

# A Study Of They That Dwell On The Earth During The Great Tribulation

## (Did God EVER say anything Good About Earth Dwellers/Inhabitants?)

By Tom Stephens

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 (Inhabit) 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 hardly ever used except to deal with Israel 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 18:3)
3. Behold the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste and turneth 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**: but 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)

10. 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).

11. 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)

12. 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)

13. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood **on them that dwell on the earth?** (Rev. 6:10)

**Comment on #13:** In Rev. 6 (beginning of the 7-yr Tribulation): they who failed to come to Christ during the Church Age, but determined to come to Him during the 7-years, became the only Christians on earth. All others were “dwellers/inhabitants of earth (see Rev. 6:9-11; Rev. 7:9-17—Those who were from the Church Age, but were saved during the seal judgments on earth during the tribulation. These were the only saints on earth (That’s the reason the raptured Church was called “elders”). The Church was already in heaven (Rev.4-5. Note: Rev. 4:10, “...24 elders cast their crowns at the throne of God, singing God forever.

14. **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)

**Comment:** Revelation 11:10 speaks of those who murdered the two witnesses of God are dwellers of earth.

15. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>**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 speaks of "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** (Antichrist), 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)

**Comment:** What the Bible says about those who dwell on earth.

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)

**Comment:** 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.

<sup>20</sup>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: <sup>21</sup>Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts. (Revelation 9:20, 21)

**Comment:** All who fail to repent during the 7 year Tribulation period are dwellers of earth. No matter what, these are doomed to curse God in anger and rage against all that is godly. Those who dwell in heaven during the 7-years are called “saints”; whereas the raptured Church is called “elders”. Saints on earth during that time are martyred.

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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)

<sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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)

## **B. 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/Revelation, our Lord will continue to use several methods in His strong attempt to bring into this Kingdom every person possible.

### **The ONLY ministries on earth during the Tribulation period are as follows:**

- Those saved during the Tribulation: (6:9-11 & 7:9-17). The only Gentile ministry: This ministry is only by personal testimony as shown in Rev. 12:11, and 12). These will be the martyred saints.
- The two witnesses: Israeli ministry (Rev. 11). These will 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 other ministries on earth during the tribulation period. If any present Church-age ministry believes it will continue as is, in the Tribulation, he should re-assess his thinking, For it cannot happen.***

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

- 1- They will slay one another with a great sword (Revelation 6:3,4).
- 2- They are the ones who murder the Tribulation believers (Revelation 6:10).
- 3- The wrath of God in the judgments called "three woes" specifically fall upon them (Rev. 8:13).
- 4- They slay the two prophets/witnesses of God (Moses and Elijah?), rejoicing over their deaths (Rev. 11:10).
- 5- The message given by these two prophets will torment them. (Rev. 11:10).
- 6- They will worship the Antichrist, and their names are not in the Lamb's book of life. (13:8, 12).
- 7- They will be deceived by the miracles of the False Prophet (13:14).
- 8- They will be intoxicated and blinded by the false one-world religious system (17:2).
- 9- 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 totally 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.*" (Find Here - Revelation 12:12).

**When Jesus prayed for His disciples:** <sup>14</sup>I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup>I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (John 17: 14-16).

Verse 16 strongly states: Jesus is not talking about the lack of the rapture at all; but 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, John again expresses the same idea, saying 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 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 and ends with the worst holocaust of all time!

Think about that!

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.

Blessings from Tom and Linda Stephens  
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