

Quarter Two: The Great Controversy
Lesson 13—The Triumph of God’s Love
Sunday: Hope in the Time of Trouble
June 23, 2024

- **Last Week:** “Earth’s Closing Events”
 - The coming final crisis & how Christ’s strength will guide us safely Home
 - The seal of God
 - Final crisis over worship – Sabbath vs Sunday
 - The latter rain & the loud cry (Rev 18)

- **This Week:** “The Triumph of God’s Love”
 - How do you maintain hope in the midst of darkness?
 - “In a way, hope isn’t so much an emotion, as it is a perspective.”
 - We read the back of the Book: Jesus wins!
 - That’s perspective: this world is not all there is
 - It’s how we “glory in **tribulations**, knowing that tribulation produces **perseverance**, (4) and perseverance, character, and character, **hope**.” (Rom 5:3, 4)
 - Tribulations = *thlip*’-sis = internal pressure (as opposed to ext)
 - Perseverance = 2 Greek words: “remain/endure” & “under”
 - Hope = Gk, eager expectation
 - Hope isn’t so much an emotion, it is “eager expectation” – a perspective
 - When all is dark, hope is still there, a candle in the dark.
 - Alfred Lord Tennyson: “Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering ‘it will be happier.’”
 - Albert Einstein: “Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.”
 - Lesson: “Revelation gives us hope for today, tomorrow, and forever.”
 - This week,
 - Worst experience in history (time of trouble) –
 - Hope in the time of Trouble
 - Hope in Jesus’ soon return
 - Hope in justice of Jesus’ judgment
 - Hope in final eradication of sin & sinners
 - Hope in recreation of the new heavens & the new earth

Memory Text: “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’” (Rev 21:3, 4, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Hope in the Time of Trouble (Jill)
 - Multiple Scriptures – hope / faith in Him that will see us through the time of trouble

- 2. **Monday:** Hope in Jesus' Soon Return (Daniel)
 - Multiple Scriptures – righteous look forward to Jesus 2nd coming; yet wicked are terrified
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Millennium on Earth (James)
 - Rev 20:1 - 3 – the destruction on earth & the 1,000 years of Satan's imprisonment
- 4. **Wednesday:** Judgment in the Millennium (Ryan)
 - Rev 20:4 – 9 – questions & answers of the righteous during the millennium; final battle against the wicked, and the return of Jesus with the saints & the New Jerusalem
- 5. **Thursday:** Two Eternities (John L)
 - The executive judgment & the 2 final eternities: the wicked will be completely extinguished / destroyed & the righteous will live forever on the earth made new

Sunday: Hope in the Time of Trouble

Rev 22:11, 12; Dan 12:1, 2; Jer 30:5 – 7; 1 John 3:1 – 3; John 8:29; John 14:30; Ps 27:5; Ps 91:1 – 11; Rev 3:10 - 12

- The Time of Trouble
 - Dan 12:1 – 2 – “**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**.”
 - At that time – the time mentioned at the end of chapter 11
 - When Satan's forces & its power is at its peak
 - When they're intent on destroying God's people
 - Michael = Christ
 - Stands up = when Christ stands up, the investigative (pre-advent) judgment is over; probation is closed
 - Everyone has made their final decision – for or against Christ
 - No more Mediator before the Father – door of mercy is closed & time of trouble begins
 - Only thing left is to administer the positive & negative verdict
 - Rev 22:11 – “He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”
 - Time of trouble (2 sides of the same coin)
 - Wicked: God's restraining protection removed
 - World plunged into complete rebellion, without God
 - Rev 7 – the angels holding back the winds of strife (released)
 - Also, Rev 16 / seven last plagues being poured out
 - God's people shielded from the plagues
 - God's people “will be delivered”
 - Righteous: time of persecution by wicked & internal doubt / torment by Satan
 - Jer 30:5, 7 – “For thus says the Lord: ‘We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, & not of peace...(7) Alas! For that day is

great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it."

- Jacob's trouble = time of great mental anguish (Gen 32)
 - His sins had led, in part, to Esau coming against him & his family
- Time of great mental anguish for God's people
 - Is every sin repented & confessed & covered?
- Written in the book = "Book of Life"
 - Rev 13:8 – "All who dwell on the earth will worship him (the beast), whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."
 - Pardon entered against their name
 - The blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin
 - Christ's intercessory ministry
- Lesson: Hope in the Time of Trouble
 - **Why are we terrified of "time of trouble"?**
 - 1. Afraid we're not holy enough to "live without a Mediator"
 - When Michael "stands up" – probation is closed
 - 2. Afraid we're not brave enough to handle persecution on us
 - Afraid of pain or imprisonment or torture or death
 - 3. Afraid we're not strong enough to watch persecution of those we love
 - *Greg
- **7 keys to hope & assurance in the time of trouble**
 - **1. God will be with us**
 - We may feel alone, but we are never alone
 - Heb 13:5b – "...I will never leave you nor forsake you."
 - Matt 28:20b – "...lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."
 - **2. His Word is sure**
 - We may doubt His promises, but they will never fail
 - 2 Cor 1:20 – "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us."
 - 1 Kings 8:56 – "Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise..."
 - Mal 3:6 – "For I am the Lord, I do not change..."
 - 1 John 1:9 – we are forgiven
 - GC, p. 619 – "Though God's people will be surrounded by enemies who are bent upon their destruction, yet the anguish which they suffer is not a dread of persecution for the truth's sake; they fear that every sin has not been repented of, and that through some fault in themselves they will fail to realize the fulfillment of the Saviour's promise...If they could have the assurance of pardon they would not shrink from torture or death..."

○ **3. He lives in us by faith**

- We cannot become perfect in ourselves, but we can choose to surrender to Him & allow Him to live inside
- Phil 2:13 – “for it is God who works in you, both to **will** & to **do** of His good pleasure.”
 - Will = desire
 - Do = power
- Rom 7:17 – “But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.”
- Gal 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”
- John 14:30 – “I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and **he has nothing in Me.**”
 - Shows Jesus’ complete sinlessness
 - Shows what His followers can become, if He resides in us
 - No response to sin
 - No irritation or frustration
 - No desire for sinful pleasures
 - No lust
 - No ego or pride or desire for power
 - No selfishness
 - Perfection
 - Peace, love, joy, contentment, self-control
- Lesson: “In the time of trouble, God’s people have a personal relationship with Jesus so deep that nothing can change it.”

○ **4. His Spirit empowers us**

- We have strong tendencies to sin, but His Spirit will change those tendencies
- Rom 8:5 - 11 – “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit....(8) So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (9) But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you....(10) And if Christ is in you, the body is dead, because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (11) But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”
 - The presence of the Spirit subdues the sinful desires of our bodies
- 1 John 3:2, 3 – “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (3) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”
 - His children ask for the infilling of the Holy Spirit / latter rain power

- **5. God will protect us**
 - We may face persecution, but He will protect us (emotionally, as well as physically)
 - Ps 27:5 – “For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.”
 - He hides us emotionally
 - Delivers us from fear & doubt & anxiety
 - Holds us & grants grace & strength
 - He hides us physically
 - Rev 3:10 – “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.”
 - Sometimes delivered from the trial
 - Sometimes, delivered through the trial (3 Hebrews)
- **6. God will provide for you**
 - He provides what we need, when we need it most
 - What will we need?
 - Emotional assurance
 - John 14:27 – Peace I leave with you...
 - 1 John 4:18 – “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear...”
 - Heb 13:5 – I will never leave you nor forsake you
 - Physical assurance
 - Isa 33:16 – Bread shall be given him, his water shall be sure
- **7. Hold on – He’s coming back!**
 - We may become discouraged, but hold onto hope, hold onto Jesus
 - Rev 3:11 – “Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.”
 - Hold on – don’t lose hope at the last moment
- **7 keys to hope & assurance in the time of trouble**
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 - 3. He lives in us by faith
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