

## **Kept From the Hour of Trial**

### ***Revelation 3:10-11***

***Thought for the Day:*** Christ promised to keep the Church from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world. Revelation 3:10-11 is a passage of Scripture that is set forth as a proof text for the Pretribulation Rapture, the removal of the Church from the earth prior to the seven-year Tribulation period during which the Antichrist will rise to power and rule the entire world.

#### **I. The Greeting (3:7)**

#### **II. The Commendation (3:8)**

#### **III. The Promises (3:9-10, 12)**

##### **A. The Promise That Their Enemies Will Be Humbled (3:9)**

##### **B. The Promise That They Will Be Kept From the Hour of Trial (3:10)**

**10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial [testing, trouble] that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. 11 I am coming soon [i.e., quickly, w/out warning].**

Many students of the Bible believe that Revelation 3:10-11 is a promise that the Church will be raptured (removed from the earth as described in 1 Thess. 4:13-18) before the seven-year Tribulation which is set forth in Revelation 6-19. Is this the correct understanding of these verses? Yes...

- 1. Because there is no record in history of any such worldwide trial that took place during the time frame in which this letter was written. In fact, the trial described here has not yet taken place.**
- 2. Because the promises given to the seven churches in Revelation 2-3 are intended for all believers and all churches of all ages in all places.**
  - a. Cp. Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22.
  - b. The Commendations, Condemnations, Exhortations, Warnings and Promises apply equally to the churches of the first century and to us today.
  - c. It may be said, "Well then, this promise was not really for the believers in the first century or in the centuries that have followed; it is only for those believers who are alive when Jesus comes for the Church at the Rapture."
  - d. Biblically speaking, there is only one Church and the entire Church will be removed from the earth in the Rapture, all at the same time. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)
  - e. The Church came into existence on the Day of Pentecost (described in Acts 2) and the Church will be removed from the earth at the Rapture (described in 1 Thess. 4). The Lord's promise in Revelation 3:10 will be fulfilled for every church in every location and in every century from the birth of the Church to the removal of the Church.
- 3. Because of the universal nature of the coming trial: It is coming on "the whole world" and it will try "those who dwell on the earth."**

- a. The trial that is coming will not be limited only to those who lived in Philadelphia; it will come on “the whole world.”
- b. It is important for us to correctly identify those upon whom this trial will come: It will “try [reveal the true nature and character of] those who dwell on the earth.”
  - 1) This phrase or its equivalent is used a total of 11 times in 9 verses in Revelation.
  - 2) It describes a very specific group of people which does not include Church believers.

### **Who are the “earth dwellers” in Revelation 3:10?**

**Rev. 3:10** – The recipients or objects of “the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world.” Church believers, on the other hand, are promised to be “kept from the hour of trial.”

**Rev. 6:9-10** – They are those who will murder the followers of Christ during the Tribulation.

**Rev. 8:13** – Recipients or objects of the seven Trumpet Judgments of God described in Revelation 8:6-11:19.

**Rev. 11:10** – They will rejoice and celebrate the death of God’s Two Witnesses.

**Rev. 13:8, 12; 17:8** – They will worship the Antichrist and are described as “everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slain.”

**Rev. 13:14** – They will be deceived by the False Prophet in their worship of the Antichrist.

**Rev. 17:2** – They will become drunk with the sexual immorality of the Great Prostitute—the evil world system, both political and religious—that will slaughter the people of God.

“The earth dwellers, then, are unsaved people who, during the Tribulation, stubbornly and steadfastly continue in their rejection of God. They are those on earth who are totally given up to evil and the hatred of God and His people. The entire horizon of their lives is earthbound.”  
(Hitchcock, *101 Answers*, p. 93)

**The coming hour of trial pertains to earth dwellers, not the citizens of heaven, the Church.**

#### **4. Because other passages of Scripture teach these same truths.**

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 5:9-11 – Church believers are waiting for the coming of Christ, not the revelation of the Antichrist and the events of the Tribulation period. The promise is not preservation or protection *through* the wrath to come but *complete deliverance from* the wrath to come by means of the Rapture of the Church.

### **There will be multitudes of believers in the Tribulation period.**

- However, these are people who will be saved during the Tribulation, not Church believers who enter into the Tribulation. “Tribulation Saints” are to be distinguished from “Church Saints.” (Revelation 6:9-11; 7:9-14; 14:1-3; 15:1-3)
- If these believers are Church Saints who have entered into the Tribulation, then the promises of Jesus to: 1) “keep you from the hour of trial” (Rev. 3:10); 2) “deliver us from the wrath to come” (1 Thess. 1:10); and 3) “God has not destined us for wrath” (1 Thess. 5:9) are all lies! If there is no pre-Tribulation Rapture, the Lord will neither deliver us *from* the trial to come nor preserve us *through* the trial.