

How to Survive the Great Tribulation

by

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Introduction

This book is a fictional account of what it might be like to live through the Great Tribulation. In the first part of the book, eighteen different characters are introduced and then followed through the events of the Tribulation. This book accepts a basically literal interpretation of the various events. So it tries to give realistic scenarios for each situation. When reading the book of Revelation, one will read about seven seal judgments, seven trumpet judgments, and seven vial judgments. One will also read many seemingly unrelated events that are also happening. The way to understand the whole book is to realize that the Apostle John as author had been describing two timelines that had both been happening at the same time. In other words, the whole Tribulation lasts for seven years. The seal, trumpet, and vial judgments run consecutively and also last for seven years. The second timeline which presents more about the activities of the antichrist also runs for seven years. Therefore, the apostle had overlapped the two timelines into the one book of Revelation. The next thing that one might note in this text is that the eighteen people about which the story will be presented have been given some fairly ridiculous names. However, those names are symbolic because they have been used to describe the types of people.

The hope in writing this book is that the Lord will be glorified by the study and the presentation of His Word. His Word is truth. So every attempt has been made to accurately and intelligently present those truths. An obvious goal is to encourage anyone that does not know the Lord as personal savior to come to Him by faith right away to be saved. He will receive anyone that comes to Him in the right spirit and with the right attitude. To further support that goal, Appendix

A has been included at the end of the text to explain what it means to be truly saved. True biblical salvation occurs when one seeks the Lord with all of his or her heart, commits his or her life to Him, trusts in Him, and then enters into a personal relationship with Him. So if a person reads this whole text and fails to see the importance of giving oneself wholly unto the Lord, then an important goal will have been missed.

Another goal is to encourage the saints of God to live each day for the Lord. It is their job to try to reach the lost people of this world for Christ so that no one will have to go through the Great Tribulation or an eternal separation from the Lord. That is a very ambitious goal. But it is well worth pursuing. A last goal of this text is to be both instructive and even a little bit entertaining. Because the saints of God will not go through the Great Tribulation, it can be interesting reading. But being able to understand what will happen after the rapture and also have an order for when some of those things actually happen can be enlightening. It can also help one see just how bad it will all be. This text concludes with two chapters that give an idea of what it will be like to die SAVED and what it will be like to die LOST. It will obviously be much better and much smarter to come to the Lord to be SAVED so that one can leave this existence in the former situation rather than in the latter. So it is sincerely and prayerfully hoped that each reader will also arrive at that conclusion, too.

Chapter 1 – Meet some of the main characters

"But the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment. And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness. The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee." [Psalm 9:7-10]

Every story has a plot. Every story also has a list of main characters. So this story about how to survive the Great Tribulation is no different. For those individuals that are not familiar with what the Great Tribulation will be or when it will be, more information will be provided as this story unfolds. Suffice it to say, though, that the scriptures describe it as a time when the devil as the antichrist and his evil, satanic forces will wreak much havoc in and upon the world. During his time in power, many millions and maybe even many billions of people will die as life on this earth will immediately become very dangerous and very difficult. It is important to understand, though, as the above passage declares that the Lord will receive all of those individuals that trust in Him. That having been said, it is time to meet some of the main characters that will be a part of this unfolding drama. It will probably be noticed as each person is introduced that some are trusting in the Lord but most are not. The reason for that is not coincidental. It is because few people will be living for the Lord as the end of this age approaches. II Timothy 3:1-5 says, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection...lovers of

pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

It is important to understand, though, as the above passage declares that the Lord will receive all of those individuals that trust in Him.

a. Meet Dummy, Preachershould, and Sunday

The first person to be introduced is Dummy Procrastinator. He is a male from a highly developed country. He is a college graduate. He has a pretty good education. He also has a pretty good job. He is about thirty-five years old. He is married and has two kids. His hobbies are playing golf on the weekends and playing word games during the week. He especially likes to solve the word scrambles that appear in the daily newspaper. He does not currently go to church. But his wife and he have occasionally talked about being more religious as they get older. One of the guys with whom he works had recently invited him to visit his church. However, Dummy's response at that time had been to put off his friend. He had told him that he might get around to visiting his church someday but that all of that religious stuff was not really for him, at least not yet. The

friend had heard similar words from others in the past. Therefore, he had not been shocked or surprised by Dummy's reply.

The next person to be introduced into this story is named Preachershould Haveknownbetter. Earlier in his career, he had graduated from seminary in his hometown. He had never taken religion very seriously. But he had always thought that he could make a pretty good living as a preacher. He likes being invited to dinner by his congregants because he very much likes being served fried chicken and mashed potatoes. He also likes the other social aspects that go along with the job, too. Church socials and holiday gatherings are a lot of fun. He likes most people and most people like him. However, it must be told that he is something of a jokester. He often very cleverly tells others that he had attended cemetery rather than seminary so that he could marry and bury people and still make a lot of money. Whenever he tells them that, it is usually good for a few laughs. As a preacher, he always encourages love and peace among the masses. However, he never preaches what some might call difficult sermons because he does not want to make anyone feel bad. He also does not talk too much about the scriptures because he thinks that one can learn to be a good person without having to hear all of that stuff. Therefore, his basic theological belief is that religion is only intended to make people behave.

The next person to be introduced is Sunday Schoolteacher. She grew up in a Christian home and became a Christian at an early age. Like many Christians when young, though, she had struggled during her formative years because of the challenges of living her faith before others. In other words, when the other kids had been smoking and drinking and doing all of the other things that go along with promiscuous youth, she had wondered if she should be telling them how to

live for the Lord. At other times when she had found herself in what could have been compromising situations, she had often wondered if she should go along with the crowd or stand alone and possibly face ridicule. Those had sometimes been very difficult times for her. But she had gotten through them and had grown into a nice young Christian lady. She had also married well in that her husband had loved the Lord, too. The really crazy thing about their family, though, is that they had gone for a while to the church where Preachers should Have known better was the preacher. However, they had not stayed there for too long because they had relocated to another part of the country. In their new church, she had become a Sunday school teacher and Mr. Schoolteacher had become a church trustee and deacon. Today they are both faithfully servicing the Lord and trying to raise their three children to do the same.

*Today they are both faithfully servicing the
Lord and trying to raise their three
children to do the same.*

b. Meet Joeyneverbeen and Jenniferneverbeen

The next individual to meet for this end-time drama is Joeyneverbeen Inchurch. Joeyneverbeen is an all-around good guy. In high school, he had been very popular. He had even run for class president even though he had lost to

another classmate. In college, he had gotten involved in some national political issues and had been an advocate for world peace. He had also thought that it was important to rid the world of hunger. Joeyneverbeen does not have any enemies. In fact, within his profession, he is generally considered to be the go-to-guy for getting things done. He often meets directly with clients because they like his easy-to-get-along-with nature. Some of his co-workers even think that he will someday be head of the company. Therefore, Joeyneverbeen has a lot of things going for him in the workaday world. But it is important to understand that he has never been in church. That might sound strange to a lot of people. But he had grown up in a home where the best religion had been no religion at all. So he had never gone to church because no one in his family had ever gone to church. He did not know anything about Jesus having died on the cross to pay the sin debt for human beings. He did not know anything about heaven or about how to get there after one leaves this existence. He did not even know anything about the Great Tribulation although he would soon become an expert about that. Unfortunately, many people are like him.

Coincidentally, the next person to meet is Jenniferneverbeen Inchurch. She had not grown up in the same town as Joeyneverbeen. But they had met in college and had gotten married soon after graduation. Jenniferneverbeen is what one would probably call a naturalist. She loves nature and being outdoors. She likes to do things like walk nature trails, camping, canoeing, and even some hill climbing as opposed to mountain climbing. However, like Joeyneverbeen, she has never been in church either. There are apparently a lot of individuals in this existence that do not know much about the Lord. They do not even understand simple scripture verses like John 14:6 which say, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the

way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." They have never heard verses like John 3:16 which says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." That is a real shame because when the Great Tribulation begins everyone still around will probably wish that they had studied those things more. But of course by then it will be too late. Joeyneverbeen and Jenniferneverbeen have been married for twelve years. They have four sons and two daughters. So they have been very prolific in that respect. However, their children have never gone to church either because their parents have not gone. So the Inchurch family is a good family but spiritually dead and illiterate.

***There are apparently a lot of individuals in
this existence that do not know much about
the Lord.***

c. Meet William, George, and Betty

The next person to meet for this tribulation drama is William Atheist. He had graduated from high school about thirty years ago give or take a few years. He had not gone to college but had instead gone to work right out of high school for a local manufacturer. He had married his high school sweetheart soon after having gone to work. They had had three children but had then divorced after

about twelve years. William is not a bad person. But he likes to do his own thing and he does not like to be told what to do. To hear him talk, that had been one of the big problems in his marriage. His wife had always been trying to tell him what to do and he had finally had enough. Of course, one must realize that that is only his side of the story. His wife says that she had never tried to tell him what to do but that she had sometimes reminded him of things that had had to be done. There is a difference. Concerning William's religious persuasion, there is nothing to say. He says that he does not believe in God and that nothing will ever change his mind. He obviously does not go to church. However, his refusing to believe is based upon the fact that there is so much evil in the world. He is also very bitter about his broken marriage. So in his mind, God is either dead or He cannot control all of the bad things that happen or He does not care about all of the bad things that happen or He simply does not exist. For the time being, William has settled for the latter.

The seventh person to mention for this story about the Great Tribulation is George Uninformed. He had been born in a country where knowledge about the Lord had not been readily available. In some countries, one can find a church on almost every corner. But where George had grown up, that had not been the case. He had recently moved to this country. But because he had been so far removed from all things biblical for so many years, he has never tried to learn anything more. That is sad because he is actually a pretty nice person. But he has just never realized that all people need the Lord. No one has ever told him that he is a sinner, that he is separated from the Lord, and that he needs to come to Him in the right spirit and with the right attitude to be SAVED. George might seem like an exception to the rule. But he is unfortunately like so many people in this world.

They have never come to the Lord because no one has ever told them of that need in their lives. They know that something is missing in their life. They believe that there must be some kind of Supreme Being. But without more information, they never go much further than that. In the next chapter of this text, though, it will be shared that Jennifer never been In church will have been in a very similar position. But because of something called General Revelation, she will deal with her unbelief very differently.

The next person to be introduced for this story is Betty Hungry for the truth. In high school, she had always been quite popular. She had even been voted homecoming queen for her senior class and had also been head cheerleader of her cheerleading squad. One of the other girls in her squad had been her closest companion. They had actually been very much in love with each other. So once out of high school, they had started living together in the kind of relationship that is normally considered for a man and a woman. They had even adopted a five-year old girl so that they could enjoy being parents. Concerning her religious views, however, Betty has always rejected the traditional church scene because of its stricter views about her kind of relationship. She goes to a church. But to be perfectly honest, her church is more about making a political statement than about actually worshipping the Lord. The people really just sing and rejoice about the civil and personal liberties that they enjoy. But that is about it. The final point to bring out about Betty is that she loves to read and to discuss philosophical topics like whether or not God exists and the presence of good and evil in this present world. She has turned into quite the intellectual. Therefore, while living with her companion, holding down a full-time job, and raising a child, she has also found

time to attend a local college so that she can study philosophy and feed her natural hunger for knowledge and truth.

But to be perfectly honest, her church is more about making a political statement than about actually worshipping the Lord.

d. BREAKING NEWS: Many people have suddenly disappeared

ENB7 BREAKING NEWS: THIS IS A SPECIAL NEWS REPORT FROM THE CHANNEL 7 ETERNITY NEWS BROADCASTING (ENB7) NETWORK. There are still quite a few people to be introduced for this drama. However, those introductions have been temporarily put on hold because of a very dramatic event that has just happened. Apparently, a lot of people that had been around at the start of this drama have suddenly disappeared. No one knows exactly what has happened to them. But a news crew has been sent to one of the scenes and more information should hopefully be available soon. It is, therefore, for the time being necessary to stop the introductions and to proceed to the next chapter to see what has happened and to learn what has happened to all of those missing people. This whole thing looks like it could be very serious. It might even be the work of terrorists. THIS HAS BEEN A SPECIAL REPORT FROM

THE ENB7 NEWS NETWORK. PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR MORE
UPDATES.

Chapter 2 – A normal day like all the others

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." [I Thessalonians 4:16-18]

The above passage speaks of a time when the Lord will return into the clouds to receive the saints of God unto Himself. His return will actually be a very clear picture of early Jewish tradition before and during the times of Christ. John 14:1-3 says, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Some people might think that that passage refers to the second coming of Jesus. But it does not. In the Jewish culture of those days, a man would have left his wife-to-be at her home while he had returned to his father's house to prepare a place for him and for her. Then once that place had been prepared, he would return to get her and to bring her back to their new home. The marriage would take place followed by a marriage supper. So from a biblical perspective, all of the missing people that were noted in the previous chapter of this text are because the Lord has finally come back into the clouds for His wife or for the church as the scriptures define her. The important thing to note from all that has happened, though, is that the day that the Lord comes back for His church will pretty much

be like any other day. In fact, the fulfillment of I Thessalonians 4:16-18 at the end of chapter one of this text seems even more likely based upon the following newsbreak from channel seven.

*a. **BREAKING NEWS: Their disappearance may have been the rapture***

BREAKING NEWS: THIS IS A SPECIAL NEWS REPORT FROM THE ENB7 NEWS NETWORK. A young lady has just come forward to share some new information about what has happened to her. Apparently, she had been talking to her friend when her friend had suddenly disappeared. One moment she had been here. The next moment she was gone. That is really weird. It should be pointed out, though, as was just above indicated that this day had begun just like so many days before. However, this sudden turn of events is definitely not like any kind of day that has ever before been experienced. Who would have thought that so many people would have simply disappeared in an instant without any kind of warning, announcement, or explanation? Could it be that the world has just experienced what the scriptures refer to as the saints of God being caught up into the clouds to be with the Lord? If so, then this really is one for the books. The above passage from I Thessalonians 4:16-18 says that He will descend from heaven with a shout and with the voice of an archangel to receive unto Himself His already departed saints and His still living saints. Did anyone see Him? Did anyone hear anything? If so, no one has come forward or said anything. But the results of His having come are all around. However, no one still on earth has seen Him or has heard anything unusual. So this is really weird. THIS HAS BEEN A

SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE ENB7 NEWS NETWORK. PLEASE STAY
TUNED FOR MORE UPDATES.

b. No one left behind will have a valid excuse

*"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation
by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake
or sleep, we should live together with him." [I Thessalonians 5:9-
10]*

One should note that the above news release is probably pretty much how things will be for anyone that witnesses the rapture of the church. It will most definitely be like nothing that has ever before been experienced in this existence. Some people do not believe in a literal rapture. Some people trivialize it by saying that it will not even happen. Some people say that it either has been or that it will only be a symbolic event rather than an actual literal event. However, for all of the naysayers, it should be pointed out that Jesus had come the first time exactly as the scriptures had declared. So it makes perfect sense that He will come the second time in the rapture of the church and also in His second coming to the earth just as the scriptures have declared, too. It is unfortunate that so many people will be eternally doomed at that time because they have not come to the Lord by faith to be saved. But their choice to not come will not be because they had not or because they could not have known better. Titus 2:11-14 says, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and

godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Therefore, before getting into what will happen after the rapture, three additional people that had been taken in the rapture will be discussed in the next section of this text.

It is unfortunate that so many people will be eternally doomed at that time because they have not come to the Lord by faith to be saved. But their choice to not come will not be because they had not or because they could not have known better.

c. Meet Someday, Happy, and Julie

It may be a little late to talk about this next person because she had been taken in the rapture at the end of chapter one of this text. However, it might be useful to someone reading these words to know what she had been like. Someday Latersaint had been born a number of years ago into a pretty affluent family. She had gone to a private school until she had graduated from high school. She had then attended an elite private college where she had received her degree in

Criminology. Her dream had been to someday work for the Justice Department. But of course, that dream was short-circuited when she had gone to be with the Lord in the rapture. However, the interesting thing to note about her is that she had not been from a Christian home. Her parents had gone to church because they had owned their own business and had thought that the religious connection would be good for business.

So, Someday had not been a Christian when she had left home for college. Once away at school, however, she had joined a college sorority and one of her sorority sisters had actually told her about the Lord. She had told her about Jesus dying on the cross to pay for the sin of the world. Therefore, Someday had gotten SAVED because of the witness of her very caring friend. Then after college, she had returned home, had joined a local church that had preached the gospel of Christ, and had become a Sunday school teacher in that church. But Someday had NOT gone to be with the Lord because she had been a Sunday school teacher in her local church. She had gone to be with Him because of that time in her life away at school when she had come to Him by faith and had given herself to Him. She had made a personal commitment to Him very much like the commitment that a man and a woman make to each other when they marry. So, that simply she had gotten SAVED. The same had been true of Happy Saintofgod and Julie Truebeliever who will be introduced next. They had also gone to be with the Lord during the rapture in chapter one of this text because they too had at one time in their life come to the Lord by faith in the right spirit and with the right attitude to be SAVED. They had understood that being SAVED is an individual choice. So they had so chosen.

Happy Saintofgod had grown up in the same part of the world as Dummy Procrastinator. But they had not known each other. For one thing, Dummy had liked to spend his weekends and other free times on the golf course. But Happy had not liked to play golf. He had instead liked to visit elderly people in the local nursing home and to tell many of the residents about his personal relationship with Christ. He would always emphasize that the Lord loved them and that He wanted to be in a personal relationship with them, too. So because Happy was always so upbeat, the residents in the nursing home had loved to see him coming. In fact, on a very positive note, quite a few of the residents had actually gone in the rapture to be with the Lord, too, just like Happy. Some of them had come to the nursing home as Christians. Some of them had not. But Happy had been able to encourage many of them to find the Lord by teaching them to seek Him with all of their heart. He would frequently quote his favorite passage to them from the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah 29:12-13 says, "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." However, a final very important note must also be made with respect to Happy. He had not gone in the rapture to be with the Lord because he had done so much for the Lord. He had gone because of the time in his life when he had sought Him with all of his heart and had found Him.

***He had not gone in the rapture to be with
the Lord because he had done so much for***

*the Lord. He had gone because of the time
in his life when he had sought Him with all
of his heart and had found Him.*

The next person to be introduced in this text is Julie Truebeliever. As was just noted above, she had also gone in the rapture to be with the Lord. She had gotten saved as a little girl when her parents had prayed with her. But because she had made a decision for Christ at such an early age, much of her life had been spared all of the disappointments and difficulties that so many people experience. She had gone to a good church for most of her life. Her parents had also gone to that same church, too. So the Truebeliever family had been well-grounded in the truth of the scriptures. Of course, in speaking about them, one must now use the past tense since they are gone. But the important thing to understand about Julie's disappearance and about the disappearance of her family is that everyone knows that they are now with the Lord. Therefore, when one looks at her family and at their positive outcome, it is difficult to understand why everyone does not come to the Lord early in life to be saved. The simple truth is that every person will come to that place in his or her eternal existence when the kind of relationship that he or she has with the Lord will be all that matters.

d. BREAKING NEWS: Fifth person will have been taken in the rapture

**BREAKING NEWS: THIS IS A SPECIAL NEWS REPORT FROM
THE ENB7 NEWS NETWORK.** This chapter is supposed to have ended right

here. However, some new important information has just come in that must be shared. Surprisingly Jenniferneverbeen Inchurch has also gone to be with the Lord in the rapture that had taken place in the first chapter of this text. But her going had NOT had anything to do with whether she had or had not ever gone to church. She like Sunday Schoolteacher, Someday Latersaint, Happy Saintofgod, and Julie Truebeliever will have gone because there had been a time in her life when she had also given herself wholly unto the Lord. The most interesting thing about her conversion experience, though, is that she had not had the benefit of prior education about seeking the Lord that one might normally get by going to church. That means that she had probably found Him and had entered into her personal relationship with Him based upon something that is called General Revelation. The simple truth about the Lord is that He wants every person to be SAVED. The scriptures teach that He does not want anyone to die NOT SAVED. Thus, II Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

The reason that He feels that way is because He loves ALL of the people of His Creation. Romans 5:8 says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Therefore, He has taken the initiative to reveal Himself to every individual that has ever lived. Titus 2:11-14 which was earlier quoted in this chapter says that He has revealed Himself in such a way that every person can favorably respond to Him. With respect to General Revelation, He has revealed Himself to all people in at least three ways that have

nothing to do with going to church or with not going to church. In fact, General Revelation is how Jenniferneverbeen Inchurch had actually learned enough about Him to be SAVED.

The first way that the Lord reveals Himself to ALL people is through the works of His Creation. One can look at the trees and the stars and the sun and the moon and all of the other aspects of Creation and conclude that there must have been a Creator. Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." Psalm 74:17 says, "Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter." Psalm 89:11 says, "The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine...thou hast founded them." Psalm 102:25 says, "Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands." Psalm 104:24 says, "O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches." The second way that He reveals Himself to ALL people is by placing within them the idea that some kind of Supreme Being must exist. The third way that He reveals Himself to ALL people is by putting within them a spiritual void or the feeling that something is missing in their lives that only He can fill. Therefore, any individual at any time, in any place, and in any part of the world can find the Lord simply by seeing Him through those three ways that He has revealed Himself. That is exactly how Jenniferneverbeen Inchurch had gotten saved even though she had never been in church. THUS, THIS HAS BEEN A SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE ENB7 NEWS NETWORK. PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR MORE UPDATES.

Therefore, any individual at any time, in any place, and in any part of the world can find the Lord simply by seeing Him through those three ways that He has revealed Himself.

Chapter 3 - More introductions for this story

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" [Matthew 16:26]

Now that the occurrence of the rapture of the church has officially been confirmed, there are still seven more individuals to be introduced for this story. Of course, Sunday Schoolteacher, Someday Latersaint, Happy Saintofgod, Julie Truebeliever and Jenniferneverbeen Inchurch are gone because they had been taken to be with the Lord when the rapture of the saints of God had occurred. However, George Uninformed, Joeyneverbeen Inchurch, Dummy Procrastinator, William Atheist, Preachershould Haveknownbetter, and Betty Hungryforthetruth are still around to experience the awful things that will happen next. Along with them will be the following seven people plus the many millions or even billions of others that had not been taken in the rapture.

a. Meet Pappy, Portiaregular, and Highiq

Pappy Justhungry is one of those individuals that always tries to be in the middle of everything. Whenever he would play ball as a kid, he would always want to be the team captain. In high school, he had wanted to be the president of his class. He has just always been the type of person to seek the highest attainable level in everything that he does. Even on the job, he always tries to make himself

known to the leaders of his organization. He is definitely a hard charger into life and also likely to do well in everything that he tries. In high school, he had even been voted most likely to succeed. Therefore, his get-ahead attitude had been obvious to everyone that had known him. But for all of those positive qualities, he had never been much for trying to learn about the Lord. He had gone to church for most of his life. However, his attitude about that had been exactly opposite his attitude about everything else. Apparently he had never reached the point in life to where he had taken spiritual things seriously. It is not known if he believes in God or not. It is not known if he believes in heaven or even if he believes in an afterlife. So on spiritual things, he is very much out of touch and not interested in being touched.

By contrast, there is Portiaregular Churchgoer. In many ways, she is the exact opposite of Pappy Justhungry. Whereas Pappy had always tried to rise to the top in almost everything, Portiaregular has never shown much of an interest in being the leader of the group. She is very private and does not interact with a lot of different people. She only has a small collection of friends. However, they seem to be all that she wants or needs. She is not much different than Pappy, though, in that she also regularly goes to church. But like him, she also does not seem to take any of that religious stuff very seriously. Her main attraction to her church is that she likes some of the social activities. Her pastor is always trying to organize some kind of outing or other activity to bring the people closer to each other. So for her, church seems to be more social than spiritual. Her preacher often shares the gospel of Christ in her sermons. But Portiaregular is usually too preoccupied with other thoughts to pay that much attention. So both Pappy and she attend gospel preaching churches. But neither of them has ever chosen to

come to the Lord by faith to be saved. So because of their respective indecisions, they are still in the earth and about to experience the Great Tribulation. Both had heard their pastors talk about end time events. Now they are about to experience some of them firsthand for themselves.

So both Pappy and she attend gospel preaching churches. But neither of them has ever chosen to come to the Lord by faith to be saved.

The last person to be introduced in this section is a woman by the name of Highiq Toosmartforothers. She is an extremely bright individual. In fact, on her college boards, she had gotten a perfect score. That accomplishment has only been done by a few other people. But she is one of those few. In college, she had taken a very intense scientific curriculum and had once again risen to the top of her class. It seems that she excels in anything and everything that has to do with academics. In her career, she has also done quite well. She works for a very large chemistry firm. Last year, she was promoted to vice president. So, most people in her company expect her to someday be the president. She is just that kind of person that seems to always draw the highest accolades from everyone that knows her. But the one thing that is clearly missing from her long list of achievements is a relationship with Christ. Those people that had been taken to be with the Lord

in the rapture of the church had had the very kind of personal relationship with Him that Highiq does not have. When asked about her church affiliation, she always responds by saying that she does not go to church. But while she does not come right out and say it, she sort of sees religious people as emotionally weak and in need of a spiritual crutch to help them through life. So Highiq is very, very smart. She is also on a career path that just might have taken her to the top. But with the occurring of the rapture and the onset of the Great Tribulation, her plans will suddenly and dramatically change. Most people live day after day and tend to naturally think that most days will be just like the ones that have come before. However, that most definitely will not be the case with the rest of this story since the saints of God have been taken out.

b. Meet Juni, Ijust, Allaround, and Always

Juni Goodpeoplegotoheaven is another person that has misperceptions about living for the Lord. He was not originally from this country. But he moved here a few years ago from another country where serving the Lord had not been very important to most people. Therefore, he had brought some of that thinking with him when he had moved here. Juni had been like a lot of people that choose to not serve the Lord or to live for Him. He had viewed the ultimate end of all religious instruction to be that of making the person into a better person. He had thought that if there really is a heaven, then the best way to get there is by being a morally good person. So he had volunteered for some worthwhile charities. He had also volunteered one day per week at the local hospital. In fact, because he had been so caught up with doing for others, he had often encouraged his friends

to get more involved in some of the social programs in the community. Thus, the one thing about Juni that is certain is that if a person could earn his or her way to heaven by being good then he would definitely be all set. Unfortunately, though, because the scriptures teach that one cannot get there based upon his or her own merit, Juni has like so many others missed getting out of the Great Tribulation by being taken in the rapture. That means that he is still on earth to experience all or at least many of the bad things that are about to happen. Another fact about him is that he is married and has three children. He has a thirteen-year old son. He has a ten-year old daughter. He has a six-year old son. Therefore, they will also go through the Great Tribulation.

The next unfortunate person that is still on earth for the Great Tribulation is Ijust Wanttoparty. The word unfortunate was just used. But Ijust is not really so unfortunate at all. She like most people in this existence could have come to the Lord to be saved. However, because she is what some people would call a party animal, she has always chosen to not come. In fact, one of her friends had once invited her to church. But she had been out late the night before at a party and had been too tired to go. Another time, another friend had told her about the Lord and about His having died on the cross to pay the sin debt for every person that will come to Him by faith to be saved. But she had not really been interested in doing that either. Ijust has just always thought that being saved means giving up a lot of fun stuff. Therefore, she has always resisted any efforts by other to get her to come to the Lord. What she has always failed to realize, however, is that all of that fun stuff as she likes to call it really is not that much fun at all. How much fun is it to get so drunk the night before that one has a severe hang over the next day? How much fun is it to get so high on drugs that one cannot even recall

the party from the night before? How much fun is it to get arrested or to at least get cited for having tried to drive home from a party after having had too much to drink? It sometimes seems like many individuals have a very poor idea of what is and what is not really fun. One thing is definitely certain, however. Experiencing or going through the Great Tribulation will not be much fun for Ijust Wanttoparty or for anyone else either.

***One thing is definitely certain, however.
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Tribulation will not be much fun for Ijust
Wanttoparty or for anyone else either.***

Another person that had not left this world in the rapture of the church is Allaround Goodguy. Many people might think that the people that will be in this existence at the time of the Great Tribulation are actually very bad people. But that is most definitely not true. The individuals that will go through the Great Tribulation after the rapture will be those that had not come to the Lord by faith to be saved. That does not mean just a small number of individuals will be going through the tribulation. Unfortunately, it actually means most of the people in the world at the time of the rapture. During His earthbound ministry, Jesus had said that most people are on the road that leads to destruction and that only a very few people are on the road that leads to life. For those that like to see those kinds of

words in writing, Jesus had said in Matthew 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." So the really sad thing about the Great Tribulation is that many, many people will be there because they had not come to the Lord by faith when they had had the chance. One such individual is Allaround Goodguy . He is not some kind of really evil person. He has a lot of friends. He also likes to help those people that need help. When one of his neighbors had recently been in the hospital, Allaround had cut his grass and had done some other yard work for him. When another neighbor had needed work done on his car, Allaround had been right there to help the guy out. But because he had never come to the Lord to be saved, he is still in this existence and about to experience the Great Tribulation.

The final person of this drama that is about to experience all or at least part of the Great Tribulation is Always Doinggoodthings. Like Allaround Goodguy, Always had always been a pretty good person, too. At least he had been seen as good by most of the people that had known him even though the scriptures say that no one is good. Romans 3:10-12 says, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." So when the scriptures say that no one is good and that no one seeks after God, it is really defining good as someone that does seek after the Lord. There are a lot of people that do good things for other people. But the real message of Romans 3:10-12 is that no one is birthed into this life seeking the Lord before he or she ever seeks anything else.

Individuals by nature are selfish and self-centered. They generally seek those things which best benefit themselves. Thus, they never based upon Romans 3:10-12 start out in life seeking those things that are of the Lord. So while that observation might seem harsh or unfair, it had certainly been true of Always Doinggoodthings. He had always done a lot of good things for other people. But he had never come to the Lord by faith to be saved. He had never given any thought to serving Him. He had never even gotten involved in church other than to go during Christmas and Easter. So he is by most human standards a very good person. However, he is not saved, and he will be experiencing all or most of the terrible events of the Great Tribulation.

He had always done a lot of good things for other people. But he had never come to the Lord by faith to be saved.

Chapter 4 – What happens to saints after the rapture?

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." [Hebrews 9:27-28]

Now that all of the characters for this drama have been introduced, it is time to see what will happen to the saints of God that had been taken during the rapture of the church to be with the Lord and what will happen to those people that had not been taken. The people that are gone are Sunday Schoolteacher, Someday Latersaint, Happy Saintofgod, Julie Truebeliever and Jenniferneverbeen Inchurch. They are next headed for the judgment seat of Christ which will be discussed in the next section of this text. Those people that are still in the earth and headed to the Great Tribulation are Always Doinggoodthings, Joeyneverbeen Inchurch, George Uninformed, Dummy Procrastinator, Portiaregular Churchgoer, Pappy Justhungry, William Atheist, Preachershould Haveknownbetter, Allaround Goodguy, Betty Hungryforthetruth, Highiq Toosmartforothers, Ijust Wanttoparty, and Juni Goodpeoplegotoheaven. In the coming days and months ahead, each of them will be sorry many times over that he or she had not come to the Lord when they had had the chance. That is because the future for anyone still on earth after the rapture will not be very pretty. But that will be clearer in the other chapters of this text that follow.

*In the coming days and months ahead,
each of them will be sorry many times over
that he or she had not come to the Lord
when they had had the chance.*

a. The judgment seat of Christ

"Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." [I Corinthians 3:8-15]

The above passage from I Corinthians 3:8-15 which had been written by the Apostle Paul describes the **bema** judgment seat of Christ when the saints of God will be rewarded based upon their faithful service to the Lord. Two other

verses from the scriptures also support the occurrence of that judgment. First, Romans 14:10 says, "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." Next, II Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." Thus, the Greek word that had been used in those two verses for "judgment seat" is *bema*. It literally refers to a raised place that is mounted by steps. So during the days of the Roman Empire, it had been a raised seat that had been used for observing or for overseeing. Herod had even built such a structure in Caesarea which he had used for viewing games and for making speeches.

However, unlike what might have sometimes occurred in Rome, the *bema* judgment seat of Christ will not in any way be negative. To the contrary, it will actually be quite positive. While not everyone will receive a reward in the form of a crown, no one at that judgment will lose the salvation by grace that he or she has freely received from the Lord. Paul wrote that "he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." Thus, that being the case, the scriptures do not really support the belief that every saint's life will be shown in exhaustive detail on some panoramic screen for all of the other saints to watch. If that were to happen, it would be inconsistent with the Lord's nature to forgive and to forget all of a person's sins. Psalm 103:10-12 says, "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." Nevertheless, it is still good for every saint of God to put sin out of his or her life and to live wholly unto the

Lord. Thus, the *bema* judgment seat of Christ will reward those people that have done those things with the right heart and motives.

1. The Incorruptible Crown

The first crown spoken about in the scriptures is the incorruptible crown. I Corinthians 9:24-25 says, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible." So in those verses, Paul had likened the pursuit for the incorruptible crown as a competition between runners. Everyone in the race participates. Everyone in the race has trained for the event. Everyone in the race does his or her very best to win. But only one person actually wins the race. So Paul had encouraged the Corinthians to do their very best in the Lord's work so that they as individuals could receive an incorruptible crown. He had emphasized the superiority of the incorruptible crown by calling the crown that is earned by the winner of the athletic competition a corruptible crown. He had also indicated that the incorruptible crown given by the Lord represents a far greater personal achievement than merely receiving any other kind of crown that mortal human beings might give. But to receive the incorruptible crown, the saint of God must be "temperate in all things." The Greek word that was used for "temperate" in the above passage was *egkrateuomai*. It means to be self-controlled, to abstain from unwholesome activities, and to avoid poor behavior.

Therefore, of the five persons that were earlier discussed in this text that had gone to be with the Lord during the rapture, four of them will receive the

incorruptible crown. The fifth person will not. Sunday Schoolteacher will receive it because she had resisted temptation during her early years and had been true to her faith in the Lord throughout her life. Someday Later saint will receive that crown because she had wanted to serve the Lord by becoming a Sunday school teacher. Happy Saint of God will receive it because he had had a genuine concern for telling others about the Lord. He had also led many individuals in his local nursing home to the Lord so that they could be saved, too. Now because of him, many of the people from the nursing home had been taken in the rapture and are also with the Lord at this present time. Julie True believer will also receive the incorruptible crown because she had come to the Lord early in life and had served Him for all of her life. She had truly been temperate or self-controlled in all of the important areas of her life. Jennifer never been In church, however, will not receive that crown because she had never really gotten very far in her spiritual development for the Lord. As had been earlier noted in chapter two of this text, she had been saved by General Revelation. But since she had never been to any kind of church even after she had gotten saved, she had also never really matured much in Christ. In fact, she had not even been aware of the spiritual race in which all of the saints of God participate.

2. The Crown of Rejoicing

The second crown mentioned in the scriptures is the crown of rejoicing. I Thessalonians 2:19-20 says, "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy." When Paul had written about the crown of rejoicing to the

saints in the church at Thessalonica, he had indirectly implied that it should probably be considered among the most important rewards to every child of God. He had told the saints in that church that his crown of rejoicing would be in someday seeing them in heaven. That was because he had led many of them to the Lord. They had been like his spiritual children. So, just as most parents feel a real sense of pride and satisfaction in their physical children, Paul had been able to rejoice because many of the saints in the church at Thessalonica would be in heaven someday because of his ministry. Thus, it is entirely accurate and even appropriate to understand the crown of rejoicing to be a reward for soul-winners. But the rejoicing will be for the souls that have been won to Christ much more so than for the reward itself.

***Thus, it is entirely accurate and even
appropriate to understand the crown of
rejoicing to be a reward for soul-winners.***

Of the five saints of God that had been taken in the rapture of the church and that have already been discussed in this text, only Happy Saintofgod will receive the crown of rejoicing. He will get it because as was earlier stated in chapter two of this text he had had a genuine concern for telling others about the Lord. He had also led many of those in his local nursing home to the Lord so that they could be saved. Now because of him, they had been taken in the rapture and

are presently with the Lord. Sunday Schoolteacher and Someday Later saint had been Sunday school teachers. But neither had actually ever encouraged anyone in their classes to get saved. So they may have both done much to share Christ with the people in their classes. However, they had never developed the heart and the mindset of those that are truly concerned about the lost. Maybe some of the people that have remained on earth after the rapture will wish that Sunday and Someday had been more concerned about the lost. But that is a whole different matter. Last to be considered for the crown of rejoicing are Julie Truebeliever and Jenniferneverbeen Inchurch. But they will not receive that crown either. Julie had done quite well at guarding her own life. But she had never taken soul winning seriously. Jenniferneverbeen had also never taken soul winning very seriously. In her case, though, it had mostly been because she had never really gotten involved in a gospel preaching church or in any kind of actual soul winning ministry.

3. The Crown of Righteousness

The third crown mentioned in the scriptures is the crown of righteousness. II Timothy 4:8 says, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." That verse shows that the Lord will be the righteous judge at the *bema* judgment seat of Christ. However, from a rewards point of view, it is also interesting to note that a crown of righteousness will be given to those saints that look forward to seeing the Lord. The obvious correlation between the crown of righteousness and between loving the Lord's

appearing is that the saint of God will almost have to have been living for the Lord so as not to be dreading his appearing. In other words, if the saint were involved in some kind of unwholesome activity, then he or she may not be so anxious to see the Lord. Similarly, if the saint were overly involved in worldly activities and not living a godly life, then he or she may again not be so anxious to see the Lord. So when understood from those respective viewpoints, the crown of righteousness is very consistent with loving the Lord's appearing.

Therefore, of the five saints of God that have been discussed throughout this text, the saints that had loved the Lord's appearing to them had been everyone including Jenniferneverbeen Inchurch. Concerning her life for Christ, two truths must be pointed out. First, a person does not have to go to church to be saved. She had proved that by being saved when she had sought the Lord as "Creator of Everything" with all of her heart. However, the second truth is that a person spiritually grows and matures in Christ as a result of being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, of being in His Word, and in being involved in Christian activities. So her having been indwelt by the Holy Spirit means that Jenniferneverbeen would have been happy to see the Lord's return even if she had not understood all of the theology about it. Sunday Schoolteacher, Someday Latersaint, Happy Saintofgod, and Julie Truebeliever will also receive the crown of righteousness because they had each had a genuine love for the Lord that had been demonstrated by their commitment to Him and to His causes in this earth. Whereas Jenniferneverbeen had not even known about the imminent rapture of the church, Sunday, Someday, Happy, and Julie had known about it and had looked forward to it. For them, the return of the Lord had been like a long-awaited dream come true. For her, the

rapture might have been confusing. But it would not have been a negative event in her life.

*For them, the return of the Lord had been
like a long-awaited dream come true.*

4. The Crown of Life

The fourth crown spoken about in the scriptures is the crown of life. James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." In considering those words by James, it is noteworthy that he had associated the crown of life with those saints that love the Lord and that Paul had earlier associated the crown of righteousness with those saints that love the Lord's appearing. Because those two expressions of love are so similar, Pastor Barnes wrote that James had possibly been inspired in his writing about a love for the Lord by Paul's second letter to Timothy [1]. But that point is only speculative because the exact date of the writing of the epistle of James is not known. Other research suggests that Paul had written his final letter to Timothy at sometime between 64 and 67 AD but that James had been martyred in 63 AD. So if those dates are correct, then James had definitely been inspired by the Holy Spirit in his writing but not by Paul.

Dr. Clarke pointed out based upon Jewish sentiment that James had probably been considering two completely different types of temptation that are usually experienced by people in this life. He also wrote that both types of temptation require a genuine love for the Lord so that the individual can endure each of them [2]. First, the wealthy are tempted concerning how they will spend their money. Will they use their financial resources to help the poor and the needy? Will they spend their money in other ways that honor and glorify the Lord? Or will they spend their money to satisfy their own selfish desires? The point of that type of temptation is that the wealthy in this life are often much more inclined to use their wealth to gain more wealth or more glory for themselves. But they often do not care so much about the less fortunate. Second, the poor are often tempted by their lack of financial resources. Will they graciously accept their financial status in life without complaint? Or will they be grumblers and complainers because their desires often go unmet? Too many times, they will be more prone to criticize the Lord for what He has not done in their lives rather than to praise Him for what He has done.

So those two types of temptations are very real for those two respective types of people. Obviously, the crown of life will go to those wealthy people that use their resources in godly ways and to those poor people that still genuinely love the Lord in spite of their financial struggles in life. Thus, it is as Dr. Clarke had indicated. The wealthy and the poor can only truly endure their temptations in this life when they truly love the Lord. John also wrote about the crown of life in the following verse and that same observation about loving the Lord is apparent with his words, too. Revelation 2:10 says, "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be

tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." One can only be faithful unto death during persecution if his or her love for the thing over which the persecution exists is genuine. That is why so many godly people through the centuries have been willing to suffer persecution and even death for the Lord. A true love for Him will cause one to resist temptation, to live right, to do right, to not be wrongly drawn to the things of this world, and to even be willing to die for Him. Therefore, such people will receive a crown of life.

A true love for Him will cause one to resist temptation, to live right, to do right, to not be wrongly drawn to the things of this world, and to even be willing to die for Him.

Of the five saints of God that have been profiled in this text, Happy Saintofgod will almost certainly receive the crown of life because he had shown his love for the Lord by his faithful service to Him in his nursing home ministry. However, at the same time, Sunday Schoolteacher and Someday Latersaint might also receive that crown because they too had been dedicated to their respective ministries as Sunday school teachers. The real test of love in each of those three cases is motive. If either of the three had been doing for the Lord what they had been doing for their own self-glory, then he or she had probably been wasting

their time so far as the Lord is concerned. A genuine ministry for Him must be based upon a common love for Him and for those people that are being served by that ministry. Julie Truebeliever might also receive the crown of life because she had had a concern for living right. However, she had never shown a real concern for the lost which is most unfortunate.

The Lord's desire for each person that comes to Him by faith is for that person to use his or her Holy Spirit-given spiritual gifts to minister to others. Furthermore, those gifts should manifest themselves in ways that will almost always try to encourage others to come to the Lord to be saved. Unfortunately, Julie had been saved at an early age. However, there is not any hardcore, credible evidence that she had ever grown much further than just staying out of trouble. Jenniferneverbeen Inchurch is another difficult case. Because she had never been to church, her spiritual growth had been hampered to the point that she had never done much to serve the Lord either. Those people that will receive the crown of life should with the right motives probably show forth their love for the Lord by obeying His teachings, by faithful service to Him, and by having a real genuine concern for those people that do not know the Lord as personal savior. If any of those traits are missing, then the person concerned should probably not receive the crown of life.

5. The Crown of Glory

The fifth crown spoken about in the scriptures is the crown of glory. I Peter 5:1-4 says, "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory

that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." In those verses, the Apostle Peter wrote about the importance of faithfully serving as the under shepherd of the flock of God. In other words, he was encouraging those individuals that are called into the ministry to be faithful to their calling. More importantly, though, he was also encouraging them to have the right attitude of a true under shepherd.

They were to assume their responsibilities willingly rather than out of a sense of obligation. They were NOT to be wrongly motivated by money which Peter had referred to as "filthy lucre." They were NOT to be power hungry. But according to Peter, they were to ALWAYS supremely love the flock of God. They were also to ALWAYS try to reach others for Christ. Unfortunately, many under shepherds or pastors through the centuries have been more motivated by the above negative things than by the results of their ministry. While incarnated, Jesus had always put the welfare of others ahead of His own. He had never done anything based upon what He had thought that He might get out of it. So can those servants that truly love the Lord really be any different? The belief being presented by this text is no. According to the scriptures, the ministry was never meant to be a pathway to riches. It was never meant to be a pathway to power and prestige. Therefore, those under shepherds that responsibly approach and undertake their positions will receive a crown of glory from the Lord. But those under shepherds that are in the ministry only for the power and for the money will not. By the way, none of the five saints of God that have been introduced in this

text will receive the crown of glory because none of them had actually been called into the ministry.

*According to the scriptures, the ministry
was never meant to be a pathway to riches.
It was never meant to be a pathway to
power and prestige.*

b. All Believers will receive clean, white fine linen

In conclusion for this discussion about the judgment seat of Christ, the scriptures explicitly teach about the above five crowns that faithful servants of the Lord can receive. They also teach somewhat less explicitly about another reward that ALL followers of Christ will receive at the *bema* judgment seat of Christ. That sixth reward will be the "fine linen, clean and white" which is associated with the righteousness of the saints. John wrote in Revelation 19:7-9, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." So those verses show that the *bema* judgment will take place while at least

part of the Great Tribulation is happening. They also show that the bride of Christ which is the universal church will have already received her fine apparel in time for the marriage supper of the Lamb. So that specific reward or specific provision provides very strong evidence for both the timings of the rapture and also of the *bema* judgment. Because each of the five already discussed saints had been taken in the rapture, they will also receive the fine white linens for the marriage supper of the lamb.

Chapter 5 – The first two seal judgments

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." [II Thessalonians 2:3-4]

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." [II Timothy 3:1-5]

So for those thirteen remaining people that have been introduced in this text and that had not been taken in the rapture of the church, life has now become a lot more hectic and maybe even a lot scarier. Most of them had not really had any understanding about something like the rapture. Therefore, they and many others are still closely tuned to the local television station to get the latest updates. The first above quoted passage that had been written by the Apostle Paul to the church at Thessalonica in the first century after the birth of Jesus says something about a man of sin being revealed. It also says something about a falling away happening before the coming of some other day. So what are those things all about? What is the day that he had mentioned? The second above passage had also been written by Paul to his young charge named Timothy. That passage had

spoken about some last day events and attitudes among the peoples of the world. So a simple question that is being asked by the remaining thirteen as well as by many others still in the world at this time pertains to what all of those things really mean.

First of all, if one remembers back to the time before the rapture, some people had thought that the falling away mentioned in the first above quoted passage had meant that the saints of God would turn their backs on the Lord towards the end of time. But that is only one way to interpret that idea of falling away. It is true as the second above quoted passage indicates that the love of many people in the world had waxed colder and colder leading up to the rapture. However, it is also true that the falling away spoken about by Paul might have simply meant that those individuals not in Christ would become even more ungodly and even more detestable in their actions and behavior. Thus, because that seems to have maybe been the case, the individuals in the world just before the rapture had already been showing less and less interest in the things of God and in His standards. Many of them had still been delving even further into the biblically-defined areas of sexual immorality and fornication. Thus, no one had really known beforehand the depths to which human beings would have fallen by the time of the rapture. But it had actually been much like the immorality in the Roman Empire during the first century. So now that the rapture has occurred, the falling away spoken about by Paul will probably become ever worse without any hope of ever getting better.

Also now that the rapture has occurred, understanding the day that Paul had mentioned in the first above quoted passage might be a little easier, too. In his days, the people in the church at Thessalonica had stopped working because

they had thought that the rapture or that the second coming of Jesus, which are two different end time events, would occur in their lifetime. Some people had even thought that Jesus had already come back and that they had been left behind. So Paul had written to tell them that the day of the Lord's return would not happen until the revealing of the man of sin and the above mentioned falling away had already occurred. So since that falling away has now officially been noted, the next event on the Lord's calendar that one might expect will be the revealing of the man of sin. Then after that has happened, the final event will be when the Lord returns to the earth for a second time. So with that explanation about the above quoted passages, some more breaking news has just come into the ENB7 television news network.

*a. **BREAKING NEWS: A peace treaty with Israel***

BREAKING NEWS: THIS IS A SPECIAL NEWS REPORT FROM THE ENB7 NEWS NETWORK. A major world leader has just come forward to announce that he has negotiated a peace treaty in the Middle East with Israel. That is very good news because people in this world have been trying to bring peace to that part of the world for a long time. Incidentally, the Prophet Daniel had prophesied that such a man would successfully bring peace to the Middle East. Daniel 9:27 says, "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." Therefore, that is what Daniel had meant in the above verse when he had written

about someone confirming the covenant for one week. It will also apparently be a time when the children of Israel will again offer animal sacrifices unto the Lord which will be pretty much like a return to Old Testament times. All of this is very interesting as all of these critical events are continuing to unfold very rapidly. Could the world leader that has negotiated peace in such a turbulent part of the world be the man of sin about whom Paul had written in II Thessalonians 2:3-4? Will the peace treaty with Israel actually last? Please stay tuned to this station as more information becomes available. THIS HAS BEEN A SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE ENB7 NEWS NETWORK. STAY TUNED FOR ADDITIONAL UPDATES AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

Incidentally, the Prophet Daniel had prophesied that such a man would successfully bring peace to the Middle East.

b. What will happen on earth?

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish;

because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." [II Thessalonians 2:8-12]

Once the man of sin has been revealed, conditions in the world will quickly deteriorate. By the way, it has now been confirmed that the same world leader that was just announced in the previous section of this text to have brought peace to Israel is the same man of sin about whom Paul had written. That means that Ijust Wanttoparty, Highiq Toosmartforothers, Always Doinggoodthings, Joeyneverbeen Inchurch, Preachershould Haveknownbetter, George Uninformed, Dummy Procrastinator, Pappy Justhungry, Betty Hungryforthetruth, Allaround Goodguy, Juni Goodpeoplegotoheaven, Portiaregular Churchgoer, and William Atheist will see the first big event of the Great Tribulation. The other five that had been taken in the rapture of the church are of course with the Lord. So they are also obviously in a much better place and with only a few exceptions will not be further discussed in this text.

But before getting into that first big event of the Great Tribulation, some additional information must be shared about the man of sin. In the above quoted passage, Paul had called him by the name of "Wicked." One might understand that to mean that he will be evil personified or that he will be the very epitome of evil and wickedness. Paul had also written that he will be after the workings of Satan and that he will be very deceitful. Therefore, he will fool many individuals into thinking that he is all-knowing and all-powerful. However, one should not be fooled by that appearance. He might have a little power. But he will only have

the power that the Lord lets Him have. He might seem to know a lot. But his knowledge and his ability to know will also be determined by the Lord. In fact, the only reason that he will even be able to fool so many people is because, as Paul had written, the Lord will send them a strong delusion so that they will believe his lies. But in saying that, one needs to be aware of a simple truth. The individuals that had not been taken in the rapture and that will believe the lies of the devil will be doing those things because they will have chosen to do those things. The Lord does not want any person to leave this existence without Him. But the scriptures teach that they will because they had not come to Him so that they could have eternal life. Therefore, every one of those thirteen people along with many other people in the world that had not been taken in the rapture had long ago made their choices to reject the Lord even those choices had been very bad ones for them to make.

c. The first seal judgment is opened

So once the man of sin, the wicked one, or the antichrist, for he will be known by each of those titles and will behave accordingly, has come to power, things will quickly begin to happen. The scriptures identify seven seal judgments, seven trumpet judgments, and seven vial judgments that will happen in succession where each new judgment will follow those that had come before. The first seal judgment has been identified in the following verse. Revelation 6:1-2 says, "And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him:

and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." That judgment shows a man sitting on a white horse going forth conquering and to conquer. The likely meaning is that the antichrist will begin his rise to power in a peaceful manner by trying to persuade people to follow him. In fact, as one might have already noticed, he did negotiate a peace settlement between Israel and the surrounding countries. So the seventeen people already discussed and still on the earth for the first seal judgment are among a whole host of people that have believed his lies. In fact, because so many people have already mysteriously disappeared in the rapture, the mood among many seems to be to do whatever it takes to survive. No one wants to make waves at this point. Besides that, worldwide peace with Israel really is a good thing.

But the crazy thing about all that has happened is that most people do not even realize that the first great eternal separation has just occurred. All of the people that had been taken in the rapture are forever with the Lord. Most of the people that had been left behind will be forever separated from Him. Some people will be saved during the Great Tribulation. But most people will not be. Nevertheless, because of the good news about Israel, Dummy Procrastinator, Joeyneverbeen Inchurch, Pappy Justhungry, Juni Goodpeoplegotoheaven, Highiq Toosmartforothers, and Preachershould Haveknownbetter think that everything that has happened is just great. Ijust Wanttoparty wants to have a party to celebrate while William Atheist, George Uninformed, Betty Hungryforthetruth, Portiaregular Churchgoer, Allaround Goodguy, and Always Doinggoodthings are waiting and watching to see what will happen next. They are part of the very large and growing crowd that is going along with everything because they have also been sent the same strong delusion as everyone else. But they are not ready

to completely jump onto the band wagon just yet. They are waiting to see what this new world leader is going to do next.

d. The second seal judgment is opened

So as some people might have already guessed, the man of sin is not wasting any time in his attempts to take over the world. Thus, the second seal judgment is next and will be right after the first seal judgment. Revelation 6:3-4 says, "And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword." During the first seal judgment, the antichrist had actually gained control of much of the world by peaceful means. As was just noted, he had gained many people simply because he had successfully negotiated a working peace agreement among Israel and the surrounding nations. But not everyone has been taken in by all that has happened even though a lot has happened. So for those that have held out, the second seal judgment shows that the antichrist has the power to kill anyone that refuses to cooperate. The result is that many people have already been killed and that many more will likely be killed. It is not clear why anyone would ever hold out on him since he has obviously already done such a great work with Israel. But some have done so anyway.

Unfortunately, this new information has just become available. Allaround Goodguy has been brutally executed. As was stated in the previous section of this text, William Atheist, George Uninformed, Betty Hungryforthetruth, Portiaregular

Churchgoer, and Always Doinggoodthings along with Allaround had not immediately embraced the new incoming world leader or his involvement in the peace accords with Israel. So while Allaround had been singled out, the others must have somehow stayed low and not been viewed as possible problems for the man of sin. Allaround had been a pretty good guy with a fair number of friends. He had been a good neighbor that had frequently helped others when they had been in need. But now he is gone because a vicious world leader under the banner of worldwide peace had viewed him as a threat. Allaround had not really been a threat to anyone. But during the Great Tribulation, many people will most likely find themselves whether they like it or not in the same boat as Allaround Goodguy. Now he has gone to whatever awaits him in eternity. But since he had never come to the Lord by faith to be saved, his eternal destiny cannot possibly be good.

***Unfortunately, this new information has
just become available. Allaround Goodguy
has been brutally executed.***

So just that quickly, the first of the remaining thirteen is gone. Allaround had been slow to make a commitment to the antichrist and it has just cost him his life. A person that had been there has said that the antichrist had not shown any hesitation when he had lined up Allaround and many others to be executed. In

fact, he had not even given them a second chance to go along with his program. He had them executed because as he had put it there will not be any room for defectors in his administration. It should also be noted that his quick response towards those that had been possible troublemakers has brought a lot of the other earlier named people into submission. Even those individuals that had not been so vocal in their early lack of commitment to him are now thinking twice about saying anything. It is quickly becoming very obvious that life on earth after the rapture is probably going to be very dangerous. So of the original thirteen that have been introduced earlier into this text, only Juni Goodpeoplegotoheaven, Highiq Toosmartforothers, Dummy Procrastinator, Joeyneverbeen Inchurch, George Uninformed, Preachershould Haveknownbetter, William Atheist, Betty Hungryforthetruth, Portiaregular Churchgoer, Pappy Justhungry, Always Doinggoodthings, and Ijust Wanttoparty are still around. However, any one of them might be next to feel the wrath and the speedy actions of the world's new cruel dictator.

Chapter 6 – The third and fourth seal judgments

"Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her." [Revelation 18:8]

So the Great Tribulation is now well under way. The antichrist has gained much support by having initiated a peace treaty between the nation of Israel and the other Middle Eastern neighbors. However, he has also brought many other people under his domain by basically executing anyone that has gotten in his way. As was just noted in the previous chapter of this text, Allaround Goodguy had been a victim of that purge. However, one would be very naïve to believe that he had been the only one. Actually the whole destructive devastation caused by the man of sin has actually been like a full scale war in many areas. Thus, the overall result is that the conditions in many parts of the world are now very bad. As will be noted below, some places where he has battled those that would not give in to him are now in very deep famine. But wait a moment. Before getting into that, there is some breaking news.

a. BREAKING NEWS: Betty Hungryforthetruth has just gotten saved

BREAKING NEWS: THIS IS A SPECIAL NEWS REPORT FROM THE ENB7 NEWS NETWORK. This is a wonderful moment to share with the listening audience. Betty Hungryforthetruth, who had once been the popular

homecoming queen and head cheerleader at her high school, has just come to the Lord to be saved. Her companion and her adopted daughter have also accepted Christ as their savior. So even in the midst of all of the horrible things that have been happening, all three have sought the Lord and have gotten saved. What they had done is actually pretty simple. They had sought Him with all of their heart. They had committed their lives to Him. They had trusted in His finished work on the cross at Calvary for the forgiveness of sin. Now all three have been indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God and are now in a personal relationship with the creator of the world. Jeremiah 29:12-13 says, "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." That means that they will be with Him for all eternity even though they are presently still experiencing the Great Tribulation. Thus, as this report concludes, three important points must be shared with respect to Betty.

First, even though it may be very rare, some people will still be saved during the Great Tribulation. Second, Betty and her companion had still been able to be saved even though they had not been living in accordance with sound biblical instruction. They had been living in a marital type of relationship. But the scriptures teach that marriage is between one man and one woman for one lifetime. Genesis 2:24 says, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." So they had not been living the way that the scriptures teach. But of course no one really does until after he or she has come to the Lord to be saved. Third, once Betty and her companion had gotten saved, the Holy Spirit had begun working on them and leading both of them away from their unbiblical union and into a deeper spiritual

relationship with Him. II Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Thus, the point is that the Lord will save anyone that comes to Him in the right spirit and with the right attitude. But the point also is that He will work on that newly born-again saint of God and will lead him or her into the paths that he or she should go.

It should be pointed out that He works in the lives of all that come to Him by faith in ways that will make them more like Christ. He will lead the drunkard away from his or her alcohol addiction. He will lead the drug addict away from his or her drug addiction. He will lead the thief away from his or her thievery. He will lead the prostitute away from his or her immoral behavior. He will lead the liar away from his or her lying. Those things are true because one of His roles is to transform every saint of God into the image of Christ. So He will lead him or her away from whatever his or her non-biblical behaviors might be. The Lord does not view one type of sin as any better or any worse than another. But He does change lives so that the saints of God are no longer bound by their former ungodly ways of living. Romans 8:29 says, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." That is one of the wonderful things about coming to the Lord to be saved. He sets free those that are captive to sin so that they do not have to live that way anymore. THIS HAS BEEN A SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE ENB7 NEWS NETWORK. PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR MORE UPDATES AND FOR THE LATEST NEWS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

That is one of the wonderful things about coming to the Lord to be saved. He sets free those that are captive to sin so that they do not have to live that way anymore.

b. The third seal judgment is opened

So now that the second seal judgment which had been the red horse of the Antichrist has brought so much bloodshed into the world by his assault against all of his perceived enemies like Allaround Goodguy, the next seal judgment has just been opened to reveal a black horse. Revelation 6:5-6 says, "And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." What does that mean? In commenting about that seal judgment and about the latter part of the above passage, Dr. Ironside pointed out two important truths [3]. He first indicated that worldwide war is usually followed by worldwide famine which of course is suggested by the black horse and by a "measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny." The Greek word that was used for "measure" in those verses was *choenix*. It means an amount of wheat that would normally feed one person of moderate appetite for one day. For barley, the three measures might be a little better. However, either way those low

amounts of wheat and barley really mean that there is not going to be enough food to go around.

Another factor to consider is that the Greek word that had been used for "penny" in the above passage was *denarion*. So to show the seriousness of this worldwide famine, Reverend A. R. Faucett wrote that one *denarion* would ordinarily have bought sixteen-to-twenty *choenix* during the first century after Christ [4]. But during the black horse famine of the Great Tribulation, which is the third seal judgment, it will only buy one *choenix* of either wheat OR barley. Then to make matters even worse, Matthew 20:9-10 indicates that one penny or one *denarion* would have only been the wages for one day of labor. Those verses say, "And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny." So the Apostle John had been describing a very desperate time for all of the people that will still be in the earth after the rapture of the saints of God. However, while that famine will be quite severe, its actual occurrence is not even the most noteworthy truth that was brought out by Dr. Ironside.

He also wrote that people in modern times have had their food sold to them by measure and that they have also experienced the high cost of living. Thus, his comment implies that that had not been the case at the time that John had so clearly written about the coming worldwide famine during the Great Tribulation. In John's days, they had had many famines. But they had probably never experienced the radical, immediate changes in the cost of living as in more modern times. So the only possible way that he could have known so much about the overall effects of such an event is that the Holy Spirit had revealed it to him.

To those people that have already come to the Lord by faith, such a statement might not seem so earth-shattering. But for those that have not come to Him, that simple truth is additional evidence that the human authors of the scriptures had been inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit who is also the third person of the Trinity had many times through the centuries given the authors of scriptures the ability to clearly speak about things of which they had not had any previous knowledge.

For that reason and also consistent with that idea, II Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." So the conclusion at this point is that the third seal judgment is already underway which means that a very bad worldwide famine has begun because of the antichrist's war against all of his perceived enemies. The good news from the standpoint of this text, though, is that none of the remaining twelve people that have been earlier discussed have died because of the famine. Thus, if one might be allowed a little levity for a moment, all of them can now probably share their own weight-loss stories. But on a much more serious note, the lack of food and its high cost have been seen as the cause of a greatly increased crime rate in almost every part of the world. In fact, many people have even begun to turn on each other just to try to get enough food and money to survive. It should probably also be mentioned that the stock market has suffered its worst fall since the Great Depression of the early twentieth century. There have also been numerous reports that some people have actually died of starvation even though that has not been the case with the twelve people

of this text. So things are pretty bad right now. But they will probably get much worse.

So the conclusion at this point is that the third seal judgment is already underway which means that a very bad worldwide famine has begun because of the antichrist's war against all of his perceived enemies.

c. The fourth seal judgment is opened

When things get bad, they often seem to get even worse. That seems to be the case now as another seal judgment has been opened and a pale horse has just been released. Revelation 6:7-8 says, "And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth." So according to those verses, power has been given to Death and to *hades* to kill many people by the sword and by hunger. In addition, many people will also be dying as a result of pestilence, disease, and wild animals. The above passage says

that one-fourth of ALL humanity will be affected. So the total destructive work of the four horsemen upon the people of the earth is very catastrophic. With the white horse, the Antichrist had initially tried to peacefully take over the world. With the red horse, he had used force whenever and wherever his peaceful tactics had not worked. With the black horse, his warlike strategies had led to worldwide famine, death, destruction, and much physical hardship. Now with the pale horse, many more individuals will die either directly by the Antichrist or indirectly by the very severe conditions that he has caused.

However, the truly tragic part of the whole thing is that most of those people that are dying are DYING LOST. Revelation 6:7-8 makes that very clear. Because of the references to death and to *hades*, those people that are left behind after the rapture of the saints of God will almost always without exception die lost. The scriptures do not provide any examples of people actually exercising the wisdom and intelligence to come to the Lord by faith during the Great Tribulation once they have already rejected Him before the Great Tribulation. So that means that the time to act is NOW. II Corinthians 6:1-10 says, "...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation...." Therefore, every unsaved person should seek the Lord with all of his or her heart, commit himself or herself to Him, trust in Him, and then enter into a personal relationship with Him. Those are the basic things that an individual must do and should do to be saved. The above passage says that one-fourth of all humanity will be affected by the black horse judgment. That means that one person out of every four in all of the earth will be dying over the next few days. If that does not get people's attention, then nothing will.

That means that one person out of every four in all of the earth will be dying over the next few days. If that does not get people's attention, then nothing will.

Before concluding this section on the fourth seal judgment, though, there is some more sad news to report. Preachershould Haveknownbetter has died. It is not known for sure if he like Allaround Goodguy had been executed or if he had died as a result of the famine and pestilence that is now gripping much of the world. Many people have already died because of those things. In fact, on the day just before the now confirmed rapture of the church, census polls had shown that there were about eight billion people in the world. But now after those four horsemen and the first four seal judgments, the number is down to six billion. It is very difficult to believe that so many people have died in such a short amount of time and that conditions in the world have so greatly deteriorated. But things continue to look very bleak as this day ends and as another day is about to begin. Concerning the people of this text, those that are still left are George Uninformed, Dummy Procrastinator, Betty Hungryforthetruth, Joeyneverbeen Inchurch, Juni Goodpeoplegotoheaven, Highiq Toosmartforothers, Portiaregular Churchgoer, Pappy Justhungry, Ijust Wanttoparty, Always Doinggoodthings, and William Atheist. They are not doing real great. But they are doing fairly well in light of all that has happened. By the way, Preachershould Haveknownbetter had died lost.

Chapter 7 – The last three seal judgments

"But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another. For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them." [Psalm 75:7-8]

So a lot has happened in just the past few months. The rapture has taken the saints of God out of this existence into eternity to be with the Lord. The man of sin also known as the antichrist has negotiated a peace settlement with the nation of Israel and the other Middle East nations. He has taken over the world by bringing together those that are supporting him and by eliminating those that are not. As a result, many lives have been lost because of his rage against those that he thinks are or might be his enemies. A worldwide famine has resulted from all of the turmoil so that food has become very scarce and very expensive. The crime rate has risen exponentially because of the very difficult living conditions. The world's population has dropped from eight billion to six billion because of all of the various happenings. So unfortunately, while one might hope that the worst is over, word has just come in that another seal has been opened. That will almost certainly mean more trouble for the people on earth. When will these things end? No one knows for sure.

***So unfortunately, while one might hope
that the worst is over, word has just come
in that another seal has been opened.***

a. The fifth seal judgment is opened

The seal that has just been opened is the fifth seal judgment. But not too much seems to be happening with this one. Thank goodness for that. Revelation 6:9-11 says, "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 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? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled." Apparently, many of the saints from past centuries are with the Lord right now asking how much longer before their martyrdom will be avenged. Many people may not know this, but more than three million Christians had been martyred during the first three centuries of the church. In recent years, even more than that have been put to death for their crime of having been a Christian. So there is little wonder that they now want to know when the Lord will take revenge for them. It seems to have already begun because word has now come that another seal has just been opened. This one might be a little more serious because word is coming in about some kind of natural disaster. Also some people seem to apparently be hiding

because they are afraid of what will happen to them. So on to the next section to see what has just happened.

b. The sixth seal judgment is opened

What has just happened is that the sixth seal has been opened and it has caused a terrible natural disaster. Revelation 6:12-17 says, "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" The earthquake that has just happened might actually be the worst one ever recorded or ever observed. The amount of damage is incredible. It will take months and maybe even years to get some places in the earth back somewhat to normal. This earthquake has also frightened many people. They had already been treading softly because they had not wanted to upset the new world ruler. Now many of them have actually gone into caves because they are so afraid that more disasters might be on the way.

What a way for people to have to live. The earthquake has caused many power outages around the world. Thus, many people are literally in the dark with little or no hope of having their lights turned back on anytime soon. Many homes and even whole cities have been devastated or destroyed by this earthquake. This is like nothing that has ever been experienced on earth before. There has not been any word on the number of casualties. But with an earthquake of this magnitude, one can probably expect a very high number. This is such a sad day toppled onto a whole series of bad days. None of this kind of stuff had ever happened all at one time until that day a few months ago when so many individuals had suddenly disappeared. Is there anything that can be done to turn all of this around? It looks like there may not be. One bystander has said that this whole thing looks like God must be very mad at the people that are still in the world. Another said that this might be the great day of the Lord that is spoken about in the scriptures. If it is, then everyone on earth is doomed. Who will be able to stand against the Lord if He has decided to judge the earth? Unfortunately, the answer to that question is no one.

***One bystander has said that this whole
thing looks like God must be very mad at
the people that are still in the world.***

Word is beginning to come in about some casualties. The exact number of people that have been killed by this earthquake is not known. But what is known is that Juni Goodpeoplegotoheaven has been killed. One may recall from chapter three of this text that he had had some misperceptions about living for the Lord. He had come from a country where serving the Lord had not been very important to most people. They had instead believed that the most important thing is to just be a good person. He had even done some volunteer work for some worthwhile charities as well as for the local hospital. So there is no question that he had been a very good person. In fact, he had been by far better than most. He is survived by his wife and two of his children. Unfortunately, his thirteen-year old son had been with him at the time of the earthquake. So they had been killed at the same time. Ironically, Juni had just gotten his son involved in volunteering at a local homeless shelter since so many people have been displaced since the man of sin has come to power. By now, though, Juni and his son have learned that entrance into heaven is not gained by good works. That is very sad indeed. But Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Why did people not learn that when they had had the chance?

The answer is that too many of them had gotten too caught up in all of the trivial, meaningless pursuits of this existence. It was shared in chapter one of this text that Dummy Procrastinator had gotten a pretty good education. Does anyone think that that matters to him right now since the place where he had worked has probably been destroyed by the earthquake? Does anyone really think that Juni who is now forever separated from the Lord and facing eternal condemnation and suffering apart from Him wants to talk about all of his good works while he had

been alive? Those things do not matter to anyone that has been left behind during the rapture of the church or to anyone that leaves this existence outside of Christ. It was just shared in the previous chapter of this text that today is the day of salvation. That means that smart people will not be like the people in this text that are going through the Great Tribulation because they had let their days slip by without coming to Christ by faith to be saved. It was just reported in chapter six of this text that Betty Hungryforhethruth had gotten saved. While it is true that she had gotten saved while living through the Great Tribulation, does anyone really think that she is glad that she had waited so long? The answer is almost certainly not.

So as the aftermath of the sixth seal judgment is concluded, one more person of the original thirteen that had not been taken in the rapture has been lost in the Great Tribulation. That means that Dummy Procrastinator, Joeynneverbeen Inchurch, William Atheist, George Uninformed, Betty Hungryforhethruth, Pappy Justhungry, Always Doinggoodthings, Highiq Toosmartforothers, Portiaregular Churchgoer, and Ijust Wanttoparty are the only ones that still remain. But for how long will they be able to survive with all of the devastation and violence? This stuff does not seem to be ending anytime soon. So on to the next section for the opening of the seventh seal.

c. The seventh seal judgment is opened

Revelation 8:1-6 says, "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another

angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound." So just when it had begun to look like everything might be starting to come to an end, it is now beginning to rev up again. According to the above passage, the seventh seal is not the end of the judgments. It is actually the start of the next round of judgments because seven angels will be blowing seven trumpets and bringing more disasters to this earth. So, one thing is very certain. The days of God's amazing grace are over, and the new day is not such a pretty one. Therefore, after a pause for about one year, the next chapter will pick up as the Great Tribulation enters its third year.

***So, one thing is very certain. The days of
God's amazing grace are over, and the new
day is not such a pretty one.***

Chapter 8 – The first three trumpet judgments

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." [Revelation 3:20]

It has now been a little more than two years since the rapture of the church and since the revealing of the man of sin. In that time, more than two billion people have either died as a result of physical phenomena in the world or by having been executed. The world is still bound by the very severe famine that had resulted from the third seal judgment. The antichrist is still very much in control of everything in the world. Not only that, but he has also turned out to be a very ruthless, merciless leader. He had introduced himself onto the world stage right after the rapture as a man of peace. But that has hardly been the case since he has been in control. Most people are scared to death because of his quick-to-pull-the-trigger attitude. One false or unpopular word and the offending speaker is gone. The antichrist thinks nothing of lining up a bunch of people and just mowing them down. It is very sad to see the whole world living under his control because He truly is the opposite of Christ. He would like to make people think that he is the Christ. However, very few people have really been fooled by his ways. The only problem, though, is that everyone is too afraid to say anything. Besides that, most of the world's population had already made their decision to not come to the Lord by faith before the rapture had occurred. Therefore, they will not come to Him now because they are being sent the strong delusion earlier mentioned in chapter five of this text.

Thus, it was just stated that it has been a little more than two years since all of this stuff had first begun. It has been more than fourteen months since the massive earthquake and the appearing in heaven of the seven angels with the seven trumpets. So now it looks like those angels are finally ready to start blowing their trumpets. No one knows exactly what to expect when they start doing that. But one would not be totally out of line to maybe assume that the results of blowing those trumpets will not be so good. Only ten people of the original eighteen that had been introduced for this story are still around. But they are not doing so great. Just like everyone else that has survived to this point they are simply trying to survive from one day to the next. They are William Atheist, Dummy Procrastinator, Betty Hungryforthe truth, Pappy Justhungry, Always Doinggoodthings, Joeyneverbeen Inchurch, George Uninformed, Portiaregular Churchgoer, Highiq Toosmartforothers, and Ijust Wanttoparty. Of course, also like so many of the people still in the world at this time, they are beginning to wonder if there really had been something to all of that church stuff and to all of those religious people. If they only knew the truth, they would be very sorry that they had not come to the Lord when they had had the chance. Hold on a second. This is just coming in. This current discussion is now being interrupted because of some very important breaking news.

*a. **BREAKING NEWS: Hail and fire from the sky***

BREAKING NEWS: THIS IS A SPECIAL NEWS REPORT FROM THE ENB7 NEWS NETWORK. It has been a long time since the massive earthquake had sent this world into a major collapse. Not much has happened

since then until now. All over the world, though, hail that is on fire has been seen falling from the sky. In fact, if it were not so destructive it would actually look pretty neat. It is almost like a great fireworks show except that the fire is real and it does not go out when it hits the ground. In fact, many people have tragically been set on fire. Many buildings are now burning. No reports of any casualties have yet been reported. But fires of this magnitude will almost certainly cause the deaths of many people. Nothing has yet been indicated about the cause of hail on fire from the sky. But some people have said that it might be the result of the first angel having blown the first trumpet. THIS HAS BEEN A BREAKING NEWS REPORT FROM THE ENB7 NETWORK. STAY TUNED FOR ADDITIONAL UPDATES AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

*But some people have said that it might be
the result of the first angel having blown
the first trumpet.*

b. The first trumpet judgment is sounded

The report from the above breaking news was indeed correct. The burning hail falling from the sky has happened because the first angel has just blown his trumpet. Revelation 8:7 says, "The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part

of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up." As one can see from those words, many things have been destroyed by fire. In fact, many trees have already been destroyed and many others are still aflame at this very moment. None of the remaining ten people have died because of this trumpet judgment. But Juni Goodpeoplegotoheaven's wife and remaining two children were killed by the burning trees and all of the other devastation. Like Juni and his other son, the most recent members of his family to have died during the Great Tribulation have also died lost. However, their deaths are by no means just an isolated few. Many thousands of people have also lost their lives as a result of all of the fires and the devastation. Right now this whole world is like a crazy madhouse. Many people are screaming and crying because quite simply they are afraid. Many people are very discouraged right now because they have watched as people close to them have in recent months either suddenly disappeared, been killed, or been executed. So now no one knows what will happen next. Everyone is afraid, and there does not seem to be anything that anyone can do about it. Living conditions all over the world right now are simply horrible.

c. The second trumpet judgment is sounded

One of the very serious consequences of the first trumpet judgment is that much would-be lumber to be used for building and rebuilding has been lost because of all of the trees that have been destroyed. Whole forests have simply been turned into fields of ash because there had been so many fires with no one to put all of them out. The fires have also destroyed much of the grass in all the countries of the world. Therefore, that has taken away a major source of food for

many animals. Then, of course, the long-term effect of that will probably also be more food shortages. So, one should not make the mistake of thinking that all of these very catastrophic events are nothing. They are most definitely something and the long-term effect on human life as it had once been known is that it might be gone forever. How can people survive without trees, without grass, and without food? How can they care for themselves in this world which now has been severely hurt by a devastating earthquake last year? How much longer can they endure this famine that has reached every corner of the world? The obvious answer is that for the long term they cannot. So while an actual fatality statistic has not yet been given for the hail on fire from the sky, it will clearly be a very large number. Life on earth has now been changed in ways that will probably never be fixed.

Here is another situation that is almost totally unbelievable. A report has just come in that says that one-third of all of the oceans, the seas, the rivers, and the streams have now been turned to blood. That means that the Atlantic Ocean is now blood. The Aegean Sea is now blood. The Indian Ocean is now blood. The Mediterranean Sea is now blood. The Pacific Ocean is now blood. Many rivers are now blood. Then to make matters even worse, many millions of dead fish have washed up onto the shores of those and many other areas. Furthermore, since those fish have been poisoned by blood, they cannot even be used for food. So once again, the food supply is being severely threatened. The report also says that many ships in those bodies of water have sunk. But that information has not yet been confirmed. What has caused all of these disasters? Some witnesses have said that the second angel had sounded the second trumpet just before the waters had turned to blood. So there might definitely be a connection. Revelation 8:8-9

says, "And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed."

One should note that these tragedies are terrible and at the same time truly horrific. If they continue, then the ultimate outcome is that people will probably starve to death because all of their food sources will have been taken away. But this whole thing is probably nowhere close to being done. Conditions on earth have so deteriorated since the rapture of the church that they will probably never get any better. But it is almost certain to get much worse because there are still some angels left and some trumpets to be blown. Therefore, those people that are still able should come to the Lord now for safety and for deliverance. Getting saved during the Great Tribulation will be very unusual. But it can still happen for anyone that has never learned about the Lord or about God's salvation plan. Of course, every person should be warned because anyone that comes to the Lord during the Great Tribulation will become an immediate enemy of the antichrist. One might recall that Betty Hungryforthetruth, her companion before they had both gotten saved, and their adopted daughter had gotten saved in chapter six of this text. They are in hiding right now because they know that they are in great danger because of their decision to receive Christ as their savior. The man of sin is not playing around when it comes to dealing with those people that he knows are not with him.

They are in hiding right now because they know that they are in great danger because of their decision to receive Christ as their savior.

d. BREAKING NEWS: Two billion dead

BREAKING NEWS: THIS IS A SPECIAL NEWS REPORT FROM THE ENB7 NEWS NETWORK. Word has just come in concerning the number of people that have been killed by the burning hail from the sky and now from the waters that have been turned to blood. A little more than two billion people have died from those disasters. Many lives have also been lost from the unexplainable sinking of all of the ships in those blood ravaged waters. So, coupled with the earthquake of the sixth seal judgment, that means that more than four billion people around the world have been killed so far. It also means that about one-half of the world's total population has now died as a result of the events of the Great Tribulation. Unfortunately, the worst part of all is that this whole thing does not yet seem to be over. So please keep the dial on this station to get the latest news as it becomes available. THIS HAS BEEN BREAKING NEWS FROM THE ENB7 NEWS NETWORK. STAY RIGHT HERE FOR MORE UPDATES AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

It also means that about one-half of the world's total population has now died as a result of the events of the Great Tribulation.

e. The third trumpet judgment is sounded

It has been about six months since the waters had turned to blood, that so many fish had died, and that many ships had simply sunk for no apparent reason. No one yet knows why those ships had sunk. But they are gone and with them the lives of many people that had been on them. Now, however, a new report has just come in that says that a third part of all of the waters has been poisoned. That means that in many areas of the world, the water is contaminated and cannot be consumed. Good grief. What is going to happen next? This whole thing for the past two and a half years has just been one thing after another thing after another thing. Now the water supply is being corrupted. People have already been forced to ration their food because the food supply has been so severely threatened. Now they will have to ration their water, too. The report that has been received says that someone had heard what had sounded like maybe the third angel blowing the third trumpet. If that is true, then it explains everything. Revelation 8:10-11 says, "And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the

waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter."

The incoming news report also says that Dummy Procrastinator and Betty Hungryforthetruth have been killed by drinking the poisoned waters. Betty's former companion and her adopted daughter have been killed, too. But it does not say if they had died from drinking the waters or from some other cause. It may be that they had been found by the antichrist's soldiers and had been executed for being a Christian. But that information has not been confirmed. The report also says that many more people have died from drinking the poisoned waters. But the report does not give an exact number. If it is like everything else, though, it will probably be in the tens of millions. Concerning the original eighteen people that have been discussed in this text, now only eight are still alive. But no one knows for sure how much longer they will be able to survive the horrible conditions all over the world. The eight that still remain are Joeyneverbeen Inchurch, William Atheist, George Uninformed, Pappy Justhungry, Ijust Wanttoparty, Portiaregular Churchgoer, Highiq Toosmartforothers, and Always Doinggoodthings. The good news is that Betty, her former companion, and their adopted daughter have gone to be with the Lord as do all of the saints of God when they depart this existence. II Corinthians 5:8 says, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." But the sad news is that Dummy had never made a decision for Christ. Therefore, he like so many others has died lost. Because of that, he is now separated from the Lord forever and ever and in eternal torment.

Chapter 9 – The last four trumpet judgments

"And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there. I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work." [Ecclesiastes 3:16-17]

It has now been three full years since the rapture of the church and the revealing of the man of sin. To say the least, life on earth right now is really pretty bad. Many individuals continue to be executed for no apparent reason. Food and water are both being rationed because of all of the devastation caused by the earthquake, by the burning hail from the sky, by the loss of the trees and the grass, by the death of so many people and animals, and by the waters of the world being turned to blood and even to poison. Only eight of the original eighteen people are still alive although six of those departed plus a friend and a daughter are with the Lord. The other four departed plus a wife and three kids have very sadly died lost. They are now in torment and forever separated from the Lord. For those that are still alive, though, things are about to get even worse, if that is possible, because there are still four more angels ready to blow four more trumpets. However, the biggest and the worst surprise of all will be with the last trumpet judgment because at that time it will be discovered that that is still not the end of all of the horrible disasters. Now might be a good time to remember that Sunday Schoolteacher, Someday Latersaint, Happy Saintofgod, Julie Truebeliever and Jenniferneverbeen Inchurch had been very smart because they had come to

the Lord to be saved when they had had the chance. Even Betty had been fairly smart to have come to the Lord when she had because coming to Him late is still much better than not at all.

a. The fourth trumpet judgment is sounded

Word has just come in that the fourth angel has now blown the fourth trumpet. The effects do not seem to be clear at this moment. But apparently the sun, the moon, and the stars have been affected. One observer has also indicated that someone or something had yelled "woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth." So that sounds like it could mean more trouble. Revelation 8:12-13 says, "And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabiters of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!" Once again, though, it may be too soon to know what those things will mean to the people that are still alive.

b. The fifth trumpet judgment is sounded

It has now been three and one-half years since the rapture of the church. Apparently, it should be noted that the blowing of the fourth trumpet has caused the length of the daylight hours to be reduced. That is very strange. But days that

used to have twelve hours of sunlight now only have eight. That has had a dramatic effect on what few crops have been able to grow. It also seems to be much colder than it used to be. At times, the earth almost feels like it is in a deep freeze. There is also word now about some kind of flying scorpions or locusts or something like that that is flying around and stinging people. One person has said that the stings are very, very painful. Revelation 9:1-3 says, "And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power." Those flying creatures, or whatever they are, are hurting a whole lot of people. So far there have not been any deaths reported because of the bites. But there have been plenty of visits to the emergency rooms all over the world.

An unconfirmed report has said that those flying scorpions are part of the antichrist's arsenal against the very people that he controls. Whether or not that is true is not known for sure. But if it is true, then that is one more example of his extreme cruelty. If the people still alive did not have things bad enough in just trying to survive, they must now endure the painful bites of some devil-controlled creatures. While that report has not been confirmed, one witness has reported hearing a strange voice from the sky. It had said something about the woes that had been mentioned in the previous section of this text. To go along with that, Revelation 9:12 says, "One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter." It has also been reported to this desk that Joeyneverbeen Inchurch has

been killed. It is not certain that he had died from one of those creature bites. But until more is known, that might be a reasonable assumption. Now only seven of the original eighteen people remain. They are Highiq Toosmartforothers, William Atheist, George Uninformed, Ijust Wanttoparty, Portiaregular Churchgoer, Pappy Justhungry, and Always Doinggoodthings. By the way, Joeyneverbeen unlike his wife has also sadly died lost.

c. The sixth trumpet judgment is sounded

Now another trumpet has just been heard. So the sixth angel must have blown the sixth trumpet. For some unknown reason, there seems to be some kind of force going throughout the world killing people. It does not seem to have any real military objective. It is just killing people. In fact, it is actually killing a lot of people. Revelation 9:13-16 says, "And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them." Upon reading that report, the force appears to be a very large army. Thus far, they have killed almost one and one-half billion people. In fact, Always Doinggoodthings and William Atheist have been killed. Because they had never come to the Lord by faith to be saved, they have also died lost and are now in torment and forever separated from the Lord. Now only Ijust Wanttoparty, George Uninformed, Highiq Toosmartforothers, Pappy Justhungry,

and Portiaregular Churchgoer are left of the original eighteen individuals. Not only that, but since the rapture of the church, the world population has also gone from eight billion people down to a little more than two and one-half billion. That is a huge reduction.

d. BREAKING NEWS: Two unusual witnesses

BREAKING NEWS: THIS IS A SPECIAL NEWS REPORT FROM THE ENB7 NEWS NETWORK. The discussion of the sixth trumpet judgment has been interrupted to bring this special report. Revelation 11:3-6 says, "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will." Apparently even though this information has just been made available to the ENB7 news team, there are now and have been for some time two unusual witnesses that also seem to have some unusual powers. The report says that they can make it not rain. That sounds a lot like an Old Testament prophet named Elijah. It also says that they can turn water to blood and do a few other things to make life uncomfortable for people. That sounds a lot like the Old Testament prophet named Moses. So, all of that is interesting indeed given some

of the things that have been happening around here and around the world for the past three and one-half years.

But now there is another part of the report that is even more interesting. The antichrist had apparently gotten a hold of those two witnesses and has had them executed. They had apparently been Jewish. They had also been telling a lot of people how to get saved. So the antichrist had probably found out about them and had sent his men to get rid of them. That had initially made a lot of people very happy because they had not wanted to hear what they had had to say. But now the report says that the two men had come back to life and had gone to heaven. There has also been another earthquake that has killed seven thousand people. So these are very incredible developments added to everything else that has already happened. Revelation 11:11-14 says, "And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly."

The report goes on to say that the second woe is now over but that there will still be one more. The good part about that is that there is only one left. THIS HAS BEEN A SPECIAL NEWS REPORT FROM THE ENB7 NETWORK. PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR MORE IMPORTANT UPDATES AS THEY ARE MADE AVAILABLE.

They had apparently been Jewish. They had also been telling a lot of people how to get saved.

e. The seventh trumpet judgment is sounded

Unfortunately, this time the news is not as good as had been hoped. The seventh angel has sounded the seventh trumpet. It says that the Lord is receiving the kingdoms of the world and that He will reign over them. Revelation 11:15 says, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." That part is alright. It is the next part that is not really so good. It says that there will now be seven vial judgments even though there have already been seven seal judgments and seven trumpet judgments. So it looks like this whole thing may go on forever. Revelation 15:1-8 says, "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God...And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues...and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled." So most of the original eighteen people in this text have already been taken in the rapture or have been in some other way killed. That means that going

forward, only Ijust Wanttoparty, George Uninformed, Highiq Toosmartforothers, Pappy Justhungry, and Portiaregular Churchgoer are still left.

Chapter 10 – The Seven Vial Judgments

"But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation." [Jeremiah 10:10]

The Great Tribulation is now heading into its sixth year. Many things in this world have dramatically changed. Well over half of the population from five years ago has either been executed by the antichrist or been killed by all of the natural disasters that have happened. There have been a couple of earthquakes and quite a few fires. There has even been one time when the many waters of the earth had turned to blood and even a time when some kind of scorpion or locust type of demonic creature had been flying around stinging people with a very painful sting. So conditions throughout the world have declined dramatically since the saints of God have been taken out and the antichrist has come to power. But this whole thing does not seem to be over yet because seven more angels are preparing to pour out seven vials upon the earth. According to the last piece of information that has been received, those vials will contain the wrath of God. So the five remaining people of the original eighteen along with those individuals that have survived to this point will continue to be challenged by the events of the future.

***According to the last piece of information
that has been received, those vials will
contain the wrath of God.***

a. The first vial judgment is poured out

The first angel has just poured out the first vial. Revelation 16:2 says, "And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image." That report says that very bad sores have been put upon those people that had received the mark of the beast. Maybe some people are not familiar with that mark. So here it is in a nutshell. Because conditions are and have been for such a long time so deplorable, the antichrist had recently imposed very strict limits on the buying and the selling of goods and services. That might seem harsh. But he really had not had much choice. Many animals have been killed. Much land that had once been used for producing crops is now barren. Everything is just so bad that he had finally decided how to solve the problem.

He had had all of the remaining people get a tattoo type of mark on either their right hand or in their forehead so that they would be allowed to purchase what they need to survive. Anyone that has the mark can buy and sell food and other goods. But those that would not get the mark are not allowed to buy or sell anything. As was just stated, that might seem harsh. However, he had had to do something to ration what is bought and sold in the marketplace. There just had

not seemed like any other solution. Therefore, George Uninformed, Portiaregular Churchgoer, Highiq Toosmartforothers, and Ijust Wanttoparty who had all gotten their mark are still able to buy what they need. But they are also around to suffer the torment of those sores. Pappy Justhungry on the other hand for whatever his reasons had chosen to not get that mark. So he has not been able to buy or sell anything in the marketplace. But he also is not suffering from the same sores as the others. One of his friends had recently told another friend who had then told another friend that Pappy had heard the two unique witnesses from the previous chapter of this text just before they had been executed and that he had gotten saved. If that is true, then it explains why he had decided to not get the mark of the beast.

b. The second vial judgment is poured out

Word has just come in that the second angel has poured out the second vial upon the earth. Revelation 16:3 says, "And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea." Now all of the seas have been turned to blood. Before it had only been about one-third of them. The report also says that all of the sea life has been killed. It has probably been poisoned by blood just like all of the fish when one-third of the waters had before been turned to blood. So this is really bad and actually much worse than what had earlier happened. Unfortunately, it has also been reported that Pappy Justhungry has died. The report does not go into detail. But he had probably either been executed for being a Christian or he had starved to death from not being able to buy or sell anything in the marketplace. Now only

four of the original eighteen people are still alive. They are George Uninformed, Portiaregular Churchgoer, Highiq Toosmartforothers, and Ijust Wanttoparty. So, good luck to each of them.

Before moving on, though, some final thoughts must be expressed about Pappy. He had always wanted to get to the top no matter what he had been doing. He had excelled in almost everything in his life. However, before the rapture of the church and before all of the events that he had experienced during the Great Tribulation, he had never expressed any interest in anything to do with the Lord. He had even gone to a gospel preaching church. But he had never paid attention to the messages being preached because he had never been interested. In fact, for him to finally become interested, it has taken seeing many individuals disappear in an instant during the rapture of the church along with many very bad things happening to those around him once the man of sin had come to power. These past five-plus years have been tough on everyone that has gone through them. Interestingly but also sadly, many people that had never been close to the Lord before the rapture are now further away than they ever had before been. In a few instances like with Pappy Justhungry, though, the events of the Great Tribulation have actually drawn them to the Lord to be saved. But once again, such things have been very rare.

However, Betty Hungryforthetruth is another example of someone that had been drawn to the Lord after the rapture of the church. But one must not miss the risks that both Betty and Pappy had taken by their respective decisions. Betty had lost her life during the third trumpet judgment when the waters had been turned to poison. Before that, she, her companion, and her daughter had been in hiding because being a Christian during the Great Tribulation is a crime with an

automatic death sentence. She had also radically changed her lifestyle after she had gotten saved. So coming to the Lord had been the right decision for her as it is for anyone. But it had still been a decision that had cost her a lot. The same is true of Pappy Justhungry. Taking his stand for Christ when the whole world had seemingly turned against Him had taken a lot of courage. But Betty and Pappy through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit had both demonstrated that kind of courage. They are now gone. But they are gone to be with the Lord where they will forever and ever be. Their deaths are sad. But their stories and their testimonies can lead the saints of God everywhere to rejoice for how the Lord has been faithful to them until the very end.

***But their stories and their testimonies can
lead the saints of God everywhere to rejoice
for how the Lord has been faithful to them
until the very end.***

c. The third vial judgment is poured out

Now the third angel has poured out the third vial and has caused the rivers to be turned to blood. Revelation 16:4 says, "And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood." That means

that one can probably expect more deaths and more rationing as things continue to get worse and worse.

d. The fourth vial judgment is poured out

The Great Tribulation is now in its seventh year. To celebrate that dreadful anniversary, the report has just come in that the fourth angel has poured out the fourth vial judgment upon the earth. This one is just as bad as the others because people are now being severely burned by the sun. That means that it must somehow be burning hotter and hotter when it is daylight since the days are still shorter as a result of the fourth trumpet judgment. Revelation 16:8-9 says, "And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. 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." The final part of that report is especially sad because it indicates that people are being turned from the Lord rather than to Him. One may recall that that had also been observed with the pouring out of the second vial judgment. On a more positive note, however, George Uninformed, Highiq Toosmartforothers, Portiaregular Churchgoer, and Ijust Wanttoparty are still around. They might be experiencing the bad effects of the vial judgments. But they are at least still around.

The final part of that report is especially sad because it indicates that people are being turned from the Lord rather than to Him.

e. The fifth vial judgment is poured out

It is now getting close to the end of the seventh year. There are three more vial judgments to be poured out on the earth, and one of them is set to be poured out right now. Revelation 16:10-11 says, "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, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds." According to that report, the people that remain in the earth are greatly suffering. But instead of turning to the Lord, they continue to turn away. Part of that might be the strong delusion that had been earlier mentioned in chapters five and eight of this text. Part of it might also be that a few people might see some hope in the reign of the antichrist. But if so, they are only fooling themselves.

f. The sixth vial judgment is poured out

It is now just about to the end of the seventh year of the Great Tribulation. All of the devastation and the human hardships are too numerous to even repeat. However, it is not yet over. The following report which has just come in shows

that a great battle is about to begin or that it may have already begun. Revelation 16:12-16 says, "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." The report says that the battle will be fought in a place called Megiddo. It is so significant that it has even been given a name. It is the battle of Armageddon. It is when the Lord will lead His army against the man of sin who has brought so much evil and hurt into the world. Thus, now it is his time to get what he deserves. Praise the Lord and hallelujah.

g. The seventh vial judgment is poured out

Unfortunately the deaths among the original eighteen people for this text have continued in the battle of Armageddon. Highiq Toosmartforothers and Ijust Wanttoparty have now been killed. Both had resisted the Lord right up until the very end. Therefore, both had died lost and have entered into a place of eternal separation from the Lord. That is very sad. But the Lord had loved them and had very much wanted them to come to Him just like He loves everyone else. It had been they, however, that had refused to come to Him rather than the other way

around. Thus, only Portiaregular Churchgoer and George Uninformed remain to experience the final vial judgment. But they probably will not be around for much longer. Revelation 16:17-21 says, "And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great." Thus, with that final earthquake, George Uninformed and Portiaregular Churchgoer have now been killed. That means that none of the original thirteen people that had remained on earth after the rapture of the church have survived the Great Tribulation.

***That means that none of the original
thirteen people that had remained on earth
after the rapture of the church have
survived the Great Tribulation.***

Chapter 11 – The outcomes for the eighteen people

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." [Romans 5:6-8]

Now that all of the seal, trumpet, and vial judgments are done and this Great Tribulation story is over, it is time to recap what had happened to each person. Sunday Schoolteacher, Someday Latersaint, Happy Saintofgod, Julie Truebeliever, and Jenniferneverbeen Inchurch had been taken in the rapture. Each of them had received the Lord as their personal savior. So when the rapture had occurred, each of them had gone to be with Him. That is without question the best way to leave this existence. That option by the way is also available to any person that wants to come to the Lord by faith. Also for anyone that would like more detail about true biblical salvation and how to be saved, an appendix has been included at the end of this text to explain how a person can be born again and be saved from an eternity separated from the Lord. It is only through the shed blood of Jesus on the cross at Calvary that one can be totally confident about surviving the Great Tribulation. Plus it is also only through Him that a person can be sure of being with Him for all eternity. None of the manmade religions of the world will get the job done. So a concluding account will be given for each of the thirteen other persons in this story.

***It is only through the shed blood of Christ
on the cross at Calvary that one can be
totally confident about surviving the Great
Tribulation.***

a. Allaround Goodguy died in the second seal judgment

As was shared in chapter three of this text, Allaround Goodguy had been the typical all around good guy. But he had never found time to try to learn the truth about the Lord. He had occasionally gone to church. But he had been more of the Christmas and Easter variety than anything else. If being a good person had been good enough, then he would have easily been taken in the rapture with the others that had been. But being good enough had not been good enough for him and it will not be good enough for anyone else. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Thus, true biblical salvation as will be discussed in the appendix of this text is a free gift from the Lord that cannot be earned. So in chapter five of this text, Allaround had been executed by a vicious world leader that had seen him as a possible threat. Not every all around good person in this world will be executed by a world leader that views him or her as a threat. But all of them will die lost if they never come to the Lord by faith to be saved. The decision to come to Him is by far the most important decision that

anyone can make because one's eternal destiny and destination both stand in the balance.

b. Preachers should Have known better died with the fourth seal

The tragedy of Preachers should Have known better is that he had been a preacher and that he should have known better than to have spent his whole adult life so close to the scriptures without ever really seeing the truth. The scriptures are not always easy to understand. But there are enough parts that can be that no one has an excuse to not try. Even a young child can understand that he or she is a sinner separated from the Lord by sin and by the choice to not come to Him. A preacher certainly should have known better. But there are probably preachers and ministers in the world today that have never come to the Lord by faith to be saved. They are possibly ministering a message that they do not even understand to a congregation that has come to them to learn the truth. One of the purposes of the church or of a local assembly is to preach and to teach the truth about Christ and how to be saved. It is most definitely not meant to just be gathering of people that want to have a social club. It was learned in the sixth chapter of this text that Preachers should had died either by being executed or by the difficult conditions that had been brought on by a prolonged famine and the resulting pestilence. But either way, he had died lost as will all preachers that have never come to the Lord to be saved.

But either way, he had died lost as will all preachers that have never come to the Lord to be saved.

c. Juni Goodpeoplegotoheaven died in the sixth seal judgment

Juni Goodpeoplegotoheaven had been a lot like Allaround Goodguy from a theological perspective. Many individuals do not understand the difference between being saved and living right. The Apostle Paul had written in Ephesians 2:8-9, which was just above quoted, that salvation is a free gift of God by grace through faith. At the same time, though, James the brother of Jesus had written in James 2:17-18, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." So it is understandable that a person can easily be confused by those two passages. However, the proper way to see them is based upon order. True biblical salvation ALWAYS precedes good works and is not based on good works. But then the good works are an outward manifestation of the change that has occurred in the born again saint. So salvation ALWAYS comes first and good works ALWAYS quickly follow. However, because Juni had never really understood that very simple order, his wife, his three children, and he had all died lost. He had been killed in chapter seven of this text during the very severe earthquake of the sixth seal judgment. One of his kids had also died then. His wife and other two kids had died later. But all of them had died lost.

d. Dummy Procrastinator died in the third trumpet judgment

Dummy Procrastinator had been the dumbest of everyone because he had made the fatal mistake of doing nothing. He had had the chance to get involved with a church in chapter one of this text. But very characteristically, he had not made a decision to do so. Therefore, from him, one can learn that doing nothing with respect to the Lord is a losing proposition, too. The only people that will be guaranteed to survive the Great Tribulation and to be with the Lord forever and ever will be those that choose to come to Him by faith to be saved. Two people in this text had actually gotten saved after the rapture of the church. However, as had been pointed out with each of them, such happenings will be quite rare. So Dummy had been killed in chapter eight of this text during the third trumpet judgment. Because he had put off receiving Christ as his personal savior, he had died lost, too.

e. Betty Hungryforthetruth died in the third trumpet judgment

Another person that had almost missed out on being with the Lord forever and ever is Betty Hungryforthetruth. She had not been saved when the rapture had occurred. So she had been left behind to experience the Great Tribulation. But she had gotten saved in chapter six of this text after the rapture of the church which means that she is with the Lord right now in paradise. However, getting saved after the rapture had not enabled her to survive the Great Tribulation. She

like Dummy Procrastinator had been killed in chapter eight of this text during the third trumpet judgment.

f. Joeyneverbeen Inchurch died in the fifth trumpet judgment

Joeyneverbeen Inchurch had been one of those individuals that had never been to church. He had died lost in chapter nine of this text during the fifth trumpet judgment. However, he had not died lost because he had never been to church. His wife, Jenniferneverbeen had never been to church either. But she had gotten saved in chapter two of this text by seeing the Lord as the "Creator of Everything" and by giving her life to Him. He had known about her decision. He had even seen the changes in her outward behavior. But he had refused to follow her example.

g. Always Doinggoodthings died in the sixth trumpet judgment

In many respects, Always Doinggoodthings had been just like Allaround Goodguy and Juni Goodpeoplegotoheaven because they had associated doing good works with being saved. Always had also been like Allaround because he had been a Christmas and Easter churchgoer, too. But none of those three had ever realized how important it is to come to the Lord by faith to be saved and then to live one's life for Him. However, ten thousand years from now when every single person that has ever lived will still be alive in eternity, those will be the only two things that will matter. Ten thousand years from now, no one will care about his or her level of education, about the job or the career that one had had,

about the house where he or she had lived, or about any of the many other things that get left behind when one's life in this existence is over. Therefore, Always Doinggoodthings, like William Atheist, had died lost in chapter nine of this text in the sixth trumpet judgment.

h. William Atheist died in the sixth trumpet judgment

As was just noted, William Atheist had died lost in chapter nine of this text during the same judgment as Always Doinggoodthings. He had not believed in the existence of God even though he had lived in the very world that God has created. He had never looked at the sun or the moon or the stars or any of the other parts of Creation and realized that the Lord is the "Creator of Everything." Now he will have all of eternity in torment and in condemnation separated from the God that he had always denied to think about how wrong and how foolish he had been.

i. Pappy Justhungry died in the second vial judgment

The highly successful Pappy Justhungry in everything except scriptural understanding had not been taken in the rapture of the church because he had never gotten into biblical matters. He had even gone to a gospel preaching church but had somehow missed all of that because he had always been so preoccupied with everything else. So once he had found himself in the middle of the Great Tribulation, he had begun to research some things. He had also gone to a rally where the two witnesses had been trying to encourage people to get saved. So

because he had never actually rejected the Lord, he very fortunately had not been sent the strong delusion that those that had rejected the Lord had been sent. So when he had learned the truth, he had received Christ as his savior. Then he had later refused to get the mark of the beast. So he had died shortly after all of that in chapter nine of this text. However, he had been saved and is with the Lord at this very minute.

j. Ijust Wanttoparty died in the sixth vial judgment

The case of Ijust Wanttoparty is often lived out by many people. Before the rapture of the church, she could not have been bothered by all of that religious junk, as she would have put it, because it is not fun. Unfortunately, she had also found that going through the Great Tribulation, that being killed in the battle of Armageddon in chapter nine of this text, and that being eternally separated from the Lord are very much less fun than what she had thought about living for the Lord. In fact, many saints of God would even say that she had never even known any real fun just racing from one party to the next. There is true joy in living for the Lord and in serving Him. However, there is no joy in dying lost and in being eternally separated from the Lord. If anyone has any doubts about that, just ask Ijust Wanttoparty. She has now learned the truth the eternally hard way.

***However, there is no joy in dying lost and
in being eternally separated from the Lord.***

If anyone has any doubts about that, just ask Ijust Wanttoparty.

k. Highiq Toosmartforothers died in the sixth vial judgment

Highiq Toosmartforothers is another person that had thought that she was too smart to come to the Lord by faith to be saved. She had thought that people that do are emotionally weak. But she had ended up dying in chapter nine of this text like Ijust Wanttoparty during the battle of Armageddon. Now both are in the eternal abode of the condemned and of those not in Christ. She had actually been smart enough to know better. However, she had left this existence like other so-called smart people that have fallen for the devil's lies.

l. George Uninformed died in the seventh vial judgment

George Uninformed had been a nice guy that had never taken the time to learn about the Lord. He could have if he had chosen. But he had never found a life in Christ to be worth the effort. Therefore, he had died lost in chapter nine of this text in the earthquake of the seventh vial judgment. He is now in torment and eternally separated from the Lord.

***George Uninformed had been a nice guy
that had never taken the time to learn
about the Lord.***

m. Portiaregular Churchgoer died in the seventh vial judgment

Portiaregular Churchgoer had been like so many churchgoers that had never realized the importance of coming to the Lord by faith to be saved. Many people sit in services week after week and never respond because they do not understand the importance of the whole matter. But anyone that has died lost would quickly warn those that seem to think that the whole thing is not very important. In fact, Luke 16:27-29 says, "Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them." So the threat is real. But who is listening? Portiaregular did not listen. So she had died lost in chapter nine of this text in the earthquake that had occurred during the seventh vial judgment.

Chapter 12 – What it will be like to die SAVED

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." [I Thessalonians 4:16-18]

The above passage shares the current hope of all of those people that are in Christ. Those people that truly love Him want to be with Him, and those verses promise that someday they will be. In the Great Tribulation story that has just been presented, eighteen individuals have attempted to show what it might be like to actually live through the Great Tribulation. Of those, four people had lived for the Lord in this existence and had gone to be with Him when the rapture of the church had happened. They are Sunday Schoolteacher, Someday Latersaint, Happy Saintofgod, and Julie Truebeliever. As with the others, their names show the kind of people that they had been. A fifth person got saved later in her life but still before the rapture had occurred. Her name is Jenniferneverbeen Inchurch. The point of her salvation had been to show that going to church does not save anyone although going to the right kind of gospel preaching church can produce the right environment for someone to get saved. Two more people of the eighteen had gotten saved AFTER the rapture of the church.

They are Betty Hungryforthetruth and Pappy Justhungry. For the purpose of this story, though, Betty had intentionally been identified as gay because it is important to understand that the Lord will save anyone that comes to Him by faith

in the right spirit and with the right attitude. However, it is just as important to realize that the indwelling Holy Spirit of God will work in a SAVED person's life to break him or her from those lifestyles that do not conform to sound biblical instruction. She could have just as easily been a drunkard, a thief, a prostitute, or any number of other things. But she had been gay for the express purpose of showing that she had been gay up to the point that she and her companion had gotten SAVED. Then, AFTER SALVATION, the Holy Spirit had begun working in both of their lives just as He does in all born again saints. With them, He had in time changed their relationship. The purpose of Pappy's life had been to show that the mark of the beast will probably occur because of food rationing concerns and that the saints of God will be the primary targets of the antichrist. So both Betty and Pappy had died in the Great Tribulation. But they had gone to be with the Lord as had the other five people above that were just named. Therefore, the remainder of this chapter will attempt to describe what their existence in heaven might be like.

To do that, it will be useful to see what clues have been provided in the scriptures about heaven. For one thing, the Greek word that had been used in the New Testament for "heaven" is *ouranos*. So that name will be used for the remainder of this text so as not to confuse the scriptural concept of heaven with what some people might think of as heaven. In other words, going to heaven will not mean that an individual will sit around eating jelly beans all day. Being able to do whatever one wants and as much as one wants is not the scriptural view of *ouranos*. Thus, the first piece of evidence to be considered actually suggests that it will probably be a place very similar to what the Garden of Eden had been plus or minus a few things. Therefore, the remainder of this chapter will briefly look

at the "minus a few things" and then briefly look at the "plus a few things." But before any of that can be done, one should first see how and why *ouranos* will most likely be like the Garden of Eden. Why will death for the saints of God and going to *ouranos* be like a return to the Garden of Eden?

a. OURANOS will be LIKE a return to the Garden of Eden

To answer that question, the first issue to consider is what this life would have been like if free will had never existed. After all, it had been free will exercised by Adam and Eve that had led to their eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So if a person could reverse that simple fateful decision, then it would probably be very possible to develop a fairly accurate idea of what *ouranos* will be like. The reason is because Adam and Eve had been created to live FOREVER in the Garden of Eden. Furthermore, they had NEVER been meant to live outside of the Garden of Eden or in the midst of this mess that present day people have learned to think of as life. Inside the Garden of Eden, there possibly would have NEVER been any big cities with big tall skyscrapers. There probably would have NEVER been any guns, any violence, any horrible jobs, or any of the other unpleasant things that make up many individual's lives. There possibly would have NEVER been any politicians or any political parties. There possibly would have NEVER been any big governments. After all, a lack of those things is what life had been like for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden prior to their having eaten fruit from that tree.

There had also NEVER been any terrible storms, earthquakes, hurricanes, or tornados. It had NEVER even rained. Genesis 2:5-6 says, "And every plant of

the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground." However, there would have been other human beings with whom to share that eternal existence because the Lord had told them to replenish or to fill up the earth with more people like themselves. Genesis 1:26-28 says, "...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it...." The Hebrew word that was used in that passage for "multiply" was *rabah*. It means to become great or to make many. Thus, the Lord had instructed Adam and Eve to make many more people like themselves. The Hebrew word that had been used for "replenish" was *male'*. It actually means to fill up the earth with more people rather than to just fill it up again.

So issue two questions how one can know for sure that *ouranos* will be like the Garden of Eden. The answer comes from Genesis 1:1-25 which says, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth...And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good...And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good...And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good...And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the

darkness: and God saw that it was good...And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good...And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good." So the answer is found in a question. How can the Lord possibly improve on everything that He has already declared as being good? The answer is that He cannot.

How can the Lord possibly improve on everything that He has already declared as being good? The answer is that He cannot.

Therefore, going to *ouranos* after the rapture of the church will almost have to be like or very, very similar to going back to the Garden of Eden. But it must be pointed out that *ouranos* while being a type of the Garden of Eden will NOT actually be the Garden of Eden. Revelation 21:1-4 says, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself

shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." So in the new heaven and in the new earth, like it had been in the Garden of Eden, there will not be any earthquakes, tornados, tsunamis, hurricanes, or any other natural disasters. But there will still be many of the same positives that Adam and Eve had enjoyed while in the garden.

In addition, the new heaven in *ouranos* has also been described in the scriptures as having physical parameters. Revelation 21:10-23 says, "And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God...And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel...And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." So the new *ouranos* will be shaped like a cube that is twelve thousand furlongs high, deep, and wide. According to Preacher and Educator W. E. Vine, one furlong is one-eighth of a Roman mile making *ouranos* one thousand five hundred miles in each of the three dimensions [5]. Thus, it will be a fairly large place.

b. Things that will NOT be in OURANOS

However, the first real observation about *ouranos* might be upsetting to some people reading these words. But it will NOT be at all upsetting to those people that will be there for all eternity. Human beings have been deceived and distracted from the Lord since the beginning of time by all of the many different trappings of this life. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil had even been a deception and a distraction that would eventually lead the first two human beings from the Lord. That tree had been a part of the Lord's Creation. It had existed harmlessly in the Garden of Eden until the devil had directly tempted Eve and had then indirectly tempted Adam to eat from it. So this might seem controversial or unpleasant to many people. But the Lord had probably NEVER planned large cities or big buildings for the Garden of Eden.

Computers, the Internet, cell phones, and television had probably NEVER been part of His plan for life inside the garden. There had also probably NOT been any plans for any type of sports or sports teams in the Garden of Eden either since one cannot find much drawing power to the Lord in them. The same can be said for money, stock markets, international business, and high finance. In fact, there will probably NOT be any electricity or even vehicles in *ouranos*. Thus, while technology might have been great for many people through the multiple millennia since Creation, one might question how many of those technological developments have actually brought people closer to the Lord. The answer is probably none or at least not many.

Next, Revelation 21:1-4 which was just quoted in the previous section of this chapter says that there will be a new heaven and a new earth. The question

that might be asked based upon those verses is why there will be a new heaven and a new earth. What is wrong with the current heaven and earth? The answer is because of Satan who is Lucifer, the son of the morning, and the devil. He had been in heaven and he has been in the earth ever since having been cast out of heaven. Isaiah 14:12-14 says, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."

He has also identified as the anointed cherub and as the prince of the power of the air. Ezekiel 28:13-15 says, "Thou hast been in Eden...Thou art the anointed cherub...Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Ephesians 2:1-3 says, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." So those passages show that the whole creation that the Lord had once declared as good is no longer as good as it had once been. Therefore, when the end of time has come, there will be a new heaven and a new earth and Satan will NOT be allowed into either of them. He will NOT be in *ouranos* because he will be in the lake of fire where he belongs.

***Therefore, when the end of time has come,
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of them.***

Another thing is that in this existence, people are often tempted to do things that are wrong and even to do things that they do not really want to do. The alcoholic probably does not really want to be an alcoholic. The drug addict probably does not really want to be a drug addict. In fact, such a list of addicting behaviors that the masses probably do not really want to do can go on and on. Nevertheless, many and probably even most individuals still find themselves from time to time being drawn to wrong and sometimes even improper behaviors. Even the saints of God while having been set free from many wrong and possibly addicting habits in this life might still find themselves trapped by those behaviors and desires that do not easily go away. For many saints, gluttony might be a problem. They simply cannot push themselves away from the table. For many, poor spending habits might be the problem. They simply cannot get control of how they use and misuse their finances.

So in this present existence, sin exists. The sin nature that causes people to sin dwells within every human being and even within the saints of God after they have come to the Lord by faith to be saved. Even those saints that are truly devoted to the Lord and that are dedicated to His causes still have to constantly battle against those behaviors and actions that are wrong. So the really good news

for all of the saints of God is that the seemingly never ending struggle against sin in this existence will finally come to an end in eternity. Sin will NOT be in *ouranos*. The sin nature will NOT be in *ouranos*. Temptation will NOT be in *ouranos*. The corruptible sin nature that is in ALL human beings will be replaced by an incorruptible nature that will NOT desire to do wrong and that will NOT struggle with doing wrong.

Many other things also will not be in *ouranos*. Sickness and death will NOT exist in *ouranos*. In *ouranos*, not even the weather will be allowed to take away from the glory of the Lord. On day four of Creation, the Lord had created the sun and the moon to give light to the earth during the day and during the night, respectively. However, in *ouranos* the Lord and His glory will provide the light. So that probably means that the new heaven and the new earth will not have anything to do with the current universe or with the current solar system. People will exist in eternity rather than in temporal space. It also probably means that the different forces that produce the weather patterns will not be in effect either. Existence in *ouranos* will obviously be very different than it is in this current existence. There will NOT be any periods of daylight followed by periods of darkness. It will just be continuous daytime. Once again, though, the obvious indication is that the Lord is the one that will make *ouranos* into *ouranos*. That truth has been maintained throughout the scriptures. Individuals also will not get married in *ouranos*.

Once again, though, the obvious indication is that the Lord is the one that will make ouranos into ouranos.

c. Things that will be in OURANOS

"Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him. For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody." [Isaiah 51:1-3]

As was just noted in the previous section of this chapter, ***ouranos*** can be described by some of those things in this present existence that will NOT be in that existence. But it can also be described by some of the things that will be in that existence. Therefore, some of those things that will be in ***ouranos*** will be discussed in the below paragraphs. They include eternal fellowship with the Lord, lots and lots of praising Him and of singing praises to Him, the possibility and even the likelihood of animals, the presence of people that actually want to be with the Lord forever and ever, and also the very high likelihood of an active lifestyle. It is NOT believed that people will just sit around forever and ever and be bored. It is instead believed that there will be a lot of genuine happiness in

ouranos. For one thing, the saints of God will worship the Lord who will be on His eternal throne. For another, all of the dreaded aspects of this current existence as was just noted will have been taken away. Therefore, because of all of the wonderful things about *ouranos*, it is believed that death for the saints of God will actually be more like a grand graduation day rather than a day to be dreaded and to fear or regret.

The Apostle Paul had written the following words to the Christians in Rome right after he had written that ALL things work together for good for those people that love the Lord and that are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:38-39 says, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." So if those things had been true at that time and in that environment, then they have been true in all environments and they will be true in eternity, too. The Lord will not only be in *ouranos*, but He also will be the center around which all things will revolve. His truth will be there. His love will be there. In fact, just as the people that had lived during His incarnation had been able to listen to His teachings on various subjects, those saints in *ouranos* will also be able to listen to His precious words forever and ever. Those forces in this existence that have tried to silence and to even destroy the words of Christ will NOT be in *ouranos*. But eternal fellowship with the one that had died for all will be.

Those forces in this existence that have tried to silence and to even destroy the words of Christ will NOT be in ouranos. But eternal fellowship with the one that had died for all will be.

The nine different ways that people can praise the Lord will also be in ***ouranos***. In the Old Testament, nine different Hebrew words have been rendered as "praise." So, each of those nine types of praise will be in ***ouranos***. First, the saints of God will be able to ***yadah*** "praise" Him by giving thanks to Him for all that He will have done in this existence and for all that He will continue to do in that existence. They will be able to ***hilluwl*** "praise" Him by being thankful for His bountiful and abundant care in eternity. They will be able to ***tehillah*** "praise" Him through the singing of songs and hymns. They will be able to ***barak*** "praise" Him by humbly kneeling before Him. They will be able to ***halal*** "praise" Him by shouting hallelujah within every group worship setting. They will be able to ***zamar*** "praise" Him through LOUD song and musical instruments. In fact in ***ouranos***, it will be the more loud praise for the Lord the better. They will be able to ***towdah*** "praise" Him by again expressing their thankfulness to Him. They will be able to ***shabach*** "praise" Him by again loudly praising Him. Finally, they will be able to ***mahalal*** praise Him by rejoicing in Him. Psalm 7:17 says, "I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high." Therefore, as it had been at that time, so it will be in ***ouranos***.

Another very interesting possibility and even likelihood about *ouranos* is that animals will probably be there. Maybe even household pets will be there, too. After all, animals had been in the Garden of Eden. They are in this present existence. They will be bringing the Lord back at His second coming to the earth. They will also be around during the one thousand year Millennium. So why would they NOT be in *ouranos*, too? Of course, that also means that people will eat fruits and vegetables just as Adam and Eve had done in the Garden of Eden if they eat anything at all besides eating from the tree of life. Genesis 1:29-30 says, "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so."

***Maybe even household pets will be there,
too.***

Next but not the best part of *ouranos* is that those people that will be there will actually want to be there. With that same kind of mindset, the psalmist had written in Psalm 84:10, "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." That means that being in constant fellowship with the Lord will be

a great blessing rather than a chore. It means that continually praising Him and singing praises to Him will be the desire of every person rather than being done out of a sense of obligation. No one will be asking if we MUST praise the Lord ALL THE TIME. No one will be asking how much longer do we have to sing praises to the Lord. But an important part of those feelings will NOT be based on the fact that *ouranos* will be so much better than the abode of the condemned in *gehenna*. It will instead be because people will simply want to be with the Lord forever and ever. Such an environment will be a happy place with NO negative emotions, NO stress, and NO anxiety.

Another very likely possibility is that much activity will be in *ouranos*. Even in the Garden of Eden, Adam had had something to do. Simply naming all of the animals might not seem like much. But that simple chore shows that he had not just sat around doing nothing. Consequently, another passage from the scriptures also implies that *ouranos* will be a place of much activity. Matthew 25:14-23 says, "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country...And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one...Then he that had received the five talents...made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two...His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord..." When Jesus had shared that parable about *ouranos*, He had implied that faithful service with one's spiritual gifts in this life means greater responsibilities in *ouranos*. He did not further explain what those responsibilities would entail. But He did clearly associate being a "ruler over many things" with also being in *ouranos*.

An important part of *ouranos* is that Jesus will sit upon His eternal throne. Revelation 4:2-3 says, "And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald." So at the end of the book of Revelation which will also be at the end of this existence, the scriptures show that Jesus will sit upon His eternal throne in *ouranos*. Therefore, when a saint in this existence passes into eternity, it will be like his or her graduation day. Humanity died to get into this existence. So humanity will have to physically die to get out of this existence and into the next existence. That is why the psalmist had written in Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." For Him, it will be like a grand homecoming. For the saints of God, it will be the final end of their physical separation from the Lord who is also the Creator of the heaven and the earth.

***For the saints of God, it will be the final
end of their physical separation from the
Lord who is also the Creator of the heaven
and the earth.***

Chapter 13 – What it will be like to die NOT SAVED

"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." [Matthew 25:41]

As has already been indicated, eleven of the original characters in this text had died lost. They are Allaround Goodguy, Preachershould Haveknownbetter, Juni Goodpeoplegotoheaven, Dummy Procrastinator, Joeyneverbeen Inchurch, Always Doinggoodthings, William Atheist, Ijust Wanttoparty, Portiaregular Churchgoer, Highiq Toosmartforothers, and George Uninformed. Why each had died lost has already been discussed earlier in this text. So their individual cases will not be discussed again. The thing of greatest interest in this chapter is to therefore briefly describe their eternal destination now that their respective stories have been told.

Matthew 25:41 which has been above quoted says that *gehenna* will be the final eternal condemnation. However, it had never been intended for departed human beings. It had been created for the devil and his angels. The scriptures, teach that there are two stages of eternal condemnation. The first is in *hades* as it is called in the New Testament or in *sheol* as it was called in the Old Testament. Those two words, one Greek and the other Hebrew, refer to the same place of torment. Many, many people have already gone to that place, and many, many more will go there in the future. The second stage of eternal condemnation is *gehenna*. The two stages run consecutively. One follows immediately after the other. That means that the souls of the above eleven people that had died lost had

gone to *hades*. But when their body and soul are reunited for the final judgment, they will go to *gehenna*. So the remainder of this chapter will discuss those two different places.

a. Temporary Total Agony in Hades

"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works." [Revelation 20:13]

"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." [Luke 16:22-23]

Revelation 20:13 is the simplest evidence that *hades* is only a temporary holding area. In that verse, people that had died lost were brought before the Lord from *hades* for their final judgment. At that judgment, which has not yet occurred, they will be automatically declared guilty and sentenced to eternal condemnation in *gehenna*. Revelation 20:14-15 says, "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Because part of being condemned is not having one's name written in the book of life, such people will immediately go to *gehenna* by way of *hades*. However, even though the two verses may seem to be referring to two different groups of people, the two groups

are actually the same. Therefore, the below sections will discuss what awaits the person that goes to *hades*.

Luke 16:23 says, "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." That verse shows that the soul of one man left this life and went to a place of comfort. The soul of the other man left this existence and went to a place of torment and suffering. Apparently, the soul of the person in anguish could see the comforted soul. But there is no indication that the reverse was true. What is obvious to anyone from reading the verse, however, is that the soul of the man in torment KNEW that he was in torment. He was very much aware of his circumstances and he knew that he was extremely uncomfortable. He also could see the soul of Lazarus afar off and his soul knew that the soul of Lazarus was NOT in the same condition of extreme torment. Luke 16:24 shows that the man in *hades* somehow even recognized the soul of Lazarus. That verse says, "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." Consequently, three truths must be mentioned in looking at this account.

The first is that the rich man did not go to *hades* because he was rich. Not only that but Lazarus did not go to paradise or to heaven because he was poor. Jesus was not telling an account where the rich person finally got his or her due and that the poor man finally got even once they had all died. The much more likely scenario is that the rich man had trusted his riches while in this life and had never sought the Lord by faith with all of his heart. For many people, their riches have been and are a hindrance to their faith. Because of that, Matthew 19:23-24 says, "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man

shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

The second truth that must be mentioned with this account is that Jesus had probably been telling a true story. When He had shared parables He usually had used labels for the people in the stories. But in this one he had used a real name when He called the poor man Lazarus. Even though not all Bible scholars and theologians agree, it is entirely possible and even likely that Jesus had been telling a true story about two real men. If that it correct, then at this very moment Lazarus is still in paradise or heaven and the rich man is still in *hades* in torment. If the Lord would speak audibly to each person right now, then He would say that Luke 16:22-23 is not a laughing matter. There is nothing funny about being in *hades* until the final judgment and then in *gehenna* for all eternity.

The third truth that must be mentioned with this account is that the scriptures are more believable than any of the non-biblical sources. Unfortunately the soul of the man in *hades* in this account has had plenty of time to think about those people to whom he had listened and those sources in which he had trusted. He is still there today probably thinking about some of those very things. In current times, people are too often drawn from scriptural truth by all sorts of substitutes. That is part of the deception and distraction brought about by the devil.

In current times, people are too often drawn from scriptural truth by all sorts of substitutes.

b. Permanent Total Agony and Darkness in Gehenna

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

[Revelation 20:11-15]

All the clever jokes that people have come up with about dying lost will be without foundation in **gehenna**. A person might think that the party will continue in **gehenna** because all of his or her friends will be there. But that is definitely not true. It was clear with the rich man in Luke 16:22-23 that no one had been partying in **hades**. So no one will be partying in **gehenna** either. Another point to note is that a person may not even be aware of the other people around him or her that are also suffering eternal torment. **Hades** is already very well populated. However, the rich man had not seemed to be aware of anyone else around except

Father Abraham, Lazarus, and himself. That does not automatically mean that he had been alone. It simply means that either his senses had not been able to detect other lost souls there with him or his torment had been so great that he had not noticed or cared about the other lost souls that had been with him. No reasons exist in the scriptures to suggest that people will be anymore aware of those around them in *gehenna*. But even if they are, it will not matter. The individual in intense torment and agony will not be very interested in other people in intense torment and agony.

Genesis 1:11 says, "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so." God had created grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree on the third day. Because He had said that they were good, there will not be any forms of grass, herb yielding seed, or fruit trees in *gehenna*. But in saying that, one should note that *hades* and *gehenna* could have been and probably had been composed differently. *Hades* contains only the souls of people that have died lost. By contrast, *gehenna* will contain the bodies AND the souls of people that have died lost. The spacing for millions and millions of bodies is probably much different than the spacing for millions and millions of lost souls. All of that is to say that *gehenna* might be of a composition that would make the existence of grass, herb yielding seeds, and fruit trees possible. But whether possible or not, those things will not be there because God had said that they were good.

Genesis 1:24 says, "And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so." God had created land animals on the sixth day and had said

that His creative work was good. Therefore, just like with the grass, the herb yielding plants, and the fruit trees, no animals will be in *gehenna*.

Genesis 1:9 says, "And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so." God had also been involved in the creation of water. He had worked with it on the third day even if He had not necessarily created it on the third day. Because He had called His work good, there will not be any water in *gehenna*. Someone might think that the lake of fire in Revelation 20:11-15 means that water will be there. However, that may or may not be correct. If the use of the "lake of fire" terminology had only been anthropomorphic, then that would argue against literal water and against a literal lake of fire. But if the lake of fire is not literal, then whatever it is will be much, much worse. The suggestion of no lake of fire is not meant to minimize the words of Revelation 20:11-15. It is only meant to say that because water is a good thing the likelihood that it will be in *gehenna* is greatly reduced. However, even if it is there, it will not bring any comfort to any of the lost bodies and souls that are there.

Genesis 1:4 says, "And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness." Similarly, God had initiated light on the first day. Because it had been a good thing, one can speculate that *gehenna* will be a place of total, absolute darkness. That suggestion is also supported by other parts of Scriptures. Matthew 8:12 says, "But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." The Greek word for "darkness" in that verse is *skotos*. It means darkened eyesight, being blind, or a consequence of being in *gehenna*. The possible interpretations are either that there will not be any light or that the people in *gehenna* will be blinded

just by being there. Either way, they will not be able to see anything ever again.
To be in a place of total absolute torment and not being able to see anything at all
will be total terror. Therefore, people in that place will be afraid every moment of
their existence forever and ever.

If that is true, then it is not difficult to imagine the absolute horror of ***gehenna***. Everything that was bad about ***hades*** will also be bad about ***gehenna***. But added to that will be the feeling of being ALL ALONE FOREVER and EVER. The torture will be FOREVER and EVER. Never seeing light again will be FOREVER and EVER. One can easily imagine that even the toughest person will reside there in total fear and terror. No one will be partying in ***gehenna***. No one will be doing anything but remembering all of their opportunities to come to the Lord from which for one reason or another they had just walked away. All people that are in ***gehenna*** will be forever in torment. Because of everything that they will experience, they will be forever and ever totally afraid. Thus, the thought that real people will actually be in that place FOREVER and EVER is very sad.

***One can easily imagine that even the
toughest person will reside there in total
fear and terror. No one will be partying in
gehenna.***

For the person in *gehenna* forever and ever, the scenario might go something like this. He or she will wonder why that screaming person will not just shut up. He or she may think to themselves that all of that screaming is bad for everyone. After all, it does not help anything. Would that person please just shut up? Please be quiet. But then the individual making that request will realize that the screams are not those of someone else. The screams belong to them. It will be at that moment that they will realize that they will be screaming that way forever and ever and ever without end because of the total terror and fear that they will be continuously experiencing forever. *Gehenna* is definitely not the place that anyone would choose to exist forever. But then the person that is there will realize that he or she had made that choice for themselves. Make no mistake about this. Going to heaven is a choice. But so is going to *hades* and *gehenna*. If a person ends up in *hades* en route to *gehenna* it will be because he or she had refused the Lord's grace. *Gehenna* is a terribly bad destination. But it is also a voluntary destination. People go there because they choose to reject the Lord's great salvation.

Titus 2:11-14 which was quoted in chapter two of this text says, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

Romans 10:13 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Jeremiah 29:12-13 says, "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

The salvation of the Lord is available to anyone and to everyone that sincerely asks. He will deliver ALL people from the future condemnation of *hades* and *gehenna* if only they will seek Him with all their heart.

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Finally, Genesis 1:1-2 says, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Ephesians 3:9 says, "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." Those passages show the three Persons of the Trinity at Creation. But none of them will be in *gehenna*. For the person that dies lost, their eternal existence will be total darkness, total terror, absolute torment, total loneliness, never seeing another thing, and without any comfort

from the Lord. It is the worst possible ending to any human life. Jesus had made it very clear that human beings were never meant to go there. Matthew 25:41 says, "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." *Gehenna* has been prepared for the devil and his angels. It was NOT and is NOT meant for human beings. Not only that, but because of Jesus no individual has to die lost. Unfortunately the sad truth is that many, many people already have gone to *hades* en route to *gehenna* and many, many more will in the future.

For the person that dies lost, their eternal existence will be total darkness, total terror, absolute torment, total loneliness, never seeing another thing, and without any comfort from the Lord.

Someone might read the above words and conclude that they are intended to be a scare tactic. If such a conclusion has been reached, then the person has correctly gotten the message. Read the Bible. Study about the rich man in Luke 16:23-31. Study about *hades* and *gehenna*. When one critically examines ALL the evidence and draws the most logical conclusions, then he or she will quickly realize that *hades* and *gehenna* are very, very scary places. **NO ONE REALLY WANTS TO GO EITHER OF THEM!**

Appendix A

Appendix A – An Explanation of True Biblical Salvation

The final truth to be presented in this text is that heaven is a prepared place for prepared people. That final truth was taught by Jesus in Matthew 25:1-13 which is about five virgins who had been prepared for the arriving groom and about five virgins who had not been prepared. The central teaching of His parable is that ALL individuals need to prepare if they have not already done so for that which comes on the other side of the grave. It has sometimes been said that people would behave differently if they knew for sure that heaven really exists. While that may be true, such a statement is theologically flawed. If people knew for an absolute certainty that heaven is real, then they WOULD rush to the Lord to be SAVED rather than just trying to clean up their act to somehow slip into heaven under the wire. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Therefore, before concerning oneself with getting into heaven, a person should FIRST be concerned about coming to the Lord by faith to be SAVED. The first step is that a person must CHOOSE to be SAVED. The simple fact is that no one gets SAVED by accident. Another simple but important fact is that no one who goes to be with the Lord in heaven when he or she leaves this existence will be surprised to be there. After choosing to be SAVED, a person must then CHOOSE to come to the "Creator of Everything" to actually be SAVED. To do that, he or she must look past the deceptions and the distractions of this life and make some important decisions. Therefore, each step that leads to being SAVED

will be discussed below. The words that will be presented are SEEK, COMMIT, and TRUST.

a. Choosing to be saved is an individual choice

Concerning consequences, Galatians 6:7-8 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." If one thinks about it, the final consequence of a person's life is about reaping. Those people who will have come to the Lord by faith in the right spirit and with the right attitude while in this life will reap everlasting life in *paradeisos* ("paradise") with the Lord and then in *ouranos* ("heaven") with Him. But those people who will NOT have come to Him will reap an eternal life of doom and condemnation forever separated from God. Their departed soul will go to *hades* ("hell") where it will suffer untold agonies. Then, after the white throne judgment, their body and soul as one will go to *gehenna* ("the lake of fire") where it will suffer even greater agonies forever and ever. Therefore, it is very important to understand that choosing to be SAVED is an individual choice. But choosing to not be SAVED is an individual choice, too.

So very simply, the first two below statements explain how people get saved. The third statement explains what their position in the Lord will be once they are saved. Those steps show that true biblical salvation involves changing one's mind about some things. That is what it means to repent. II Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but

is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Next within the context of repenting, true biblical salvation involves SEEKING the Lord, COMMITTING to Him, and TRUSTING in Him. When those things are done, then the person will enter into a relationship with the Lord. Therefore, each of those parts can be expressed through the following three statements.

1. True biblical salvation ONLY occurs when the unsaved individual has changed his or her mind about SEEKING the "Creator of Everything" with all of his or her HEART. Jeremiah 29:12-13 says, "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."
2. True biblical salvation ONLY happens when the unsaved person has changed his or her mind about COMMITTING to and TRUSTING in the "Creator of Everything." John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
3. True biblical salvation ONLY happens when the person enters into a personal RELATIONSHIP with the "Creator of Everything." I John 1:3 says, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

With the second point, one needs to understand that the Greek word *pisteuo*, which was used for "believeth" in John 3:16, actually means that the person commits to and trusts in the object of his or her belief. Therefore, that literally

means that true biblical salvation is COMMITTING oneself to the Lord and also TRUSTING in Him.

Therefore, that literally means that true biblical salvation is COMMITTING oneself to the Lord and also TRUSTING in Him.

b. Salvation is coming by faith to the "Creator of Everything"

But in making the above statements, one probably noticed the label "Creator of Everything" was used instead of the literal name of Jesus. Why is that? The answer is because a person does NOT have to actually know the "Creator of Everything" by the name of Jesus to be saved. Jesus is the Lord. He is the "Creator of Everything." He is the one who died on the cross at Calvary so that people can be forgiven for their sins. But an individual does not have to actually know Him by His given incarnation name of Jesus to be saved. To show why that is true is pretty simple. First, most people do not know the name of the individual who built their automobile. But they are still able to enjoy the benefits of automotive transportation. They do not know the name of the individual or of the individuals who built their home. But they are still able to enjoy the benefits of an enclosed shelter. So in the same sense, they also do not have to know the

literal incarnation name of Jesus to enjoy the benefits of the salvation that only He can provide.

However, secondly and much more importantly, Paul had even said that Jesus is the "Creator of Everything." Ephesians 3:9 says, "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." Also in speaking about Jesus, Colossians 1:16 says, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him." Therefore, he had clearly indicated that Jesus was and is the "Creator of Everything." So if someone is seeking Jesus with all of his or her heart, then he or she is also seeking the "Creator of Everything." Similarly, if someone is seeking the "Creator of Everything" with all of his or her heart, then he or she is also seeking Jesus. They are one and the same. Thus, salvation is and ALWAYS has been a matter of the heart. It has NEVER been a matter of the intellect or of what comes out of one's mouth in some kind of memorized prayer for salvation. Understanding that simple truth explains how people like Moses, Abraham, Job, Joseph, Solomon, David, Elijah, Elisha, Ruth, and all of the other Old Testament saints would have gotten saved.

Unfortunately, though, based upon the authority of scriptures, most people will still die NOT SAVED even though it is very easy to be SAVED. Jesus had said in Matthew 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." So the real question is why people will still die lost.

Why will they choose the broad way that leads to destruction when they could just as easily take the narrow way that leads to life? Perhaps one of the biggest reasons is because the devil does a good job of deceiving and distracting people. How many individuals think that the way to be SAVED is to be a very good and a very moral person? Many people probably do. However, that is a lie of Satan. Ephesians 2:8-9 which was just quoted above says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." How many people believe that the primary goals in this existence are or at least should be to get a good education, to get a good job, to have a nice house, and to have a lot of money in the bank? Many people probably do. However, that is another lie of the devil. Matthew 16:26 says, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Therefore, there are a great many deceptions and a great many distractions in this existence, and many people are being taken in by them.

Therefore, there are a great many deceptions and a great many distractions in this existence, and many people are being taken in by them.

c. Looking past the deceptions and the distractions of life

The simple fact is that nothing in this existence is more important than seeking the Lord with all of one's heart and then living for Him. Nothing in this existence is more important than being committed to the Christ, than trusting in Him, and then being in a personal relationship with Him. In fact, one hundred years from this very moment, those are the only things that will really matter to every single person who is alive today. This may be a simple thought. But it is still very true. If something in this life will not be important on the other side of the grave, then it is not really very important on this side of the grave. Not one person who has already entered eternity cares who won the important sporting events of this year or who won the highest political offices of their former land. The only thing that is important to any of them is what they had done with the Lord while they had been in this life. The Lord will NEVER turn anyone away who comes to Him by faith in the right spirit and with the right attitude. But once again, the problem is that many people get too distracted by all of the sideshows of this life and never come to Him. So the hope is that many people will see past all of the deceptions and all of the distractions of this existence and will come to Him to be saved. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

If something in this life will not be important on the other side of the grave, then it is not really very important on this side of the grave.

d. The ONLY conclusion that makes sense

The final truth to realize is that those people who have died NOT SAVED even in the distant past are still in *hades* at this very moment. They are suffering terribly. Therefore, it is definitely NOT a place to which anyone would ever want to go. But as bad as *hades* is and will be, *gehenna* will be much, much worse. For that reason, the solution is simple. If a person could spend just one day or even one moment in *gehenna*, then he or she would quickly discover just how bad it would be to be there for all eternity. Then, he or she would rush to Jesus to be SAVED. Therefore, coming to the Lord by faith NOW even without having had that moment in *gehenna* is the only conclusion that makes any real sense for people in this existence. The Apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 15:31 that he had daily died to self. So in that same sense of giving oneself wholly unto the Lord and of completely trusting in Him, the following prayer is offered as a way by which to live. But the words are not just meant to be words. They are instead meant to be like a daily creed for one's life. *Lord, I give my heart, my life, and my health to You. To the best of my ability, I trust all of these things to You in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Endnotes

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1. That Ye May Know the Truth (12/1/1995)
2. Finding My Way Home (12/14/1996)
3. The Truth about Right Living (12/25/1996)
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6. A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter Five (3/7/2016)
7. General Topic Daily Devotions for A 366-day Calendar (11/3/2002)
8. Bible Character Daily Devotions for A 366-day Calendar (11/11/2003)
9. The End May Be Much Nearer Than We Think (12/17/2006)
10. God's Works of Creation (5/18/2011)
11. A Bible-based Argument against Calvinism (9/10/2012)
12. Knowing the Name of Jesus Is Not Necessary for Salvation (8/13/2013)
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18. God Was in Complete Control of Abraham's Circumstances (9/18/2013)
19. God Was in Complete Control of Joseph's Circumstances (9/25/2013)

20. The Seven Statements by Jesus while on the Cross (10/5/2013)
21. A Commentary on the Gospel of John, Chapter Three (11/19/2013)
22. A Guide for Life Is God for Life (11/22/2013)
23. The Ministry of the Apostle Paul (1/19/2014)
24. Understanding How to Truly Be Saved (1/31/2014)
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30. Daily Messages from the Book of Proverbs (10/10/2014)
31. Learning about God from His Attributes and Names (11/28/2014)
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38. The Rapture, the Tribulation, and the Second Coming of Christ (6/27/2015)
39. This is NOT the Devil's World (9/25/2015)
40. Nine Different Ways to Praise the Lord (11/28/2015)
41. What Heaven Will Be Like (12/20/2015)
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45. The Sermon on the Mount (4/19/2016)
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68. How to Find Lasting Joy and Success in This Present World (1/16/2021)
69. Twenty-one Steps to Living One's Best Life (3/15/2021)
70. A Complete Overview of the Book of Proverbs (4/21/2021)
71. A Complete Overview of the Book of Revelation (5/19/2021)
72. The Life of Jesus as Told by the Apostle John (6/28/2021)
73. The Difference between a Liberal Pastor and a Godly Pastor (7/23/2021)
74. The Apostate Church Will Soon Be Here (9/12/2021)
75. The Wisdom of Solomon (Part III) (12/31/2021)
76. My Daily Devotions for Facebook (Volume 2) (8/31/2022)

