All these things which both Peter and John spoke of are at least a thousand years in our future, but the worst tribulation of all times is soon to come upon the generation in which we live. It is called “*The Great and the Terrible Day of the LORD,*” which was spoken of by the prophet Joel. It will culminate with the second coming of Christ to earth, when He comes to judge both the living and the dead. This present age will soon end with the wrath of God.

Standing in the Day of God’s Wrath

Revelation 6:15-17: “*And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and WHO SHALL BE ABLE TO STAND?*”

Every good question deserves a true answer. Contrary to the opinion of many teachers of prophecy, there will be very small

remnant of people who will “stand” when “*the great and terrible day of the LORD comes.*” In the eleventh chapter of Revelation we read about the “*two witnesses.*” These are not two men, as most often taught, but “*two olive trees*” with many branches. The scripture says of them, “*And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth*” (Revelation 11:3-4). Notice that these are “*standing before the God of the earth*” during the three and a half years of great tribulation “*such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be*” (Matthew 24:21). They are “*standing*” in the day of God’s wrath because God has “*sealed*” them with His Holy Spirit and anointed them to preach the gospel of Christ in its purity and power as it has not been preached for over nineteen hundred years. They will preach it in every nation to every creature, as Jesus commanded from the beginning. They will go without fear into the nation of Israel and into Jerusalem itself to preach the gospel during the time their greatest tribulation. It is because of these that the Jews, in the time of their great distress, will “*...look upon me (Him) whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son*” (Zechariah 12:10).

Revelation 7:2-3: “*And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.*”

These prophetic words indicate a great outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon those who “*turn to Him with all their heart*” (Joel 2:12). When God poured His Spirit upon the hundred and twenty on the Day of Pentecost, Peter said, “*This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel*” (Acts 2:16). “*And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh*” (Joel 2:28). It is not by happenchance when God pours out His Spirit; it is “*after*” His people turn to Him with all their hearts. Notice what Joel said in the same prophecy, “*The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the*

terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call" (Joel 2:31-32). Peter quoted Joel's prophecy in its entirety when he said, "*This is that!*" Joel prophesied of the day of God's wrath against the Christ rejecters as "*the great and the terrible day of the LORD.*" When Peter quoted Joel, however, he called it "*that great and notable day of the Lord*" (Acts 2:20). Peter was correct when he said "*This is that.*" He was there when the sun refused to shine while Jesus hung on the cross. Three of the four "*gospels*" record the event, but Luke gives the most complete record; "*It was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost*" (Luke 23:44-46). It was fifty days later that God poured His Spirit upon the hundred and twenty and anointed them to carry the gospel to a generation that would end with the wrath of God upon those who rejected Christ and persecuted those who preached His gospel. It was in that "*wicked and perverse generation*" ('untoward generation;' Acts 2:40)" that God gave the greatest revival the world has seen until this day. A greater than that is soon to come. It will harvest the earth during the most horrible time the world has ever seen (Revelation 14:14-16).

Joel prophesied of that "*great and terrible day of the LORD,*" saying, "*And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call*" (Joel 2:32). Peter understood that He and the rest of the hundred and twenty were the "*very small remnant*" of Israel that Isaiah prophesied of in Isaiah 1:9. It took the apostle Paul to explain that "*remnant*" to us. He quoted Isaiah in Romans 9:29; "*And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrhah.*" Notice that what Isaiah called a "*very small remnant,*" Paul called "*a seed.*" Most of the church today has a defeatist attitude. "*We're all sinners...we'll always be*

sinner until Jesus takes us out of this terrible world.” No! Jesus won the victory at Calvary. He conquered death and hell. Paul assures us, “...*through death, He destroyed he that had the power of death, that is, the devil*” (Hebrews 2:14). Christ came into the world to “*finish the transgression and make an end of sins*” (Daniel 9:24-27). That’s what He meant when He cried from the cross, “**IT IS FINISHED.**” Even the “*best*” among us have a defeated mindset. “*We are the remnant people, and when we are gone, it’s all over.*” **NO!** God spoke to me several years ago that we don’t have to be the “*end*” of something that was good in its day. If we are, in fact, His remnant, we are the beginning of the great end time harvest. The hundred and twenty were an extremely small remnant among the millions of Jews who rejected Christ, but they also understood that they were the “*seed*” for a great harvest of souls. God had spoken of their day through the prophet Joel, “...*in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call*” (Joel 2:32. Vast multitudes gathered to the hundred and twenty, because they saw that “*in them*” there was deliverance for as many as would call upon the name of Jesus.

The greatest day of opportunity is dawning for the children of God. It will not come through the programs we can put together. It will definitely not be the result of our “*human efforts*” to reach the world. Forget the idea that we must raise millions of dollars to do what Christ has commissioned us to do. I tell you that all the human efforts of man will fail. Isaiah told us the same:

Isaiah 2:11-17: “*The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: And upon all the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up, And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures. And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.*”

A New Day

Malachi 3:15-18: *“And NOW we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered. Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. THEN shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.”*

I call your attention to the two words I have capitalized, “now” and “then.” They indicate two different “days,” the first being our present day. “Now we call the proud happy,” and the wicked are “set up.” God said there is another day coming, and it is near at hand in our generation. The circumstances are going to be changed for both the wicked and the righteous. The proverbial “shoe” is going to “be on the other foot.” To the wicked, it will be “the great and the terrible day of the LORD” (Joel 2:31), but to the righteous, it will be “the great and notable day of the Lord” (Acts 2:20). They are the same day in which God tells us to “discern (again) between the righteous and the wicked.”

Malachi 4:1-2: *“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, 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. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.”*

In the day that “burns as an oven,” the “wicked shall be as stubble.” This is not an analogy of “hell” or “the lake of fire.” It is “the great and terrible day of the LORD” which will climax with the return of Jesus Christ at the sounding of the seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:15). The same day will be a very notable day for the righteous when the “sun of righteousness arises with

healing in His wings” and they are kept by God as “the calves of His stall.”

Entering the Secret Place

When God says, *“A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee”* (Psalms 91:7-8), *He cannot be speaking in metaphorical terms.* The wording is explicit; *“a thousand shall fall at thy side...it shall not come nigh thee.”* The righteous will be kept by God during the most horrible period of time the world has ever seen. The next verses tell us why this is so:

Psalms 91:9-10: *“BECAUSE thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.”*

The word *“because”* always gives a reason. The *“law”* of *“cause and effect”* is a wonderful thing to those who have made the LORD their habitation.

Psalms 91:11-13: *“For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.”*

Again, the scripture tells us why this wonderful message is true.

Psalms 91:14-16: *“Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.”*

O people! The time that I write about is the next major prophetic event that will take place on earth just before the return of Jesus Christ. Many people believe that a secret rapture of the church will be their rescue from that terrible day. Please do not trust in such unproved teachings. It is *“the secret place”* and not *“a secret rapture”* that God has provided for those who *“trust in Him”* and *“seek His face.”*

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