

# Will YOU be spared the GREAT TRIBULATION?



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*All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.*

**Summary:** *Will you and I have to go through the Great Tribulation – or will we be spared? Some apparently will be spared BUT many will not. Which group will you be in? This sermon explains the balance we need about praying to be spared, while also not just focusing on saving our own skin. We look at Revelation 3 and 12 also. Is repentance in order? What are the qualities of those who are described as the ones spared? You'll want to know. Transcript and audio are not 100% aligned... so print off the transcript AS you listen to the audio, or you'll miss a lot if ONLY using notes or only audio.*

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Hello and a warm welcome everyone. This is Philip Shields welcoming you to enjoy our free messages and insights from the Word of God. Spread the word if this site is helping and blessing you.

**Let me get right into the topic today.** The Bible says just before Christ returns, there is a coming time of greatest trouble the world has ever seen. We call it “the Great Tribulation”. Will YOU be spared going through the Great Tribulation?  
(Brief opening prayer)

So we're talking about the coming Great Tribulation.

**First let's let scripture tell us -- and DEFINE how bad a time it will be:**

## **Daniel 12:1**

“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; **and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.**

**And at that time your people shall be delivered,**  
**Everyone who is found written in the book.”**

## **Mark 13:18-20**

“And **PRAY** that **your flight** may not be in winter.

**19 For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.**

**20 And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.”**

A worse time than the Nazi pogroms – and Auschwitz, Birkenau. Worse than the Spanish Inquisition. Worse than the tortures by Saddam Hussein or ISIS.

PLUS – before it begins, there will be other horribly frightening earthquakes of immense magnitude around the world, tsunamis that wipe out cities and islands, disease epidemics going on that wipes out almost 2 billion people, according to Revelation 6:7-8. (1/4 of humanity).

This is going to be the scariest time the world has ever been through! And it probably is coming well within the lifetimes of almost all of you hearing this!

**Now let's let Yeshua himself tell us what the last decade or so will be like before he returns. We can find it in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. Be sure to note the sequence of the events Yeshua gives, then compare and correlate that sequence to the first few seals of Revelation 6.**

**Matthew 24:1-22**

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? **And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**" [Not KJV – "end of the world"]

4 **And Jesus answered and said to them:** "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. [False prophets, seal #1 Rev 6:1-2]

6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

[Seal #2, Rev 6:3-4]

And there will be **famines, pestilences, and earthquakes** in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows. [Rev 6:5-8 seals 3-4]

9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. [His name, Yeshua/Jesus is very important) [Seal #5 – Great Tribulation Rev 6:9-11]

10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

[NOW we get into the great tribulation]

15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet [Daniel 9:27; 12:11], standing in the holy place" [called "the temple" in Daniel] (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out

of his house. 18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

**21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.**

I'm planning a sermon soon, God willing, on what has to happen, according to prophecy and scriptures, before Christ returns – so I'll get into the coming temple in Jerusalem, the coming sacrifices there, and much more. Be looking for it.

**Do you want to go through the Great Tribulation? Apparently SOME of God's children WILL be spared going through it, and many will go thru it. And some of you feel that God's people are **RAPTURED** up to heaven just before the Great Tribulation. But can that be true?**

### **NO PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE!**

**IF we keep reading, in verse 29-30, we see that Christ does not come to collect his saints until AFTER the Great Tribulation,** not before. There's a lot of debate on when is the Rapture –or when does Christ gather his Elect? The Son of God tells us when – right here in verses 29-31.

And again, notice the parallel with Rev 6, the 5<sup>th</sup> seal – which is about the Great Tribulation, comes before the great cosmic signs in the sky (Revelation 6:12-17, the 6<sup>th</sup> seal), and then AFTER all that is when Christ returns.

#### **Matthew 24:29-31**

**"Immediately AFTER the tribulation of those days** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken [the 6<sup>th</sup> seal of Rev 6 – the cosmic signs). 30 **THEN the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven,** and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, **and they will gather together His elect from the four winds,** from one end of heaven to the other."

I bring this up to make the point that those counting on a rapture before the Great Tribulation are in a for a shock! The elect – the children of God – are not gathered together until after the Great Tribulation. So there's no RAPTURE that saves anyone from, or before, or during the Great Tribulation.

But scripture DOES speak of safety and protection for some, and not for others. We'll get to that.

### **REVELATION 13: The NEW BEAST POWER AND FALSE PROPHET**

I personally do not believe the Great Tribulation will be limited to just those who believe as you do, but will include anyone who does not become a part of the new world order of the

“Beast” system of Revelation 13. They also will be attacked and killed. Some think it’s limited to persecuting sabbath keepers. We’ll have to see. *I think the Beast system will want total domination,* and anyone who for any reason does not become a part of the new system – will die. Unless, big “unless” – unless our God spares us having to go through it.

**Revelation 13:4-8**

4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue **for forty-two months.** 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

**7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over EVERY tribe, tongue, and nation.** 8 **ALL** who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose *names have not been written in the Book of Life* of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

**Revelation 13:11-18**

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to **worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.** 13 **He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.**

14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

**16 He causes ALL, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: **His number is 666.**

(There’s quite a bit of commentary in the audio version of this sermon.)

I also believe we will have “mini-flights” – as it gets too dangerous in one city, in one place, we move quickly to another and “get out of Dodge”.

**Matthew 10:21-23**

"Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. 23 **When they persecute you in this city, flee to another.** For assuredly, I say to you, **you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.**"

**Remember too that you will not be able to buy or sell, have a job, or transact any financial business, unless you become a part of that awful system.** You won't be able to pay your rent/mortgage, buy food or gas or anything – without that 666 on your right hand and forehead. But if you do, your name is blotted out of the Book of Life forever. So don't be part of it! But if you don't become a part of that evil system – you die as a martyr.

**THE BALANCE we need – as scripture tells us**

Now who on earth would claim they would want to go through the Great Tribulation? Not me. But here's the balance that Scripture gives us.

**1) TRUST IN GOD. THOSE SEEKING TO SAVE THEIR SKIN WILL LOSE THEIR LIVES.**

**Luke 17:33**

**“Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.”**

I believe 40-60 years ago, that many people became believers and kept the sabbath because of wanting to save their own skin! That was wrong.

Our focus should NOT be on saving our lives, or on “making it to the Place of Safety”—but on coming to believe in, know and TRUST our Maker, our Savior. That's our first and primary focus. We will need to know him especially during the Great Tribulation – and know our God has not forsaken us but is with us all the way, whether he wills for us to go through it or not.

***Remember even the last 2 witnesses – who will be very converted, spirit-led, spirit-filled leaders – will be killed during that time.*** Even they will. So don't buy in to the notion that all who go through the martyrdom were weak people God had to somehow put through a terrible time to wake them up. Some are spiritual giants like the 2 witnesses. And yes, some WILL need to be awakened from their spiritual sleep.

So our primary focus should be on WHO is our Savior, WHO is our God, WHO is our LIFE, WHO is our Rock and protection -- and not on when this happens, or where a place of safety will be, or how we might be saved, or what the safekeeping will look like.

**2) But we are told to PRAY that we be counted worthy to escape – not just the Great Tribulation – but ALL these things Jesus spoke about in the Mt Olives Prophecy – Matt. 24, Luke 21, and Mark 13.**

**Luke 21:36**

**“Watch therefore, and PRAY always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man.”**

So apparently we ARE to pray to be seen by God as “worthy” to escape the coming Great Tribulation – “and ALL these things that will come to pass...”

The Great Tribulation is the 5<sup>th</sup> seal – and there are 4 great seals of troubles that will come on the whole earth before the Great Tribulation according to Revelation 6. YOU will want God's protection NOT JUST from the Great Tribulation, but also the FAMINES, earthquakes, worldwide disease epidemics, and even the cosmic terrifying sights after the Great Tribulation. Yeshua says "Pray you be counted worthy to escape ALL these things..."

If you read the verses that come before Luke 21:36 – about praying we escape ALL these things, what is included in THE "ALL these things?" Read Luke 21:8-19, 20-24. Again – wars, great earthquakes, diseases that kill a billion or more, plus the scary meteor showers and asteroid near-misses and so on. Pray you escape it ALL – NOT JUST the Great Tribulation!

Luke 21: 20—when you see Jerusalem surrounded by ARMIES – flee if you're in Judea.

**Luke 21:23-24 (remember this is the Son of God speaking here)**

"But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 **And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles** until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."

So many mess up the prophecies and think there will be great deliverance for the Jews in Jerusalem at the end time – but not before they initially defeated in war and led away captive (v. 24) – and the GENTILES will rule Jerusalem for a short time. **See also Zechariah 14:1-4.** Christ returns in the nick of time- at the very END of all this – to finally save Jerusalem from total destruction, but before that, there is defeat, captivity and conquest by the Gentiles! That's what Yeshua says!

**THEN the signs in the heavens!**

**Luke 21:25-28**

"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.** 28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

Sea and waves rolling – there will be great tsunamis the like of which we've never seen! Whole big cities and countries and islands will be washed away!

YES, we will need to be protected from ALL of these things, not just the Great Tribulation. And some will be protected, but most WON'T be, as I read my Bible.

**First and biggest point for protection: God must know us and we must know God and Christ.** This site has always been about our relationship with our Maker and on another. ONGOING LIVES OF SIN will diminish and destroy that relationship. We must love God and know Him.



*We've come to really trust our Maker and Father – no matter He allows us to go through in this life – we TRUST and LOVE him. You're hearing his voice and seeking God's will in your life and you're obeying God's word. We can't say we know him unless we keep his commandments, according to 1 John 2:3-6.*

*During the first 4 seals of Revelation, as those are going on all around us, we should remember to read and re-read Psalm 91 until we almost know it by heart. It can save our faith and confidence – and result in a great protection.*

**Psalm 91**

**"He who DWELLS in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.**

**2 I will say of Yehovah, "HE is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."**

**3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.**

**5 You shall NOT be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow (missile?) that flies by day, 6 nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.**

**7 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand but it shall not come near you.**

**8 Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked.**

**9 Because you have made Yehovah, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place,**

**10 No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; (Jumping now to v 14 for time...)**

**14 "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name."**

**Proverbs 29:25**

**"The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in Yehovah shall be safe."**

**THE GREAT INNUMERABLE MULTITUDE**  
**who come OUT of the Great Tribulation**

NOW – good news and bad news.

**BAD NEWS first:** *There is coming a great new world order* that Revelation 13 says will have power over every nation, every tongue, every tribe – EVERYONE! It's going to ally itself with a great False Prophet anti-Christ, who together FORCE everyone to come together as one, one world religion probably too.

I am NOT one who says the Great False Prophet of the end time has to be the Pope. It will be someone who seems a man of peace, like a lamb, bringing world religions together! But God's children see him as the imposter he is and will not submit to his peaceful façade.

The name of Yeshua, Jesus, Yahshua, Y'shua will be banned – because it isolates to his followers and says the other religions' gods are false gods. Those who identify and

proclaim Yeshua will be tortured and martyred, unless God supernaturally protects them during this time of greatest trouble the world has ever seen.

Why? Because during the first 4-5 seals of Revelation 6, the whole world will in complete chaos at first with terrorism, wars, the most severe famines and disease epidemics the world has ever known – and so everyone's looking for someone to pull the earth out of this chaos.

- So the Beast system says everyone's a part of our 666 system – or die
- Can't buy or sell if you're not a part of it. Won't have a job! Think of it!
- And eventually—all who won't partake will be MARTYRED.

**GOOD NEWS: many will stand strong with God** and their beliefs and will be beheaded as a witness to the world that these people cannot be scared into joining Satan's last attempt at world domination. They'll be killed for not becoming a part of the Beast system and their 666 system. They'll die – and so will you and I – if we're not supernaturally protected.

All who do not DENY Christ's name will die unless divinely protected. We can deny him by saying we are not a part of anything to do with our Savior – or we can also deny him also by our ungodly, unChrist-like life. **Titus 1:16** – "They profess to know God, but in *works* they deny him..." Our lives have to show proof of our allegiance to Christ and his way of life.

How many will be pleased to die for their allegiance to the one true living God? Revelation 7 indicates that outside of Israelites, there will be a great number too big to count! A great innumerable multitude. That's great news! SO many who will not deny the Christ.

**Revelation 7:9-15**

"After these things I looked, **and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, **clothed with white robes**, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

**13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"**

**14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know."**

**So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."**

This has to mean to me, at least, that those who stand firm for God and die for their beliefs in the Great Tribulation are not just people who go to your church or mine. There are not enough of those to make up an innumerable multitude!



I suppose many of them will have some beliefs somewhat different from yours – but there's one thing they do have: they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb – i.e., they have deeply repented and accepted Yeshua as their Savior. They will never deny Christ, no matter what. And for that, they will die in the Great tribulation, but we see that God honors them.

And Revelation 7:1-8 show that there also will **be 144,000 from the end-time nations of Israel are also sealed** – and in their case, they seem to be spared alive. I'll speak or write more on the 144,000 in future. But remember you and I are already sealed by the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30).

So at least hundreds of thousands **and perhaps MILLIONS will refuse to take on the 666 system.** Praise our God for that!

For these people know that if they do worship the Beast and False Church system, they will have their names blotted out of God's Book of Life (**Rev 13:8; Rev 20:4**). And the great news is that this Great Multitude, i.e. too many to count -- choose God's eternal LIFE – and they REJECT being a part of that SATANIC system that will come. Revelation 20:4 says they're "beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God" as they reject the 666 system. And those folks will have a very high reward.

**But SOME ARE SPARED going thru THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

(The audio will have much more than what is in these notes. Be sure you hear the audio WITH notes beside you.)

But does seem to speak of a group of people against whom Satan goes to war – and part of that group seems to be protected by God, but the "remnant" of that commandment-keeping group then becomes the target. Let's read it.

**Revelation 12:7-17**

**7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.**

**9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the **Devil and Satan**, who deceives the whole world; **he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.****

**10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For **the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.**"**

**My comment:** I fully expect we'll see more and more **demonic activity in the coming years.** You people of God: have **NOTHING to do with movies and shows and games** that have to do with *demonism, walking dead, zombies, vampires, witches, Spiritism, warlocks, talking to the dead,*

*paranormal ghost stuff, Harry Potter genre, or other movies that depict demons and witchcraft – do not open your mind to that demonic garbage. I'm going to even include Lord of the Rings and Star Wars in that. Even the "safe" and "harmless" ghosts like Casper. Don't be involved in ANY of it. It's very dangerous, so rebuke it. If you're watching any of that bull dung, shame on you! Repent immediately and stop!*

Let's continue now in Rev. 12:13. Remember "the dragon" is Satan.

Rev 12: 13 continued: "Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he **persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.** **14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.** 15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth."

17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war **with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**"

#### **Revelation 20:4-5**

"and I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."

So certainly MANY end-time believers will be killed by various "worst ever" means, including beheading. It does seem clear to me that some believers will be spared all of this – especially those of the Philadelphian attitude, which we'll discuss now.

("Philadelphian" does not refer to any group calling themselves that, but those whom GOD deems have a Philadelphian-type attitude and heart.)

### **THE TALE OF TWO END-TIME TYPES OF BELIEVERS – PHILADELPHIANS AND LAODICEANS**

Whether you feel the 7 churches of Revelation 2 and 3 depict time periods or eras or not, let me say that the last 2 churches show a progression of time that ends with the return of the Christ. To Philadelphia, Christ says, "I am coming soon". To Laodicea he says, "I'm HERE, knocking at your door."

#### **PHILADELPHIAN-type believers at the end time**

##### **Revelation 3:7-8**

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write,

"These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": 8 **"I know your works.** See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have **kept My word, and have not denied My name.**"

**Some strong characteristics being mentioned here....let's keep reading.  
NOTICE especially verses 10-11.**

**Revelation 3:9-13**

Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie — indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

**10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**

**11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have,** that no one may take your crown.

**12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more.** I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

**13** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

**WOW! There seems to be a strong indication here they will be spared the Great Tribulation – “the hour of trial” that comes upon the whole earth (and the context is just before Christ returns) Rev. 3:10**

Who are the ones spared? We've already read that we should ALL pray to be spared ALL the things prophesied to occur and be counted worthy. We're read that already that Yeshua needs to know us. Now we've been given more characteristics of those who are spared the Great Tribulation when we analyze the Philadelphian spirit.

- Rev 3:8 – Christ KNOWS our works. We're busy working, serving. Reminds me of Matthew 24:45-51. Take a look at it.
- “KEPT my word” v.8 these are Bible reading people who apply what they learn in God's word.
- **“Have not denied my name” v.8.** They know and are not ashamed or afraid to say their Lord and Savior is Yeshua. The time is coming, I believe, when the new Beast Superpower that is going to ally with anti-Christ and demand just one world religion – and will ban the name of Jesus, ban Yeshua, Yahshua or anything that points to the one true living son of God . They won't allow people to talk about Yeshua or Jesus. And if we do, we could DIE for that name.

But when that happens, we must not be ashamed or afraid to talk of our great Yeshua! We must never forget that those who are protected from the Great Tribulation are those who “Have not denied my name” (Revelation 3:8). We can also deny Him by our conduct, our works – Titus 1:16.

If time permits, I'll come back to this point – “not denied my name.”

- They are obeying the command to persevere, to never quit or give up, no matter what, to hang in there with the living God (v. 10). Not letting God's truth get watered down – but holding FAST to God's word v 11

- **V. 12 The ones spared are also overcomers – they are growing, changing, becoming more and more like Christ.** If they've had bad habitual sins like alcoholism, that's gone. Sexual sins – gone. Porn – gone. Loosy-goosey sabbath breaking – gone. Coveting, lusty – gone. Spiritual laziness has turned into daily prayer and study again! Self-centeredness is now changed to a life of good works and serving the needy, helping the poor. They're changing, growing, converting and becoming a living new creation made by God in them.

*If you're not overcoming, you're not a Philadelphian.* I've had to put many horrible sins of my own past – in the past, and overcome them. And so have you; so must you. Now I'm working on a few more that hang on – trying to lose weight, obesity, over-eating – that all has to be overcome too and other things God shows me in my own life.

### **LAODICEAN BELIEVERS IN THE LAST DAYS**

And notice also that to these last 2 churches, Yeshua our Anointed One says -- "I am coming quickly" and to Laodicea he says "I'm here, at your door, knocking..."

**But now the last group – the Laodicean group – is called the lukewarm church.** They *kinda* know their Savior. They pray and study – but not likely as a "seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" kind of standard (Matthew 6:33). Prayer and study is not first thing every day, nor probably something committed to every day.

And this group is mouthy. They have something to say. They talk back. They think they're FINE. They talk back to God himself. They do not see themselves correctly – and so Yeshua the Messiah says they are blind!

Sometimes I can fall into that category and find myself having to repent of my lukewarmness and mouthiness. Can you admit the same? Proper and deep repentance will never happen if we don't first see what we need to repent of! I've had much to repent of. I hope you admit the same for yourself.

#### **Revelation 3:14-20**

"And to the angel of the church of the **Laodiceans** write,

'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 "**I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.**

16 So then, because **you are lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

17 Because **YOU say**, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' – and **do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked** – 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

19 **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.** Therefore be zealous and repent.

20 **Behold, I stand at the door and knock.** If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Those who DO repent of Laodicean attitudes – guess what? They have a great reward, but they apparently will have to be tried by fire first. That sounds to me so much like “the remnant” mentioned in Revelation 12 whom Satan goes to test and torture (Revelation 12:17).

When I was “growing up in the church” we attended 50+ years ago, it was widely assumed and taught that God uses the Great Tribulation to “spank” and wake up all the slothful and lukewarm believers. *It seemed many preachers believed that absolutely all the zealous and strong brethren were going to be protected and ONLY the spiritually weak would have to suffer through the Great Tribulation.*

*I do not believe that kind of thinking is fully supported by scripture! Certainly, yes, those of the Laodicean type of spiritually lukewarm condition seem to be very likely to be put through the Great Tribulation for their own good. BUT, is it right to say that ONLY the spiritually lukewarm will be the ones whom God puts through the Great Tribulation?*

NO. Remember even **the final 2 Witnesses of Revelation 11 are KILLED** during or shortly after this time. (**Read Revelation 11:3-13**). Those 2 witnesses are certainly NOT Laodiceans – but they will die, and they will not be spared.

Also remember that the early leaders of the Church found their beatings and sufferings something to rejoice over – to be found worthy to suffer for his name’s sake (**Acts 5:40-42; Philippians 3:10-11; 1 Peter 4:13-14**). We are called to suffer for his name’s sake (**Romans 8:17**). So even Yeshua taught that it was a wonderful thing to be able to suffer for righteousness’ sake – and not something to hope we never have to go through. On your own, please read **Matthew 5:10-12; Luke 6:22** and so many other scriptures.

**So make sure your God and Savior KNOW you.** Let’s make sure we are making many contacts per day in prayer, and in a life of total submission and obedience.

Having said all that, let’s review again some of the points to the Laodiceans:

- DON’T BE LUKEWARM SPIRITUALLY – be HOT for Christ and our Father.
- See your real state spiritually. Laodiceans could not see they were wretched. But even apostle **Paul said, “O WRETCHED man that I am...”** (Romans 7:24). KNOW that we’re only perfect in Christ, by HIS holy righteousness covering us.

### **SO WHO WILL STAND THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO BE SPARED GOING THROUGH THE GREAT TRIBULATION**

**I believe in a NUTSHELL, those who really know their God and who are KNOWN BY God intimately, will be the ones spared.** “Knowing God” encapsulates a lot of sub-points from there.

**Do our Father and our Savior already KNOW you?** Remember **the 10 virgins of Matthew 25, the 5 wise and then the 5 foolish** who ran out of oil and had to go get some more? By the time they returned the door to the wedding had been shut. Do you remember the story Yeshua himself told? Let’s break into the story. It CLEARLY is for a people just before Christ comes back because the parable ENDS with Christ’s return! Look at it. Remember the oil probably pictures the Holy Spirit working in us.

**Matthew 25:3-13**

Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. **5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.**

6--And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 **But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I DO NOT KNOW YOU.'** 13 *"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."* (This verse 13 absolutely shows this is meant for the very end time.)

In another story, Yeshua says to some who came to him, "I've NEVER known you. Get out of here, you who work lawlessness/iniquity." Let's read it:

**Matthew 7:21-23**

"NOT everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father in heaven.** 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, '***NEVER knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!***' (no law!)

***If our Father already knows we will be faithful to him*** during the Great Tribulation no matter what – because we are faithful to him already right now in everyday little things and big things – then WHY would he have to put us through the worst time the world has ever seen?

The principle is shown in **the almost-sacrifice of Isaac.** Once God could see that Abraham would obey, no matter what -- the sacrifice was called off. It was no longer necessary. The Angel of YHVH said, "**NOW I KNOW...**" (Genesis 22:12).

If this *doesn't* stir something inside of you, I'm sorry, but you obviously are already in the Laodicean way of thinking. I hope you're not thinking like this: "I'm OK, I'm clothed, I'm zealous, I'm obviously being blessed so God must be pleased with me, I pray, I attend church, I keep sabbath and holydays, I don't eat pork or keep Christmas."

**But do you KNOW YOUR Savior intimately? Does he know YOU? Do you hear his VOICE? Are you seeking him with all your heart? Do you really love and submit to your Yeshua, your Beloved?**

You might do well to hear my messages on "Hearing God's Voice" – a 3 part sermon.



We can claim to know him, but if we're living a life of SIN, and if we're not keeping the commandments of God, ALL of them, then Apostle John says this:

**1 John 2:3-6**

**"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.**

MANY will claim to keep the commandments – while ignoring the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath day that was nowhere changed in scripture. If we break even one commandment, we're guilty of all.

Yeshua says in **John 14:15** "IF you love me, KEEP my commandments."  
We can't say we love him if we're not obeying His word.

**SO – WHO will BE THE ONES MOST LIKELY SPARED  
THE GREAT TRIBULATION?**

**So key #1 is – KNOW your God and Father. KNOW your Shepherd Savior. Remember Matthew 25:1-13 the ten virgins and Matt 7:21-23 – to whom he says "I NEVER knew you, depart from you...."**

**We HEAR his voice, we're in tune to his mind, his will; we spend intimate worship time with our Father and our Beloved Savior. I mean more time than you spend on Facebook, Instagram and social media. MUCH more. Be doing Matthew 6:33 – SEEK first the Kingdom of God and HIS righteousness..."**

*It's time we all CUT OUT the sins in our lives and give them over to our Savior to take from us, to CLEANSE us, to wash us, and beg him, invite him to come LIVE INSIDE of you by his spirit; that when we speak, we speak HIS words, that when we do anything – it's like Yeshua's life itself that is being lived by us! We cannot claim to know him if we're living in disobedience.*

- 2. Those praying that they be counted worthy to escape** and who are praying for protection too all along – Luke 21:36.
- 3. Those who are of the **Philadelphian church type of attitude and heart**** (read carefully on your own Rev 3:7-13).

**REVELATION 3:10 – "Because you have kept my command to persevere, *I will also keep you from the hour of trial coming upon the whole world*, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold I am coming quickly! Hold fast to what you have that no one takes your crown".**

- a. Christ knows their works Rev 3:8
  - b. They **"have KEPT My Word and have not denied by name"** v 8
  - c. V 10- kept command to persevere, (in your patience possess you your souls)
- 4. Those who have a great love for the brethren, as well as for our Beloved Master himself – and speak often to one another. And Mal 3:18 sums it up.**

**Malachi 3:16-18**

“Then those **who feared Yehovah spoke to one another**, and Yehovah listened and heard them;

So a *book of remembrance* was written before Him for those who fear Yehovah,

**And who meditate on His name.**

*17 "They shall be Mine," says Yehovah of hosts,*

*"On the day that I make them My jewels.*

**And I will SPARE them as a man spares his own son who serves him.**"

**18 Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him."**

- 5. Those who trust in Him AND look to Him during these very frightening times ahead.** And we're learning to trust him even NOW, though we lose our job, or are told we have cancer, etc. We're learning to live by FAITH. (And yes, I've been through all that too.) Remember, "though 10,000 fall at your side..." Psalm 91

I really believe if God absolutely knows we will not deny him no matter what they do to us, perhaps he won't require us to go through the worst time of trouble ever – just like Abraham was not required to sacrifice Isaac.

Look, though I've given this sermon about being spared the Great Tribulation, we MUST remember these things too:

- Many WON'T be spared, and many of them are highly commended as being strong believers who loved their God more than their lives.
- Life is not just about THIS life, but about knowing and being known by our Beloved and looking to the coming Kingdom of God! It's about what we do with what we've been given, who we are in Christ, and where we'll be – for forever and ever. That's what counts.
- And IF you find yourself having to acknowledge your love for Christ, REMEMBER this sermon – and proclaim Christ loudly, strongly, without apology and without any doubt that you are a true BELIEVER – and testify also by our lives that the RISEN Christ resides in us.
- And if God says we are to given the honor of dying for him, and for our beliefs, then so be it. We must remember to never ever come under the deceptive coming Beast and False Prophet system and their 666. NEVER. God will soon enough reveal to us exactly how that system is implemented and how exactly the 666 is enacted. There are many suppositions – but we just don't know how and when yet.

I pray that all believers who have to face the Great Tribulation will love their Master more than their own lives. And may we all reign gloriously in the new REIGN of Christ when he returns, that we pray comes soon.

The reign of King Yeshua will be like a big stone hitting this false system and demolishing it. And you and I will be kings and priests in that realm ....

Come soon Our Master; come soon, our Beloved Yeshua.