

# Great Tribulation and the Return of Yahusha the Messiah

The following verses demonstrate that believers living in the Church Age must go through tribulations:

- In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. **John 16:33**
- 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 Yahuah. **Acts 14:22**
- And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; **Romans 5:3**
- And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction [tribulation], with joy of the Ruach ha Kodesh. **1 Thessalonians. 1:6**
- That no man should be moved by these afflictions [tribulations]: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. **1 Thessalonians. 3:3-4**
- Yea, and all that will live godly in Yahusha shall suffer persecution. **2 Timothy 3:12**

Believers living in this Age are not exempt from times of trouble and distress and intense pressure and persecution. However, there is a specific time of trouble which Church Age believers are exempt from: "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**).

## Signs of Yahusha return in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars

“Now learn this parable from the fig tree (Israel becoming a Nation 1948): When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. **33** So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! **34** Assuredly, I say to you, this generation (a Generation is 70 Years) will by no means pass away till all these things take place. -**Matthew 24:32-34, Mark 13:28-30**

When Yahusha was asked by his disciples; Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?” **5** And Yahusha, answering them, began to say: “Take heed that no one deceives you. **6** For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and will deceive many. **7** But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. **8** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles.[a] These are the beginnings of sorrows. **Mark 13:4-15**

And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; **26** men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **27** Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. **Luke 21:25-27**

**20** The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of Yahuah. **Acts 2:20**

**2** I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. **Revelation 6:12**

## **Partial solar eclipse that occurred on Av 1**

“And a fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten,...( **Revelation 8:12**) The idea that a third of the sun is smitten may be a reference to a partial eclipse.

In recent years there have been Partial solar eclipse that occurred on Av 1 (Av is a month in the Jewish calendar)

Av 1 – August 1, 2008- partial eclipse

Av 1 – July 22, 2009 – partial eclipse

Av 1 – July 11, 2010 – partial eclipse

How interesting that a solar eclipse will fall on the date of Av 1, in the middle of mourning and lamentation, three years in a row!

The first day of Av is in the middle of the time period when the Jewish people mourn the destruction of the Temple of Yahuah. Historically Moses descended from Mt. Sinai with the two tablets of the Ten Commandments, and found the people engaged in gross idolatry at the foot of the mountain. That was on Tammuz 17. Also, on Av 9, the Hebrew spies returned from spying out the land of Canaan and brought an evil report and the people lost faith in Yahuah, and were condemned to wander 40 years in the wilderness (Numbers 14:34). Av 9 also commemorates the date of the destruction of the first Temple by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 B.C., and the second Temple by the Roman general Titus on the same date in 70 A.D.

These two dates are days of infamy in Israel. The three week period between Tammuz 17 and Av 9 are called between the straits and are days of mourning, repentance, and lamentations.

## **Why did Yahuah create the stars in the heavens in the first place?**

We read one significant answer in Genesis, the first chapter. Then Yahuah said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years. **Genesis 1:14**

The word for sign here, in the Hebrew, is *owth*, and means a signal, as a flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence, etc. The word for seasons is the Hebrew *moadim* and means festivals, literally, appointed times.

Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon points out that this word means a sign, a token (**Exodus12:13; Josh.2:12**), signs and times (Genesis1:14), i.e., signs of times. It is used of a military ensign, a sign of something past, and a sign of something future, a portent, as well as a sign of anything which cannot be seen.

For seasons, Strong's Concordance has an appointment, i.e. a fixed time or season; spec. a festival. Gesenius has it, (1) a set time, . . . (2) an assembly . . . (3) a place in which an assembly is held . . . (4) an appointed time, a signal.

Thus heavenly bodies, and the periodic return of comets, and celestial meteor showers, and eclipses, can be, in Biblical terms, a heavenly sign! Yahusha spoke of such signs occurring before His return to planet Earth. When such a sign occurs on a moad or moadim, or Festival of Yahuah, it is especially

significant.

Yahusha Himself said, referring to the days before His second coming: And there will be fearful sights and GREAT SIGNS from heaven (**Luke 21:11,**). Yahusha went on, And there will be SIGNS in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars . . **Luke 21: 25.**

Three blood-red moons (Lunar) that corresponded to significant events:

The Spanish Inquisition final year 1492 when the Alhambra Decree ordered all remaining Jews who would not convert to Christianity to leave Spain, the 1948 War of Independence and the 1967 Six-Day War had back-to-back, blood-red moons occur on the first day of Passover and Sukkot the following two years or beginning the same year of the 1967 Six-Day War for two years.

- \* Passover, April 2, 1493
- \* Sukkoth, Sept. 25, 1493
- \* Passover, March 22, 1494
- \* Sukkoth, Sept. 15, 1494

#### **The War of Independence — 1948**

- \* Passover, April 13, 1949
- \* Sukkoth, Oct. 7, 1949
- \* Passover, April 2, 1950
- \* Sukkoth, Sept. 26, 1950

#### **The Six-Day War — 1967**

- \* First Day of Passover, April 24, 1967
- \* First Day of Sukkoth, Oct. 18, 1967
- \* First Day of Passover, April 13, 1968
- \* First Day of Sukkoth, Oct. 6, 1968

#### **What will occur in the 2014–2015 time period?**

- \* First Day of Passover, April 15, 2014
- \* First Day of Sukkoth, Oct. 8, 2014
- \* First Day of Passover, April 4, 2015
- \* First Day of Sukkoth, Sept. 28, 2015

#### **Fall Feasts in 2015**

- \* Rosh Hashanah (The Feast of Trumpets), Sept. 14
- \* Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement), Sept. 23
- \* Sukkoth (The Feast of Tabernacles), Sept. 28

during this century, the only string of four consecutive blood moons that coincide with Yahuah's holy days of Passover in the spring and the autumn's Feast of Tabernacles (also called Sukkoth) will occur in 2014 and 2015 on today's Gregorian calendar.

There were no astronomical back-to-back blood-red moon events in the 1800s, the 1700s or the 1600s. In the 1500s, there were six, but none of those fell on Passover and Sukkoth. The 2014/2015 events will be the last this century.

## Four lunar eclipse will occur consecutively and all appear on Jewish Holy days!

Passover, April 15, 2014

The Feasts of Tabernacles, October 8, 2014

Passover, April 4, 2015

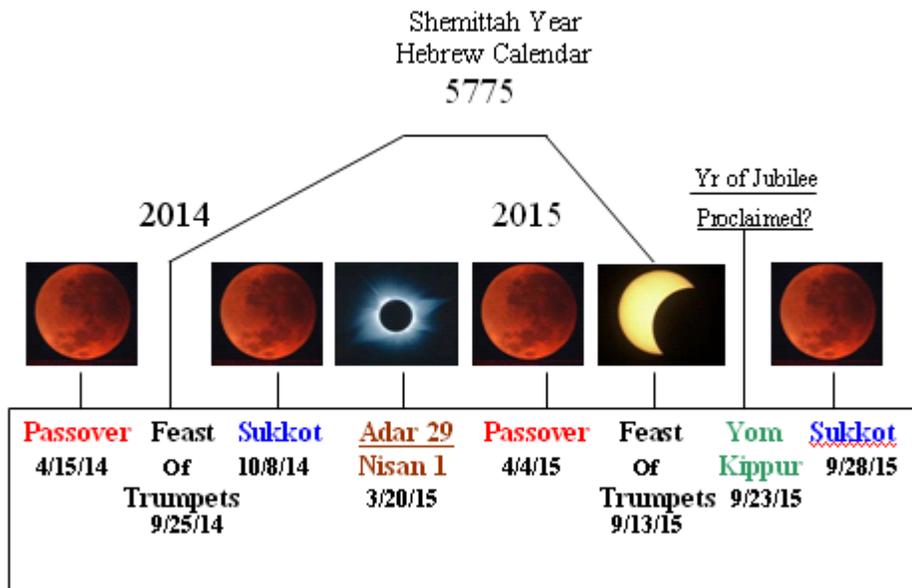
The Feasts of Tabernacles, September 28, 2015

## The two Solar eclipses connected with God’s Holy Days in 2014-2015 occur:

Adar 29/Nisan 1 (new year), March 20, 2015

Feast of Trumpets, September 13, 2015

## Chart of 2014-2015: four blood-red moons and two solar eclipses



You have the Jewish religious year beginning with the total solar eclipse on Adar 29/Nisan 1 (March 20, 2015); two weeks later, a total lunar eclipse on Passover (April 4, 2015); then the civil year beginning with the solar eclipse; followed two weeks later by another total blood-red moon on the Feast of Succoth — all in 2015."

This is a rare occurrence for four lunar cycles to happen on successive Passover and The Feasts of Tabernacles (Sukkot) observances. However it happened twice before in the 20th century.

The first set occurred in 1949 – 1950 the year after Israel became a state!

The second set happened in 1967 – 1968, the year Israel liberated Jerusalem!

Before these dates it happened in 1493, the year after Columbus sailed the ocean blue and Spain expelled all Jews.

In addition to the four lunar eclipses in 2014 – 2015, there will be 2 solar eclipses. “The sun shall be turned into darkness... **Joel 2:30, 31, Acts 2:20, Revelation 6:12**

Adar 29/Nisan 1, March 20, 2015  
The Feasts of Trumpets, September 13, 2015 Partial eclipse

These dates are significant and are special days in the Jewish calendar. Nisan 1 is the first anniversary of the Exodus. Nisan 1 also marks the beginning of the religious festival cycle.

### Comets (Falling Stars)

A newly discovered, real-life comet named Elenin will pass between the Earth and Sun this year. It will pass within 21 million miles of Earth, and happens to reach that point during the culmination of Yahusha's annual holy days mentioned in the Bible.

### The 70 week prophecy

Believers are appointed unto tribulations (**1 Thessalonians 3:3**), but believers are not appointed unto wrath **1 Thessalonians 5:9**, "wrath" referring to a specific time when Yahuah will pour out His wrath upon the earth. Believers must pass through the fires of affliction, but we will not pass through the specific fires of affliction that are reserved for Daniel's 70th week.

The clearest and most complete chronological prophecy that Yahuah has given to us is the 70 week prophecy in the book of **Daniel 9:24-27**. These 70 weeks involve 490 years of Jewish history (each "week" equals 7 years). The first 69 weeks (483) years have been fulfilled in history. The last week, known as Daniel's 70th week, is a seven year period which has not yet taken place in history. This is also known as the seven year Tribulation period.

After the first 69 weeks the Messiah was cut off and the Church Age began just 53 short days after the Messiah was cut off and crucified. Daniel's 70th week will not begin until a covenant or treaty is made between the Antichrist and Israel **Daniel 9:27**.

The Church Age began on the Day of Pentecost, in **Acts chapter 2**. Just as the Church had an abrupt beginning shortly after the conclusion of the 69th week (the coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost), so we should expect the Church to have an abrupt removal shortly before the beginning of the 70th week.

The Pre-Tribulation model harmonizes perfectly with Daniel's 70th week prophecy while at the same time recognizing the mysterious nature of the Church Age (mysterious in the sense that it was not revealed on the pages of the Old Testament). The Pre-Tribulation model best explains the 2000 year gap and also keeps us from mixing up the Church Age with prophetic Jewish history.

Here is the Pre-Tribulational model of the 70 week prophecy (Daniel 9) as it relates to the Church Age. Notice that the Church Age is completely distinct from Daniel's 70 weeks. The Church Age is found in the gap between the 69th week and the 70th week:



### Pre-Tribulation View

Here is the Post-Tribulational model of the 70 week prophecy (Daniel 9) as it relates to the Church Age. Notice that this model has the Church on earth during Daniel's 70th week (the seven year Tribulation period)



### Post-Tribulation View

Here is the Pre-Wrath model of the 70 week prophecy (Daniel 9) as it relates to the Church Age. Notice that this model is very similar to the Post-Tribulation model. The only difference is that the Church is on earth during three quarters of the Tribulation rather than during all of it.

**Rapture:** The word rapture is from the Latin *Raptus* meaning the state or experience of being carried away. The Greek word, αἰρᾶσθαι, *Harpazo*, means catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force) is found in **I Thessalonians 4:17** in relation to those who are saved by believing in Jesus.

### A Comforting Hope!

Without controversy the Scriptures present the Rapture (Caught up) of the Chosen as a comforting and encouraging hope. **13** But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Yahusha died and rose again, even so Yahuah will bring with Him those who sleep in Yahusha. **15** For this we say to you by the word of Yahuah, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of Yahuah will by no means precede those who are asleep. **16** For Yahuah Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of Yahuah. And the dead in Yahusha will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet Yahuah in the air. And thus we shall always be with Yahuah. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**I Thessalonians 4:13-18.**

The glorious reality awaiting those believers who are alive and remain unto the coming of Yahuah is that "we shall not ... sleep" **50** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Yahuah; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. **51** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **1**

**Corinthians 15:51.**

We can draw the following points regarding the rapture from Paul's comments about the Second coming and the resurrection:

- The resurrected, at the rapture will receive an incorruptible body.
- The event will be take place in a twinkling of an eye.
- At the Yahuah's last trumpet (The Feast of Trumpets), both the dead and living saints (believers) will be changed.

If the Chosen were destined to pass through the Tribulation, then these words would be of little comfort. Tribulation saints do not have the joyful expectancy of being alive unto the coming of Yahuah and being exempt from physical death. To stand for Yahusha in that day will often mean martyrdom (**Revelation 7:14; 13:15; 20:4**).

This does not mean that Tribulation believers are without comfort. The comforting promise that Yahuah gives to Tribulation believers is this: "Blessed are the dead who die in Yahuah" (**Revelation 14:13**).

Thus the Tribulation believers are not without hope, and yet the comfort given to them by Yahuah is of a different nature than at present. In the Tribulation, Yahuah will comfort those facing an imminent death. Now He comforts those facing an imminent Savior: "We shall not all sleep." "Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

## **Populating the Millennium?**

If the Rapture (Caught UP) does not take place until the end of the Tribulation, then we are faced with the enormous problem of how the Millennial earth will be populated with people in natural bodies. The Scriptures teach that there will be people in the Millennial Kingdom in mortal bodies. These people will grow old, procreate, and give birth to children, many of whom will never get saved (**Isaiah 65:20; Revelation 20:7-10**).

We know according to **1 Corinthians 15:51-54** that when the Rapture (Caught UP) takes place, all the saved will be resurrected and will thus have resurrected, immortal bodies. We also know that when Yahusha comes to set up His Kingdom, He will judge all the ungodly, and all the unsaved will be taken away in judgment (**Matthew 13:40-43,49-51; 25:41-46**).

If the Rapture takes place at the end of the Tribulation, then all the saved are in resurrection bodies and the unsaved are removed from the earth. Who then will be left to re-populate the Millennial earth?

The Pre-Tribulation theory poses no problem because the Chosen is received up into heaven seven years before Yahusha comes to set up His Kingdom. It is the surviving Tribulation believers, both Jews and Gentiles, who will enter the Kingdom in natural bodies.

## **Yahuah's Purpose for the Tribulation**

The purpose of the seven year Tribulation period would favor a Pre-Tribulation understanding for the timing of the Rapture. Daniel's 70th week relates specifically to the nation of Israel ("seventy weeks are determined upon thy people"--**Daniel 9:24**). Yahuah will deal in a special way with His chosen people, so that they will be ready for the coming of the Messiah (**Jeremiah 30:4-17**).

## **The Rapture is Imminent!**

The coming of Yahusha for His Chosen is presented in the New Testament as an imminent hope and expectancy. That the coming of Yahusha is "imminent" simply means that our Messiah may come at any time. Nothing needs to happen before He comes. No prophecy needs to be fulfilled before He comes. It may be today! Such an expectation is well supported by an abundance of Scriptural testimony:

1. (John 14:3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
2. (Rom. 13:11) And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.
3. (1 Cor. 1:7) So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Messiah Yahusha.
4. (1 Cor. 11:26) For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show Yahusha's death till He come.
5. (1 Cor. 15:51-52) Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) 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.

6. (1 Cor. 16:22) If any man love not Yahusha, let him be Anathema [.] Maranatha ["Our Messiah comes!"].
7. (Phil. 3:20) For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, Yahusha.
8. (Phil. 4:5) Let your moderation be known unto all men. Yahuah is at hand.
9. (Col. 3:4) When Yahusha, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.
- 10.(1 Thess. 1:10) And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Yahusha, which **delivered us from the wrath to come**.
- 11.(1 Thess. 4:17) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet tYahusha in the air. And thus we shall always be with Yahuah.
- 12.(Titus 2:13) Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great Elohim and our Messiah Yahusha.
- 13.(Heb. 9:28) So Yahusha was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.
- 14.(Heb. 10:25) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
- 15.(James 5:8) Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of Yahusha draws near.
- 16.(1 John 2:28; 3:3) And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming....And every man that hath this hope in him purifies himself, even as He is pure.
- 17.(Jude 21) Keep yourselves in the love of Yahuah, looking for the mercy of our Messiah Yahusha unto eternal life.
- 18.(Rev. 22:20) He which testifies these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Yahusha (cf. Rev. 3:11; 22:7,12).

As the above passages indicate, believers are to be constantly waiting for and looking for and expecting His coming and His appearing. We are to look for and eagerly await the glorious appearing of our Great Elohim, even our Savior, the Messiah Yahusha **Titus 2:14**.

It is interesting that we are not told to be looking for the man of sin (the Antichrist) to be revealed. We are not told to be looking for the 144,000 Jews who will be sealed by Yahuah during the time of Daniel's 70th week. We are not told to be looking for "the abomination of desolation" to be set up in Jerusalem. We are told to be looking for Yahusha Himself.

None of the Tribulation events will take place prior to the removal of the Church; otherwise the Rapture would not be imminent. If the Rapture were not to take place until sometime during the last 3½ years (as the Pre-Wrath Rapture view teaches), then this would destroy the doctrine of the imminent return of Yahusha. We would know that before the Rapture could take place, the treaty (covenant) would need to be made with Israel at the beginning of Daniel's 70th week (**Daniel 9:27**) and "the abomination of desolation" would need to be set up at the middle of Daniel's 70th week (**Matthew 24:15**). We would look for these events to happen before we could even begin to expect Yahusha to come for His Chosen.

Was Paul looking for the imminent return of Yahusha? Paul expected that Yahusha would come for him because he considered himself part of the group that would be alive on earth at the time of the Rapture. Notice that Paul includes himself by using the personal pronoun WE--"WE which are alive and remain unto the coming of Yahusha shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep....Then WE which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet Yahusha in the air..." (**1 Thessalonians 4:15,17**). Of course we now know that Paul was not part of that group of believers living at the time of the Rapture. Instead he was part of the "dead in Yahusha" group mentioned in

verse 16 (also described as "them who are asleep"--verse 15). But because of his belief in the imminent return of Yahusha, Paul believed he might be found among the believers living on earth at the time of the Lord's coming for His Church.

Notice also Paul's use of the pronoun "we" in **1 Corinthians 15:51-52**, "Behold, I show you a mystery; WE shall not all sleep, but WE shall all be changed,(52) 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 Church Age believers are divided into two groups: (1) the dead that shall be raised and (2) those alive at Yahusha's coming who will not sleep (who will not die physically) but who will be changed. Paul believed he might be part of this second group, although we now know that Paul was actually part of the first group. Paul, living in the first century, expected that he might be among the generation of believers who would not see physical death. How much more ought we to have this blessed expectation!

## Looking for the Kingdom?

John's closing words in the book of Revelation were these: "Even so, come, Yahusha" (**Revelation 22:20**). Why did John close the book of Revelation with these words? John had been privileged to catch a vision of the glorious Millennial Kingdom of Yahusha (**Revelation 20**). Even during Yahusha's earthly ministry John was one of the select few who saw the Son of man coming in His Kingdom by means of the preview afforded by the transfiguration (**Matthew 16:28-17:1-6; 2 Peter 1:16-18**).

## Salvation, Not Wrath

In **1 Thessalonians 5:9**, Church Age believers are told that "Yahuah has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Messiah Yahusha." Thus as we look to the future we should expect SALVATION and not WRATH.

What did Paul mean when he spoke of WRATH and what did he mean when he spoke of SALVATION?

(1) WRATH. Believers are not appointed unto wrath. We have been delivered from the wrath that is coining (**1 Thessalonians 1:10**). Although it is true that believers are delivered from the wrath of Yahuah which the ungodly will forever face in the lake of fire, Paul's focus in **1 Thessalonians 5** is upon the "day of Yahuah" (verse 2-3), a very specific time when Yahuah's wrath will be poured out upon earth dwellers. This period of wrath is also described in **Revelation 6-19**. It is also known as the greatest time of trouble or tribulation the world has ever known (**Matthew 24:21**). Yahuah has not appointed us to face this time of wrath. Instead we have an appointment to meet Yauhsha in the air prior to the unleashing of Yahuah's fury upon the earth.

(2) SALVATION. People obtain salvation the moment they believe on the Messiah Yahusha (**Acts 16:31**), but the SALVATION spoken of by Paul in **1 Thessalonians 5:9** refers to the believer's final salvation when Yahusha comes for us to complete the great salvation which He began! Thus, instead of facing Yahuah's wrath being poured out on the earth, we will enjoy the consummation of our great salvation. What a comforting hope!

## The Removal of the Restrainer

In **2 Thessalonians 2:1-8** we learn that the man of sin will not be revealed until the Restrainer is taken out of the way (out of the midst). Who is this Restrainer?

In verse 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He[d] who now restrains *will do so* until He[e] is taken out of the way. This only makes sense if the Restrainer be Yahuah the Ruach ha Kodesh.

That which is restraining evil today is the Blessed Holy Spirit who is now dwelling in a unique and special way in the Church which is Yahusha's Body (**Ephesians 2:22; 1 Corinthians 3:16; John 14:17**). When the Chosen are removed by means of the Rapture, the Spirit of Yahuah will be taken out of the way. That is, He will no longer be on the earth in the sense of indwelling a body of believers. Just as He came on the day of Pentecost in a special way, so He will "leave" at the time of the Rapture (though obviously He will still be working in the hearts of men during the Tribulation just as He was working in the hearts of men prior to Pentecost). The Chosen must be removed before the man of sin is revealed. The man of sin will be revealed when he makes a treaty with Israel (**Daniel 9:27**), and this will mark the beginning of Daniel's 70th week. Thus the Chosen must be removed prior to the beginning of Daniel's 70th week (prior to the 7 year Tribulation).

### **Return of Yahusha with his Chosen**

3 **Then shall Yahusha go forth**, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst of it toward the east, and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. 5 And you shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal: yes, you shall flee, like you fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and Yahuah my Elohim (God) shall come, and all the chosen with you. **Zechariah 14:3-5**

13 To the end he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before Yahuah, even our Father, at the coming of our Messiah Yahusha with all his saints. **1 Thessalonians 3:13**

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, Yahusha comes with ten thousands of his chosen. 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against them. **Jude 14-15**

### **Yahuah's Outline of the Book of Revelation**

The Yahuah-given outline of the book of Revelation harmonizes perfectly with the Pre-Tribulation position. The outline of the book is given in Revelation 1:19--

**"the things which thou hast seen" (Chapter 1)**

**"the things which are" (Chapters 2-3)**

**"the things which shall be hereafter" (Chapter 4-22).**

Thus the book could be outlined as follows:

**"THE THINGS WHICH THOU HAST SEEN"**

## Chapter 1--John's Vision of Yahusha

### *"THE THINGS WHICH ARE"*

## Chapters 2-3--The Church (7 churches of Asia Minor)

### *"THE THINGS WHICH SHALL BE HEREAFTER"*

## Chapters 4-19--The Tribulation (Daniel's 70th Week)

## Chapter 20--The Millennial Reign of Yahusha

## Chapters 21-22--The New Heavens and New Earth

It is significant that although the Church is mentioned repeatedly in chapters 1-3, it is never mentioned as being on the earth in chapters 4-19, the chapters that deal with the Tribulation period. The reason is obvious: the Chosen are removed from earth to heaven by way of the Rapture (**John 14:3**). The Chosen will thus be kept from the hour of testing which will come upon all the world, to test them that dwell upon the earth, according to **Revelation 3:10**.

Another key chapter which focuses upon the Tribulation is **Matthew chapter 24**. The Church is not mentioned in this chapter either.

### **The Key Pre-Tribulation Passage**

The most important single passage dealing with the timing of the Rapture is **Revelation 3:10**, "Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from [out of] the hour of temptation [testing, trial], which shall come upon all the world, to try [test] them that dwell upon the earth."

The promise is made specifically to the first century church of Philadelphia in Asia, but students of prophecy recognize that this verse was given for Church Age believers of any age as an encouragement to remain loyal to Yahuah in the midst of difficult times. Indeed, the first century believers that made up the assembly in Philadelphia never lived to see the time of trouble that this verse describes. "The hour of testing" spoken of by Yahusha would not be fulfilled for some two thousand years, and yet Yahusha was true to His promise to the Philadelphia believers even as He is true to this same promise with respect to Church Age believers living today.

There is coming a day when the entire world will be on trial. Yahuah will be the awesome Judge and all those who dwell on the earth will endure this time of terrible testing. Isaiah describes it as "a consumption [decisive destruction], even determined upon the whole earth" (**Isaiah 28:22**). It will be a time of great testing for Israel, described by Jeremiah as "the time of Jacob's trouble" (**Jeremiah 30:6-7**).

The Messiah Yahusha described this time as a unique time of trouble which would be worldwide in scope: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (**Matthew 24:21**). It will be a time that will involve the terrible plagues and judgments described graphically in **Revelation chapters 6-16**.

Yahuah's promise is conditional: If you keep My Word, I will keep you from the hour of testing. Who are those who keep His Word? Who are those who keep His command? In **Revelation 12:17 and 14:12**, we learn that it is the saints (true believers) who keep Yahuah's Word (Yahuah's commandments). The same is true of **John 8:51**: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death." The true believer, the one who has eternal life and who never sees death, is here described as the one who keeps His command, who keeps his Word.

Believers are not always obedient to the Word of their Master. Every believer, if honest, would recognize areas of his life where he has not been obedient to Yahuah's Word. However, as Yahuah views the life of the true believer in its totality, it is a life characterized by obedience. It is a life characterized by keeping His Word: "And hereby we do know and Love Him, if we keep His commandments" (**1 John 2:3**). The person whose life is characterized by disobedience is the person who does not truly know Yahusha in a saving way (**1 John 2:4**).

Our Messiah's disciples were not always totally obedient to their Master. Peter, for example, seriously denied His Messiah and later was rebuked by Paul for not walking uprightly according to the truth of the Gospel of grace **Galatians 2:11-14**. And yet, when Yahusha viewed the lives of the disciples, including Peter, He made this amazing statement, "they have kept Thy Word" **John 17:6**. Though they had their faults and were at times guilty of disobedience, yet their lives in general were characterized by obedience.

Thus in **Revelation 3:10**, those who have kept His Word are those who are saints, that is, true believers.

Notice that the Lord promised believers in **Revelation 3:10** that they would be kept, not just from the TESTING which would severely test the earth dwellers, but that they would be kept from the HOUR of testing. They would not only be kept **from** (NOT THROUGH) the testing, but they would be kept **from** the TIME of testing. "I also will keep thee from the hour [TIME] of temptation [testing], which shall come upon all the world, to try [test] them that dwell upon the earth." The only way to be kept from the HOUR of testing is to be removed from the earth before that "hour" commences.

The Second World War was a time of trial and trouble for much of the world. Suppose you lived on earth prior to this great war, and you were given this promise: "You will be kept from the trial of World War II." This means that you would not face any of the bullets or bombs or battles of the war. Perhaps you would be located in a part of the world not directly involved in the conflict. You could still be in the world, but protected from the war. But suppose you were given this promise: "You will be kept from the TIME of World War II." For this to be fulfilled you could not be on earth during the entire period of years from 1941 to 1945. To be exempt from the time is to be absent at the time when the event takes place.

The expression "**kept from**" is very important. It does not mean "preservation through" or "preservation in" but it means "exemption from." The Post-Tribulation view and the Pre-Wrath view both see the believer staying on the earth during the Tribulation period. "Preservation through" would fit their view because they understand that Yahuah will preserve the Chosen through the Tribulation or through most of the Tribulation. "Exemption from" best fits the Pre-Tribulation view because the Chosen are not on the earth at all during the Tribulation and thus the Chosen are exempt from the trials and troubles associated with that time. The term "kept from" best fits the idea of "exemption from."

Literally this phrase means "to be kept out of" [Greek, ek]. Its meaning is similar to how we use these terms in English. Moses was kept out of the promised land, which means that he did not enter Palestine at all. To be KEPT OUT OF "the hour of trial" that will come upon all the world means that

the person will not enter that time at all. He will be exempt from that time. He will not be present on earth during that time.

The phrase "kept out of" is used by the Apostle John in one other place. It is found in **John 17:15**, "I pray not that Thou should take them out of the world, but that Thou should keep them from [out of] the evil [one]." Yahuah's will for His believers of this present Age is not to be removed from this world, but to be His witnesses in the world. We are in the world but not of the world. The key issue in this verse involves the believer's relationship to the realm of Satan, the evil one. As saved people, are we still IN the realm of Satan, or have we been delivered out of that realm? Does Yahuah keep us out of the realm and power of the evil one or are we still in it?

The answer is found in **Colossians 1:13**-- "Who hath delivered us from [out of] the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son." We once were in the realm of the power of darkness, but we have been delivered out of that realm when we were saved.

The Apostle John sets forth this truth in **1 John 5:18**, "We know that whosoever is born of Yahuah sin not; but he that is begotten of God keeps himself, and that wicked one touch him not." In harmony with our Fatgher's prayer in **John 17:15**, believers are kept from or out of the wicked one so that he (Satan) does not touch them at all! He no longer has any kind of a hold on us. We have been removed totally from his kingdom and from his realm. We now belong to the Son of Yahuah who loved us and gave Himself for us! Yes, we are in the world, but we are kept OUT OF the evil one! As far as having Satan for our ruler, we are totally exempt!

Another passage written by the Apostle John is significant in understanding **Revelation 3:10**. It is found in **John 12:27**, "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save Me from [out of] this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour." Although the verb "to keep" is not used in this verse, it is similar to **Revelation 3:10** in that the preposition "out of" [Greek, ek] is used as well as the word "hour." It is clear that our Lord prayed for exemption from the hour when He would bear the sins of the world and be separated from Yahuah His Father: "Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me..." (**Luke 22:42**). But Yahusha must follow the path of obedience to His Father's will: "But for this cause came I unto this hour... nevertheless not My will, but Thine be done." (**John 12:27; Luke 22:42**). The Messiah Yahusha did not want to drink the cup of the wrath of Yahuah. He prayed that He might be exempt from that hour; but most of all He wanted to obey His heavenly Father regardless of the cost.

## **Conclusion:**

In **Revelation 3:10** Yahusha promised His Chosen believers that they would be exempt from the hour of trial or trouble that would come upon all the world. He did not promise to keep us through this time or to keep us in this time, but He promised to keep us out of this time. He will keep us out of this time by removing us from the earth prior to Daniel's 70th week. This great event is described in **John 14:1-3** and **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** and in several other passages.