

THE GREAT TRIBULATION
PART - 2

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head as we ask God for understanding as we study today.

Say - In part 1, which was by no means a detailed study of the great tribulation, we discussed the meaning and the reason the tribulation falls upon the world. In part 2, we will study God's instructions the hope and comfort He reveals for His true servants during the "time of trouble".

Say - Remembering God tells all through Luke, "...continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God". He adds "...see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet" Acts 14:22, Matthew 24:6.

Say - Surely God has given His people instructions on how and why to "be not troubled". Let's take a look at His words of comfort and advice.

Say - Christ "... taught them, saying,

"Blessed are the poor in spirit (humble, not arrogant), "the meek (non-confrontational)", those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness (all of God's laws and instructions are righteousness, Ps. 119:172)", "the merciful (even to those who do not deserve it)", "the pure in heart (dwell on pure and lovely things)", "the peacemakers (not deceptive)" and "blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven". "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, persecute (harass) you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake". Then God gives His people instructions on how to handle the persecution; He said,

"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: (Why?) for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 5:3-12.

Say - God's people must establish God's instructions and goal or reward firmly in their mind and stay focused as Christ instructs, in both the good times and the bad and then the "time of trouble" won't seem so bad or so long. Christ continued with further instructions and encouragement.

Say - He said, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world (the "broad way" of the ungodly and hostile to "the

way" of Christ, Matthew 7:13), the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world (have chosen the "strait and narrow way" and are not part of the lawlessness Matthew 7:13-14), (because) I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you (true believers are few which choose the "strait and narrow way" because the majority do not want to be different or left out of the culture of the world)" John 15:18-20.

Say - Remembering the goal for God's people, in another place Christ said through Paul, "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect (why do God's people care what others think in putting love and obedience to God above all things?) It is God that justifieth (It is God who declares whether one is righteous not the world)".

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us".

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us (Christ is talking about those who took the 'strait and narrow way' not the 'broadway' are "conquerors" of their goal) Matthew 7:13-14)"

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels (angels which appear as "angels of light/truth" but are not), nor principalities (of Satan), nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come (suffering)",

"Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God (His love is that He gave His life for us, rescued us from sin and will give His faithful servants eternal life), which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 8:33-39.

Say - Christ continued, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope (endless in the Kingdom of God, the goal) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead",

"To an inheritance incorruptible (immortal, indestructible, imperishable), and undefiled (free of sin), and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you (is cared for, guarded carefully, how, read on)",

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (at the end of the great tribulation when Christ returns)" I Peter 1:3-10.

(So what are God's people to do with this promise?) "Wherein ye greatly rejoice (be exceedingly glad), though now for a season (short time), if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold (various) temptations (the same as Christ agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane as He suffered for our sins. God's people will suffer also but all the while remembering the good His suffering brought, eternal life for all.)

It would be good for God's people to remember "That the trial of your faith (time of testing), being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire (in the time of calamities), might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (Christ's coming will bring deliverance for His people)".

"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory (in spite of the trials and tribulation, God's people are to have inexpressible joy in His promise)" (Why?):

"Receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls (the great reward, the end result of one's faith)".

"Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you (prophets such as Isaiah 52, 53, Jeremiah, Moses etc. that God would return for His people; it is the same message throughout the Bible)" I Peter 1:3:11.

Say - Read of more comfort and protection in time of danger, David said, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come near thee. There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come near thy dwelling". "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways". Why is this so?

God answers, "Because he hath set his love upon me (attached with very great love for God), therefore will I deliver him (bring to safety): I will set him on high (exalted by God), because he hath known my name (knew He was the God of salvation and was not ashamed of Him)". "He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver

him, and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation" Psalm 91:7-10.

Say - God tells us through His Prophet, Zephaniah " ³Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth (in contrast to all those who did not), which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness (seek God's Laws sincerely), seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger (will be delivered in the "time of trouble") Zephaniah 2:3.

Say - Also read, "¹⁰Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation (tribulation), which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" Revelation 3:10.

Say - God revealed the future to His Prophet, Isaiah, and when God delivers His people from captivity, we are told, ¹In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.

²Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in (His bride whom He married at Mt. Sinai and all those God has called down through the ages).

³Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (when He returns to set up His Kingdom), whose mind is stayed on thee: (Why?) because he (you) trusteth in thee.

⁴Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength ("Trust" in God is another instruction from God on how to go through the "time of trouble"):

⁵For he bringeth down them that dwell on high; the lofty city, he layeth it low; he layeth it low, even to the ground; he bringeth it even to the dust (the counterfeit church and all those who preached contrary to the laws of God).

(God's people will sing) ⁸Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee (we didn't give up); the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee.

⁹With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

¹⁷Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD.

¹⁸We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen.

¹⁹Thy dead men shall live (those whom died in Christ will be resurrected at the first resurrection at His coming), together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust (see how the dead are not in heaven or hell as the false religions teach): for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

²⁰Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast (until the tribulation is past).

²¹For, 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 (binding of Satan and the destruction of the great false church in the final 7 last plagues of God).

Say - It would be a good idea to read the entire "Song" in Isaiah 26 and also Chapter 27 and study with a Bible commentary such as Jamison, Faucett and Brown for more detail than I am able to give here. It will help God's people "establish their hearts for the coming of the Lord" James 5:8.

Say - God also revealed the future to His Prophet, Ezekiel and said,

²⁴For I will take you from among the heathen (as Christ gathers His people out of captivity), and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land (He knows where His people are).

²⁵Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you (finally a sincere repentance).

²⁶A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

³¹Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities (lawlessness) and for your abominations (after God has brought His people through the Great Tribulation, there mind will be open for the first time and will hate their evil and will "loath"/hate themselves for the disobedience they have done to God. Remember in part 1 we read, "therefore...I will melt them, and try them (in the time of Jacob's trouble): for how shall I do for ... my people (God is saying what else is there to do for them but to bring sorrow and tribulation upon them to turn them back to me UNLESS THEY REPENT OF SIN? Jeremiah 9:1-9)" Ezekiel 36:24-26, 31.

Finally God says, "²⁸Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God (now they do not know), which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I

have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there"
Ezekiel 39:28.

Say - God said, "20Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness (destruction) for light (the Truth of God) ... (This is how the world of false religions function and why there are so many problems; God's people must go the Laws and Instructions of god to know what is good) Isaiah 5:20.

Say - And finally, Christ tells us through John, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world (God's people are begotten with the greatest power, the very power which raised Christ from the dead; never forget it! Therefore be diligent to your calling to the end and "to him that overcometh will I give the crown of life".)I John 4:4.

Say - God's people must remain diligent in pursuing the goal and reward; continue forward with a repentant, teachable heart and mind and comfort one another with, "...he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands (and the Good news is God will never change) Psalms 78:72.

NOTE: For further study on how God cared for His people in captivity in Babylon, one could study the books of Daniel, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, also Ezra and Nehemiah.

MEMORY VERSE

FOR HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER THEE, TO
KEEP THEE IN ALL THY WAYS.

PSALM 91:11

MEMORY VERSE FOR TOTS

HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER THEE

PSALM 91:11

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS FOR TOTS

THE GREAT TRIBULATION
PART 2

I WILL KEEP MY MIND AND HEART ON THE
GOAL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD;
I KNOW GOD'S POWER, I KNOW GOD'S LOVE,
AND I KNOW THERE IS NO OTHER GOD!

A RISEN SAVIOUR I WORSHIP AND SERVE,
ONE WHO WASHES OUR SINS AWAY;
A SAVIOUR WHO PUTS HIS ANGELS OVER ME;
I CAN BE SURE OF HIS PROMISE FOR ME.

THOUGH THE "TIME OF TROUBLE" MAY FALL
UPON THE LAND;
NOTHING CAN SEPARATE ME FROM THE
LOVE OF GOD WHEN I AM IN HIS HAND.

I'LL NOT TURN MY BACK ON HIM AND THANKS
TO HIM I'LL ALWAYS GIVE AND HAPPY I
WILL BE;
FOR THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE IS
MADE POSSIBLE BY HIS LIFE HE GAVE
OUT OF LOVE FOR YOU AND ME.