

series of disasters or judgments coming on the earth. Revelation 6-18. At the end of this seven year period Jesus will return in power and great glory to judge the world in righteousness. He will bring with Him all those who have died in faith or were alive at the time of the rapture and set up His Messianic kingdom for 1000 years, ruling from Jerusalem and bringing peace and justice to the earth. Revelation 19-20.

You will not want to be around on the earth for the great tribulation period. The only way to escape this and to be saved from the wrath of God which is coming on the world because of the sins of humanity, is to repent of your sins and believe the Gospel.

'God now commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.' Acts 17.30-31.

'Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.' 1 Corinthians 15.3-4.

You will want to be around for the coming kingdom of God. To do so you, make your peace with God now, by putting your trust in Jesus as your Saviour. There is a heaven to gain and a hell to flee from. Jesus loves you. He died for you and He is coming again soon. He wants you to be among those who are ready to meet Him, by accepting Him as your Saviour today.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3.16

For more information on this subject send for our booklet: **'10 Signs of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.'** We encourage you to look up the Bible references in this leaflet. If you would like us to send you a Bible let us know.

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HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Is it possible
to do the following two things
at the same time?

1. Face up honestly to what is happening in the world.
2. Have a hope for a better world coming.

The human race is not in a good place right now.

We have all suffered through the Covid pandemic and now we see more problems coming on the world. Money problems, social breakdown, environmental problems, disease, poverty, violence, drugs, family breakdown and conflict – all these and more are causing many people around the world to be fearful of the future and ask 'Where is it all going?'

When we read the Bible we find that these things happening are a sign of the last days prophecies coming to pass. These prophecies tell us what will happen in the days before Jesus returns. When He comes again He will come as the ruling king Messiah with all the power of God to put the world to right.

Before He comes there will be a time of trouble on the earth. In the first stage of this process, where we are now, these things will be happening: *'For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.'* Matthew 24.7-8

This will be followed by a great time of trouble on earth, known as the great tribulation. This would cause the end of the world, if God did not intervene to stop it: *'For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.'* Matthew 24.21-22.

The phrase 'no flesh would be saved' means this crisis would mean the end of life on earth if God did not cut it short. It will not be the end of life on earth though, because the Bible tells us that after Jesus returns there will 1000 years on earth in which He will personally take control of the planet and sort out the mess humans have made of it. Isaiah 2.1-4, Revelation 20. After this the earth and the heavens will be burnt up and God will create a new heavens and new earth for believers. 2 Peter 3, Revelation 21.

Some other things prophesied for the days before Jesus returns are these:

- There will be a crisis in the environment. Isaiah 24 speaks of the earth being defiled or polluted under its inhabitants. In Revelation 8 we read of trees being burned up, fish dying in the sea and the waters becoming polluted and undrinkable.
- There will be a breakdown of moral and social values 'as in the days of

Noah and Lot' (the Great Flood and Sodom and Gomorrah). These were days of great violence and sexual immorality. (Luke 17.26-37, Genesis 6, Genesis 19).

- There will be a development of technology, with knowledge increasing and new inventions changing our lives. This will bring in a new economic and political system out of which the last world government of the beast or antichrist will emerge (Daniel 7, 12, Revelation 13).
- There will be confusion in the area of religion. False prophets and false messiahs will lead people astray (Matthew 24.11) and there will be a push to unite faiths in the cause of world peace (Revelation 17). This religious system will not be based on the truth of God's word and will oppose and persecute those who truly believe the Gospel. Despite this the true message of the Gospel will go out to all nations (Matthew 28.18-20).
- There will be a restoration of Israel as the Jewish people return to the land of Israel (Ezekiel 36). There will be hostility to Israel from the surrounding nations, but Israel will survive with God's help (Psalm 83, Ezekiel 38-39). Jerusalem will be a source of international tension, leading to the last battle over Jerusalem which will end with the return of the Messiah Jesus to the earth to set up His Messianic kingdom, reigning from the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. (Zechariah 12-14, Isaiah 2, Ezekiel 40-48, Revelation 19-20).

At some stage in this process an event will take place which will cause a great shock to the world. It is known as the 'rapture of the church' when the Lord will take those who believe in Him out of this world to a place of safety:

'For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we will always be with the Lord.' (1 Thessalonians 4.16-18)

Jesus spoke of this event happening, when 'one shall be taken and one shall be left'. He said it will happen 'as a thief in the night' (in other words something which will take people by surprise). He told us to be ready for it at all times, because it will come unexpectedly and we will not know the day or the hour when it will come. Matthew 24.36-44.

This will be followed on earth by the seven year period of the great tribulation in which the Antichrist will come to power and there will be a