



The world has been given an open book exam —

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The "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministers Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries

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To strengthen the faith in God's Word by enabling you to have a "Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe and do.

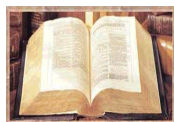
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Time Of Trouble (Part 1) (Psalms 37:39)



When the phrase "time of trouble" is heard, the average person thinks generically. They may say, "Whenever I face a time of trouble, I seek the Lord." That is wonderful, and we all ought to do that. But did you know the Bible addresses a period of time on earth called the "Time of Trouble"?

Now before we enter into the subject, we must blatantly state several important Biblical facts that you may not agree with due to popularity on the opposite side. Popularity does not necessarily mean it is the right side, for Jesus Himself stated, "*Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it*" (Matthew 7:14).

First, no one has shown us anywhere in the Bible conclusive evidence of a pre-tribulation rapture. It is a nice thought of not being around during the reign of Antichrist, but it is just not there. Some have provided some verses to us, but one must have the thought of pre-tribulation in their mind ahead of time to convince themselves that the verses support their theory for it is not a clear Thus Saith the Lord but implication. We are to let the Bible tell us the belief instead of our beliefs dictating what the Bible should teach. We are open to seeing where pre-tribulation rapture is taught in the Bible so do e-mail or snail mail us with those Bible references. Just do not send us a book. We have pre-tribulation books. We have studied them. And we easily found holes in the theory. If it is a true biblical belief, it should be easily established in the Word of God alone. Now with that said, though we may live through the awful experience of tribulation to be raptured afterwards that does not mean we will not have God's protection. It is clear that God protects during tribulation times. All one has to do is read psalms 91 to be convinced of that fact.

Second, if one believes in once saved, always saved, then this whole topic we are about to study is non-existent to you because during

this period of time, called the Time of Trouble, we are going to see that it is a wrestling with the thought of being saved or not. For those that believe they are already saved and cannot lose salvation, would somehow be exempt from this, which contradicts what the Bible says about the Time of Trouble. Maybe that is why so many believe in the pre-tribulation rapture. Maybe the pre-tribulation rapture was a made up theory to be used as the exemption from this difficult time that God's people will face since they have convinced themselves they are eternally saved. Here is another thing to consider, after you read this article and study it out, ask yourself if you have been taught anything on this matter. If we are the first to expose this topic to you and you believe in one of the two theories we declare false, then you might begin to question your belief in these two matters because someone who hides the topic of the "Time of Trouble" is hiding a bigger picture. Again, if one can show us once saved, always saved is well established, we would be open to changing our minds on the subject, but what we have seen is again, the implication of verses misunderstood, verses prior and after selected verses being ignored, or reading into the verse that which was planted into their minds.

Third and more difficult to believe, "*the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Are you holy in thought, action, and being all of the time, even to the point of being blameless, which means no one can point a finger at your sins? Dare we say, do you believe you can be perfect? If not, then you are missing yet another requirement to prepare you for the most mind wrenching period of time soon to come upon each one of us. Now, let us be clear. When we say perfect, we are not saying you will never make a wrong turn at an intersection while driving a car. We are not saying you will never make a math mistake or get the wrong change at a store. We are talking heavenly implications, such as morals, being

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

WHO ARE WE?

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godly. But even in morals and godliness people still misunderstand what the Bible really means to be perfect. Everyone has sinned, which would disqualify you from being perfect, but again, that is not right thinking. When “we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Therefore, when we have confessed all of our sins, we actually are perfect. That is also called justification. Then someone will say, “What happens if you commit a sin after all of that?” By the way, sanctification is living the holy life after coming to Jesus. At that very moment of sin, you are not perfect, but go back to step one and confess it to return to perfect status. Now there is a catch. God knows if you are willing to stop sinning or just fooling yourself. If you chose to have a holy tongue, you will not use foul language. If you cleaned up your tongue a little but still reserve the foul mouth for chewing out a store clerk who will not refund your money, you are not really living a perfect life. You have not given it all up. And if one thinks they can enjoy the sin, confess it, enjoy it again, and confess it, then they are fooling themselves. Jesus did not die for us to continue in sin but “*Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin*” (1 Peter 4:1). Do not take our word on the subject, listen to Jesus. “*Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more*” (John 8:11). Continuing in sin or being careless about the “little sins” is what will condemn people.

Now the coming “Time of Trouble”, is not about financial collapse, environmental affects like earthquakes, or torture and burning at the stake. It is more serious than that. But one must believe correctly on the first three items for the puzzle piece called “Time of Trouble” to fit. In other words, if all three of the above mentioned issues and the “Time of Trouble” were a four-piece puzzle, the first three pieces have to be the right shape or belief for the fourth one to be part of the puzzle. So at the very least, have an open mind if you believe differently on those items.

Is There Really A Time Of Trouble?

Daniel 12:1-4 “*And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting con-*

tempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, [even] to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”

According to these verses, not only is there a “Time of Trouble”, which you will see is separate from the physical tribulation, but we are given some clues of when it is. It will be in a time where many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall increase. The book of Daniel would be closed or not understood until that time. Today, the book of Daniel is studied quite easily and much is understood. Knowledge sure has increased and we are able to move about at ease. That part then is considered fulfilled.

But there is more. There is what appears to be the resurrection happening. That has not happened yet.

Now there is one more piece. The phrase “at that time” implies we are missing some information prior to the verse. Let us read the end of Daniel 11 to see what time frame we are studying about.

“He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many [countries] shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, [even] Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians [shall be] at his steps. But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”

Without getting too deep in the particulars, what we have here is the activity of the anti-christ. At some point he shall place his kingdom in the glorious land even between the seas, such as the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Salt or Dead Sea, and the holy mountain, which could be Mount of Olives or probably Mount Pisgah where Moses saw the Promised Land. And right in the middle is Jerusalem. From there, the antichrist will conquer many countries, but in the end he shall meet his doom and no one will help him.

John wrote a similar description. “*And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they wor-*

shipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who [is] like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" (Revelation 13:3-4). This is the antichrist described symbolically by a beast. Here we see that all of the world or the many countries worshipping the antichrist. But John also saw the end. "And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate" (Revelation 18:19).

So what we have concluded thus far is that the "Time of Trouble" does exist and we are poised to enter into it.

How Else Is The Time Of Trouble Referred To?

Jeremiah 30:7 says, "Alas! for that day [is] great, so that none [is] like it: it [is] even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it."

Notice the description of the day or time being so great as a time that was not like it before. That is similar to Daniel's description, "and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time" (Daniel 12:1).

What this means is that the "Time of Trouble" is also called Jacob's trouble.

What Is Jacob's Trouble?

The best way to find out is to study Jacob's story centering around what troubled him the most. It is in Genesis 32:24-30. "And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What [is] thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. And Jacob asked [him], and said, Tell [me], I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore [is] it [that] thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

Although physical wrestling did occur, please note whom Jacob wrestled with – God. What did he wrestle over? A blessing.

What did Jacob receive? A new name. What does a new name mean to you and I in these days, especially as we may be facing the climax of everything, the second coming?

Isaiah saw the day. "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name" (Isaiah 62:2).

John saw the new name as well not only once but twice. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth [it]" (Revelation 2:17). "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, [which is] new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and [I will write upon him] my new name" (Revelation 3:12).

To receive a new name, especially through a blessing, one can see we are wrestling with salvation. Are we really saved? Both times John says that only the overcomer will get the name. So you see how perfection is brought out. And overcoming is not something done instantly. It is a period of growth. It is wonderful that at a single moment you come to Jesus that you are eternally saved from sin to never sin again, but the likelihood is not realistic. So one typically needs more time than a "once" moment.

Reread this section and see if you come to the same conclusion. To go through a period of time called Jacob's trouble, we are going to wrestle with God mentally wondering if we are saved or not. Have we confessed all of our sins and are allowing Jesus' righteousness to flow through us completely without selfishness? If so, we shall receive the new name and enter into heaven by translation or the post-rapture.

It is possible to have this as a positive experience for our old nature or "old man is crucified" (Romans 6:6) and "he that is dead is freed from sin" (Romans 6:7). And if you can point to sin in your life that has not been confessed and see it as an impossibility, remember, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:4).

THINK ON THESE THINGS

(Philippians 4:8)

God Is My Horn

Psalms 18:2 The LORD [is] my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, [and] my high tower.

Luke 1:69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

The more people try to make the God of the Old Testament to be mean and feared while the God of the New being kind and gentle, the more they are actually of the same character or even the same God.

Both Testaments convey that God is a horn of salvation. A horn is strength and courage, which is very useful against enemies.

"Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that [is] with him: for [there be] more with us than with him" (2 Chronicles 32:7).

"Deal courageously, and the LORD shall be with the good." (2 Chronicles 19:11).

"He took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land" (2 Chronicles 15:8).

"Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the LORD do [that which is] good in his sight" (1 Chronicles 19:13).

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it [to] the right hand or [to] the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest." (Joshua 1:7).


"Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight" (Joshua 10:25).


"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he [it is] that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" (Deut 31:6).


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
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
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
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The born again person has God's nature and the old nature is to be dead. Do not resurrect the old nature

How Can The Time Of Trouble Be So Serious?

As we have established, the Time of Trouble or Jacob's Trouble is the focus of Jacob wrestling with Jesus. Through strong faith and repentance of sin, he survived seeing God face to face. We all know we have sinned but when we sense that the second coming is going to happen in a matter of days instead of years, there will be a wrestling in our mind.

Think about it for a moment and you will get a small sense of Jacob's trouble. You are about to see the perfect being of Jesus face to face. We *"all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). Sin will not stand before Jesus. In fact, we are to stand before Jesus *"not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing"* (Ephesians 5:27). Can you do that? Keep in mind, every confessed sin is blotted out? Now can you stand? What? Did you not confess a particular sin? Do you remember if you did or not? Do you think you should confess it now? But wait! Isaiah sees a time when he *"wondered that [there was] no intercessor"* (Isaiah 59:16). The Intercessor has left. You cannot now confess it. Any moment the clouds are going to roll back and Jesus is going to burst through! Are you ready?

What More Can We Know About The Time Of Trouble?

Looking at the context of Jeremiah's reference that we touched on earlier, we can learn more about the Time of Trouble or Jacob's Trouble.

Jeremiah 30:3-5 says, *"For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. And these [are] the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace."*

These are the verses leading up to the verse containing the Time of Trouble. As established by Daniel, this time is at the end. It did not happen yet. And if one thinks the Old Testament is for the Jewish race, think again. *"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither [is that] circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he [is] a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision [is that] of the heart, in the spirit, [and] not in the letter;*

whose praise [is] not of men, but of God" (Romans 2:28-39). We are all to become Jews inwardly. In fact, one can say that only Jews will be saved.

Besides, if the Old Testament were for literal Jews only, then why would our Bibles contain the Old Testament? That is because there is a cover up to knowing the whole story, both intentionally and unintentionally.

From those introductory words of Jeremiah regarding captivity, one can be in captivity by sin. *"But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members"* (Romans 7:23).

In addition, the Antichrist will be leading into captivity through its teachings and doctrines. From Revelation 13:10, *"He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."* *"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son"* (2 John 1:7-9).

The land of promise has well been forsaken if one thinks on a physical basis. But were not the fathers shown the heavenly Promised Land? Moses even posses it. Just look at who was present for the transfiguration.

Now Jeremiah points out something very serious. If you are hearing a "Thus Saith the Lord", you will hear very trembling and fearful messages, definitely not peaceful ones. They are not messages purposely created to scare. The messages are only fearful because practicing sinners, no matter how good they sing in church, no matter how much they say they are saved, will be lost. *"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity"* (Matthew 7:22-23). This is why only few shall be saved (Matthew 7:14). You see, talk to the average preacher and the message is "Peace and safety" or should we be more blunt. The preacher will say, "Because you have accepted Jesus today, you have made peace with God and are saved eternally." Once saved, always saved. But what happens?

“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

And about travail coming upon a woman, let us continue in the context of Jeremiah and watch as the verses and application match up.

Jeremiah 30:6-7 says, *“Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day [is] great, so that none [is] like it: it [is] even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.”*

Who shall be saved? Everyone that claims to be a Christian? No. In fact Jesus told us the answer. *“For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Matthew 24:5).* Today we say, I am a Christian preacher. We come in His name deceiving many by cheapening grace. *“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many” (Matthew 24:11).* *“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; in-somuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matthew 24:24).*

Ah, the very elect. These are the people that have elected to obey the gospel that others neglect (2 Thessalonians 1:8, 1 Peter 4:17). The gospel is not only about Jesus paying the price and now we are saved, but *“hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit” (1 John 4:13).* Since that is true, then sin does not reside in the heart at the same time. *“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1 John 3:9).*

And this very elect is not a large group for even in the days of Paul it was small. *“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace” (Romans 11:5).*

So do not think it is God that chooses a group, *“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall” (2 Peter 1:10).*

What More Is There?

Unfortunately our time is up. But before we conclude, we remind you that for many, this is a different concept. Please study it out and do not shut the door. Let us face it. If we truly are going to become one, we need to agree

on the basic premise of what it means to be saved. And only through looking at the bigger picture, other puzzle pieces can we actually know if our thoughts are right.

We have covered a lot, but there is more to come. We will even give you a head start. Next time we will look at Job 38:22-23, Jeremiah 2:26-28, Jeremiah 11:11-14, Psalms 37:27-40, Ezekiel 7:3-20, and more.

Let us *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15)* *“for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears” (2 Timothy 4:3).* Or as the NIV states, *“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”* And as the Amplified Bible states, *“For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold, and will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions.”*

Which is easier to say, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31)* or continue to believe each moment of your life and *“he that endureth to the end shall be saved” (Matthew 10:22)?* One is the myth or man-made fiction and the other is the hard truth.

Which is easier to say, *“Do not worry about the Time of Trouble or the Antichrist for you will be raptured out before it all begins or at least when it is getting bad enough”* or *“we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22).* One is the myth or man-made fiction and the other is the hard truth.

Which is easier to say, *“No one is or can be perfect for Jesus is the only one that is perfect”* or that Jesus is willing to *“Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom [be] glory for ever and ever. Amen” (Hebrews 13:21).* One is the myth or man-made fiction and the other is the hard truth.

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WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED?

(Isaiah 53:1)



▶AP, January 12, 2010 - NYC cab driver returns \$21,000 to passenger

A New York cab driver is being praised for returning over \$21,000 lost by a visitor from Italy. Felicia Lettieri, who's 72, left her purse in a Manhattan taxi on Christmas Eve. It contained traveling money for her and six relatives.

COMMENT: 1 Peter 3:11 *"Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it."* There are decent people in the world.

▶The Detroit News, December 19, 2009 - Evangelical church opens doors fully to gays

Then the 55-year-old pastor with spiked gray hair and blue jeans launches into his weekly welcome, a poem-like litany that includes the line "queer or straight here, there's no hate here."

COMMENT: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."* Who hates gays? All we want to do is see them in heaven. Some versions of the Bible clearly replace the word "effeminate" with "homosexual". That preacher, and God help us if this is the way Evangelicals are, might as well make it comfortable in church for this whole list of people. The shame of the matter is that the preacher can accept as many practicing sinners as he wants but in the end, he and the whole lot will end up in hell. All of us were practicing sinners and may even have been on the list that Paul provides. Only one way to avoid hell. Become sanctified. Forsake all

of those practices. So not only cease being a practicing homosexual, stop practicing coveting. Stop practicing stealing, which includes time from your employer. Stop abusing yourself, which includes partying too much and being a glutton as well as a drunkard. Stop practicing sin. Jesus tells us that *"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy"* (Jude 1:24). Let Him bring real victory in your life. And preacher, stop making it harder for practicing sinners to overcome!

▶The New Zealand Herald, December 17, 2009 - Anger at biblical bed scene

A billboard put up outside the St Matthew-in-the-City Anglican church in Auckland is set to stir more than a bit of Christmas spirit. The image shows the virgin Mary and her betrothed, Joseph, in bed together. But the Auckland Catholic Diocese has called the image inappropriate, disrespectful and offensive to Christians. "Our Christian tradition of 2000 years is that Mary remains a virgin and that Jesus is the son of God, not Joseph," she said. "Such a poster is inappropriate and disrespectful."

COMMENT: Matthew 1:23-25 *"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS."* Clearly both the Anglican church and the Catholic response are wrong. First, betrothed is not married. They were in a form of engagement. As these verse state, Joseph takes Mary as his wife after the visitation. The Catholic belief that she was a virgin the rest of her life is also incorrect. As these verses state, he refrained from having intercourse with Mary until after Jesus was born. Therefore, she did not remain as a virgin.

DO YOU HAVE A TSTL FOR THAT?

The purpose of these Bible studies is to help you seek for a TSTL—"Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe. May you go forward in this study with that goal.



Why It Is Not Good To Follow The World

1. What will the world end up doing at the end of time?

Revelation 13:3

2. Why is it not good to trust in the leaders of the world? **Revelation 16:14**

3. What is the basis of the activity of the world? **1 John 5:19**

4. What do people of the world speak of? **1 John 4:5**

5. What does the world not really know? **1 John 3:1**

6. What does the world really have to offer? **1 John 2:16**

7. What do people of the world not have? **1 John 2:15**

8. If we are enjoying the world, what are we towards God? **James 4:4**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Instruction

1. Where do we find instruction? **2 Timothy 3:16** *"All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"*
2. Who despises instruction? **Proverbs 1:7** *"The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of knowledge: [but] fools despise wisdom and instruction"*
3. What will happen to people that refuse to receive instruction? **Proverbs 13:18** *"Poverty and shame [shall be to] him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured"*
4. What should we do with instruction? **Proverbs 4:13** *"Take fast hold of instruction; let [her] not go: keep her; for she [is] thy life."*
5. What is reproof of instruction? **Proverbs 6:23** *"For the commandment [is] a lamp; and the law [is] light; and reproofs of instruction [are] the way of life"*
6. What will instruction do for a person? **Proverbs 8:33** *"Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not"*
7. What do those that have eternal life do with instruction? **Proverbs 10:17** *"He [is in] the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth"*
8. What does one learn in the instruction of wisdom? **Proverbs 15:33** *"The fear of the LORD [is] the instruction of wisdom; and before honour [is] humility"*

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FEBRUARY 2010-g

Time of Trouble (part 1)

(Main Article)

Four Thousand or Forty Thousand?

(page 8)

Comments on News

(page 6)

Questions and Answers

(page 8)

FOR MY THOUGHTS [ARE] NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER [ARE] YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, SAITH THE LORD.

(Isaiah 55:8)



4,000 or 40,000

Which count on the same matter is the correct count?

1 Kings 4:26 *And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.*

2 Chronicles 9:25 *And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen; whom he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem.*

We have here a case of "the multiple of ten" reckoning. 1 Kings counted the horses, each horse had a stall. 2 Chronicles counted the chariots, each chariot had its own stall. But 2 Chronicles gives us more information: which means each chariot had a team of 10 horses. This is only reasonable since ancient warriors were allowed horse reserves for each chariot in case the horses involved in battle got tired or killed.

ANSWERS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH (Daniel 10:21)



QUESTION:

If Christians suffer along the side of the wicked, why be a Christian?

ANSWER:

There are two reasons. First, Jesus said, *"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand."*

Christians are given eternal life. The wicked are not. While you enjoy eternity, they will not. And

eternity includes mansions, our own houses, and gardens.

Second, God is our *"strength in the time of trouble"* (Psalms 37:39). Instead of panic and turning to sinful practices so as to get through a crisis, God is to be our strength, even comforter. We then are able to be at peace while the world around us is in turmoil.

So for the reward and a better way of handling suffering is the reason to be a Christian.