

They That Dwell On Earth During the 7-year Tribulation

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(All italics, bolds, colors are my emphasis')

In the study of the Word of God, I have been amazed at the value of word/phrase searches. For instance, while in the study of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, I have learned these searches have a great deal of "teaching value". Consider the topic of this short paper, *They That Dwell On The Earth*. Seems John used the phrase often in his vision of the Tribulation Period in the book of Revelation. In fact, he used it so often, I decided to see just how the phrase was being used in the rest of the Word of God. I used phrases such as "inhabitants of the earth", and "earth dwellers" in Bible searches to get my answers.

The results were very interesting; I learned precisely what was referred to when Jesus, Paul and John used the phrase concerning God's judgment on evil. Note that in the Old Testament, the phrase was never used except to deal with Israel's sins and God's Judgment on her, especially in the prophetic books. However, when written in the New Testament, we find phrases dealing with the *inhabitants of the earth* are, in every case, God's judgment on evil mankind—specifically during the Tribulation Period!

A. Here's What I Found: Note statements on #10 and #12 are stated by Jesus Christ.

1. When I shall receive the congregation I will judge uprightly. The **earth and all the inhabitants** thereof are dissolved: I bare up the pillars of it. Selah. (ps. 75:2, 3)
2. **All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth**, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet hear ye, (Isaiah 18:1-3—a nation trodden down).
3. Behold the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste and tumeth it upside down, **and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof**. (Isaiah 24:1)
4. The **earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof**; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured **the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate**: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left. (Isaiah 24:5-6)
5. 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. (Isaiah 26:21)
6. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke and the earth shall wax old like a garment, **and they that dwell therein** shall die in like manner: ..my salvation shall be forever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished. (Isa. 51 :6)
7. For Lo, I begin to bring evil on the city that is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished: for I will call for a sword upon **all the inhabitants of the earth**. sayeth the Lord of Hosts. Therefore prophecy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, the Lord shall roar from on high, and utter His voice from His holy habitation. He shall mightily roar upon his habitation; He shall give a shout, as they that tread [the grapes], against **all inhabitants of the earth**. (Jeremiah 25:29-30)

Comment—All who fail to come to Jesus during the Church Age—to include Israel—will enter directly into the 7 year period of Great Tribulation; and from that body will come an "uncountable number" saved, mainly because they have weighed the value of Jesus Christ against the perils of the antichrist system. They will remain faithful to Him from that point on; they are those who will give their lives as martyrs. But that portion of Israel who is saved *during the Church Age* will meet the Lord in the air *with the Church* at the pre-tribulation rapture. The *only part of Israel* who remains on earth during the tribulation will be those who do not accept the Lord Jesus *during the Church Age*.

8. **And all inhabitants of the earth** [are] reputed as nothing; and He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, **and [among] the inhabitants of the earth**: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest thou? (Daniel 4:35)
9. The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the

- world, and all that dwell therein. (Nahum 1 :5)
11. **This statement is made by Jesus:** 35) For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the earth. 36) Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. (Luke 21 :35, 36).
 12. And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation. (Acts 17:26)
 13. Jesus said, Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I will also keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. (Rev. 3:10)
 14. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? (Rev. 6:10)
 15. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwell on the earth. (Rev. 11 : 10)
 16. 11) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death. 12) Therefore rejoice, [ye] heavens, and ye that dwell on them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and for the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. (Rev. 12: 11, 12)

Comment: Verse 11 above indicates "a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne ... " These are the saints who were born again during the Tribulation Period, and have washed their robes in the blood of Christ. Read this portion of scripture to prove to yourself that these are truly different from the raptured saints. (Revelation 7:9-17).

16. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8)
17. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. (Rev. 13:12)
18. And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by [the means of] those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by the sword, and did live. (Rev. 13: 14)
19. And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. (Rev. 14:6)
20. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. (Rev. 17:8)
21. With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. (Rev. 17:2)

B. The Martyrs During The Tribulation

In statement numbers 10 and 12, Jesus' statements strongly indicate *conditions for Christians* to be taken up in the rapture to meet Jesus in the air; and if you read the above closely, you will see that Jesus also strongly indicated to us who are saved, if we pursue His righteousness then we will not be included in the ranks of those who "dwell on the earth", for all unsaved residents of earth who continue to reject Jesus will be judged guilty at the Judgment Seat Of Christ. All who continue to reject Jesus during the tribulation period will end up before the Great White Throne Judgment and finally cast into the Lake of Fire! Whatever you do, don't go there!

- If the Christian is not a dweller of earth then he is a dweller of heaven (Rev. 12:11-12). And those who dwell on earth are the ones being judged because they have no rights as a born again saint of God because "Dwellers of earth" are those who are enemies of Christ.
- So then, who are the great multitude who become martyrs during the Tribulation? It's simple, and you can prove this fact to yourself by a simple study of Revelation chapters 6, and 7. In 6, we find a multitude of martyrs under the alter of God crying out for God's revenge on those who dwell on earth. God told them to wait a little longer till the right time.

- In chapter 7, they stand before Jesus Christ in their newly received white linen robes (Revelation 7:9-17). Now, study this conversation between Saint John, now an elder—See Revelation 4:1-11, where these same elders, after being taken up into heaven, cast their crowns at the feet of Jesus (See 4:10, 11. Yes, he is now an elder in heaven looking over to the great multitude who were martyrs! Now, know this; This uncountable group of saints standing before the Throne of God were not saved during the Church age as we have been—but have been born into the Kingdom of God **during the seven-year Tribulation period, and it is this group who will be martyred during the seven years of tribulation!** Unbelieving saints, study your Bible.

Without doubt, when John mentions in Revelation, *the inhabitants of the earth, dwellers of the earth*, or any related statement, we know he is *always* speaking of those who have no deed to eternal life.

20) *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: 21) Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.* (Revelation 9:20,21)

9) *And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.* 10) *And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain.* 11) *And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds* (Revelation 16:9-11)

And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. (Rev 16: 11)

11) *He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.* 12) *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.* (Revelation 22:11,12)

C. According to Revelation, What Are The Ministries During The Tribulation?

Jesus has never before, and never will forsake those who are truly washed in His blood. We need only to study the prophetic books concerning the tribulation period to realize that this period—still in the future—was designed to complete God's dealings with Israel, in bringing them into His Kingdom; for between every *set of seven* plagues mentioned in Bible prophecy in Revelation, our Lord will continue to use several methods in His strong attempt to bring into this Kingdom ***every person possible***. The ministries on earth during the Tribulation period are as follows:

The Ministries During The Tribulation:

- **Gentiles** saved *during* the Tribulation, with word-of-mouth testimony (6:9-11; 7:9-17; 12:11-12).
- The two witnesses—Israeli ministry (Revelation 11). Remain in Jerusalem till killed and raptured.
- The seventh Trumpet—angels preaching God's victory over the earth (Revelation 11: 15-19).
- The 144,000 Israelites (Rev. 14: 1-5). God sends these around the earth, preaching the gospel.
- Angels soaring through the air preaching the Gospel (Revelation 14:6-13).
- The final angelic message to the fowl of the air (Revelation 19: 17).

You will not find ministries on earth during the tribulation from the Church Age—period! If any present Church-age ministry believes it will continue as is, during the Tribulation period, he should re-assess his thinking, for it cannot happen.

C. What Does Revelation say about "those who dwell upon the earth?:"

- They will slay one another with a great sword (Revelation 6:3,4).

- They are the ones who murder the Tribulation believers (Revelation 6: 10).
- The wrath of God within the judgments called "3 woes" specifically fall upon them (Rev. 8: 13).
- They will murder the two prophets/witnesses of God and will rejoice over their deaths (Rev. 11:9, 10).
- The message given by these two prophets will torment them who dwell on earth. (Rev. 11: 10).
- They will worship the Antichrist; their names are not in the Lamb's book of life. (13:8, 12).
- They will be deceived by the miracles of the False Prophet (13:14).
- They will be intoxicated and blinded by the false one-world religious system (17:2).
- They will worship the beast and they will accept his mark (20:4).

From this survey we can easily see why God is going to have an hour of testing for this group (earth dwellers). It is to so demonstrate the hard, evil hearts of *"those who dwell upon the earth"* that God's judgment of them will be shown as totally just; and because it is fully just, it will encourage many in the Great Tribulation to make decisions for Christ.

There is also a very important contrast in Revelation between *"those who dwell upon the earth"* and another special group called *"those who dwell in heaven."*

Let us consider the raptured saints—now elders—who are *"those who dwell in **heaven**"*; First, they cannot be angels because of a statement made in Revelation 12: 12 about this same group of "heaven dwellers." It says, *"For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them, woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that his time is short."* God's angels would not be exhorted to rejoice, as they are not dwelling on earth during the devil's unrestrained wrath. Satan couldn't hurt them.

Second, there is a direct contrast made between *"those who dwell on earth,"* who are the unbelievers, and *"those who dwell in heaven."* The "heaven dwellers" are the believers. So the question is: If they are not angels, and they are not the souls of departed believers, *who are they?*

I believe the Holy Spirit has given us here a clear clue as to the whereabouts of the missing Church.

When Jesus prayed for His disciples, -"I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one", He wants the believer to be protected from falling under the authority of the evil one (satan) (John 17:15). That's the reason for the ministries of the Holy Spirit to the Church. We have the authority and the power to finish what Christ began-to destroy the works of the devil.

-Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10: 19).

Then, in Revelation 3: 10 says God will protect the believer *from the time* of testing, not just from the testing. The hour of world-wide tribulation (testing) must be understood in light of the main focus of the book of Revelation. Revelation specifically details the judgments, events and personalities of the seven years of Daniel's 70th week. It begins with the worldwide deception and takeover by the Antichrist. It ends with the worst holocaust of all time! (Selah). Its purpose is to bring the sons of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to faith in the true Messiah and to judge the unbelievers from all nations called—those who dwell upon the earth. So the hour must apply to the whole seven year Tribulation when all these things fall upon the world.

God's people should always study the Word of God to be approved of Him; that includes the Revelation.

Blessings from Tom and Linda Stephens
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