

"Come, Let Us Reason Together "

The points below are not necessarily *proofs* that the Church will escape the Great Tribulation Period, but are extremely in contrast with the teaching of those who teach the Church *will* go through the Tribulation period. if we get serious about the real proofs scattered throughout the Word of God, then we can certainly be assured of our "escape"-as Jesus Himself said—from **this time of testing/torment which will come upon all the earth, to test them who dwell upon the earth**". (Lk. 21:36; Rev. 3:10).

I. We are betrothed to Him (engaged) already if we are saved:

- A. Israel First:** ¹⁴"Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. ¹⁵There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor¹ a door of hope. There she will respond" as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt. ¹⁶"In that day," declares the LORD, "you will call me 'my husband'; you will no longer call me 'my master. ¹⁷I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips; no longer will their names be invoked. ¹⁸In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety. ¹⁹I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. ²⁰I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the LORD. (Hosea 2:14-20)*.

***Note:** Though God promises Israel to be His wife, they have not yet cried out, "*Blessed is He that Cometh in the name of the LORD.*" The only reason Israel is named in the Tribulation Period is because they are yet rejecting Him (Those who have already come to Jesus will be raptured with the gentile saints).

- B. Second, The Church Of Jesus Christ:** ¹Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. ²For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for *I have espoused (betrothed) you to one husband*, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (2 Corinthians 11).

C. Third, His Body, The Church, Is His Bride. (Eph. 5: 22-33).

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing=¹ her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church- ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. "£) ³²*This is a profound mystery-but I am talking about Christ and the church.* ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

II. We are sealed with promise:

Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: ¹⁰That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: ¹¹In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: ¹²That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. ¹³In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: *in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,** ¹⁴Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:9-14).

³⁰ And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (Eph. 4:30).

***Note:** *The Holy Spirit of Promise likely includes rewards given at the Judgment Seat of Christ after the Rapture of the Church to all who have been faithful and obedient by the standards of His Word. This may also include the promise that those who remain righteous and faithful to the end will escape from the terrors of the full time (7 years) of the Great Tribulation period.*

Are You Sealed Into The Tribulation-Or Into Christ's Kingdom? To Whom Do You Belong?

Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. (John 6:27).

- Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. (2 Timothy 2:19).
- Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. (2 Corinthians 1 :22).
- In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (Eph. 1: 13).
- And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (Eph 4:30).

III. We are sitting in Heavenly Places with Christ Jesus, right now!

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with *all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ*: (Eph. 1 :3).

10) That the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on the earth, even in Him: 11) In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will: 12) That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ ... 13) *That ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise*, 14) *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.*" (Eph. 1: 10-13). *Hallelujeh! What a revelation by the Spirit of God!*

4But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, SEven when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) *6And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus*: 7That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:4-7).

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: ¹⁰To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, ¹¹*According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord*: ¹²In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. (Eph. 3:9-12).

IV. What Did Jesus Say About The Tribulation?

³¹So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

³²Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

³³Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. ³⁴And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. ³⁵For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth*. ³⁶Watch 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 21:31-36).—My Italics. . . and

¹⁰“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.* ¹¹Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” (Revelation 3:10-11)

*When the Lord Jesus calls His Church up to meet Him in the air, there will be no other Christians left on earth. So, who will be persecuted and martyred during the hour of Great Tribulation? (See Rev. 7:9-17).

The phrase refers to "those who are the enemies of God. They will accept the mark of the beast, and have no claim to righteousness. These are they who dwell on earth during the Tribulation period. Many will come to the Lord Jesus Christ during the Tribulation period ... and are they are the ones who will be martyred for Christ (Rev. 7 :9-17).

It's hard to realize the Church is in heaven while everyone else is suffering in the Great tribulation on earth. Just remember who YOU are in Christ. It's only because of Him, our Savior, WHO loves you and I the same as HE loved HIS own people, Israel-and delivered them over and over and over again. All those who belong to The Kingdom will dwell in heaven (Revelation 12:11, 12).

V. Remember that Jesus loves the righteousness of His people. (1 Peter 2:7-9):

⁷Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, ⁸And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. ⁹But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light;

Closure: "Those who dwell on the earth", according to the Word of God, are those who have never, during the Church age, made a commitment to Jesus Christ. The scripture consistently relays to the reader the fact that *all* who reside, live, dwell, inhabit the earth during the tribulation period must make the decision whether to commit their lives to Jesus, the Lord of lords and King of kings—or remain with their present father, the devil. This decision will mark the remainder of their eternity.

¹⁶“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. ¹⁸And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” (2 Corinthians 6:16-18).

Blessings from Tom & Linda Stephens
www.christsbondservants.org