

## Trials Tribulation into Triumph

*Consider it all joyful, my brethren, whenever you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.* (JAM1:2-4)

The phrase "trials and tribulations" means the challenges someone is forced to endure to test their strength and fortitude. The Greek word *peirasmos*, to describe "trials", refers to that which examines, tests and proves the character or integrity of something. "Testing" is "dokimion" which has a similar idea prove by testing as with gold. (1PE1:6-7) Suffering is that which proves one's character and integrity along with both the object and quality of one's faith. The English word tribulation [severe trial or persecution] is derived from Latin word *tribulum* which was a device used for threshing grain in which grain was furiously beaten and thrashed to separate it from the straw and chaff. Triumph stands for being victorious. Throughout the Bible are people who turned defeat into victory and trial into triumph. Instead of being victims, they became victors. We can have this same experience today. No matter what the trials or the temptations, we can turn it through patience, endurance and faith in Christ we can experience victory. The result of victory is spiritual maturity.

Jesus said *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you"* (MAT5:10-12) that is to say, to be persecuted because you are a follower of Jesus Christ, go to church, living a clean moral life and want not join them in their vulgarity and immorality. Yes, rejoice and be glad because you have a great reward awaiting you in heaven because "they persecuted the prophets who were before you." The point is that you are blessed by God when you are insulted, scorned, criticizing, to mock, pointing out faults, finding fault, telling and spreading evil lies about you. Because you did not choose to avoid doing what is right, in order to avoid being harassed or harmed. You made a conscious choice to honor God, and to be faithful to Him, despite persecution from those who are unrighteous. If you are persecuted for Jesus' sake, then you are to learn and keep in mind that in being persecuted that we stand on the right side!

Bible is clear that everyone will go through trials, tribulations, those who come to saving faith had better expect it. There is nothing strange about suffering for Christian. *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.* (2TI 3:12) that is faithfulness to Christ leads to persecution from ungodly world. Satan fights us, the world opposes us, and this makes for a life of battle. Paul other apostles and many in early church experienced persecution for living a godly life in Christ. Hebrews 11 speaks of the suffering many of God's people have endured, concluding, "And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect." (HEB11:39-40) The awards for God's people are eternal.

In Mat13:18-23, until "tribulation and persecution arises on account of the word(of God) and they endure for a while but then fall away. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. *"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him"* (JAM1:12) Bible says a crown of life awaits you in heaven but only if you remain "steadfast under trial" and faithful. Trials, rightly used, help us to mature. Immature people are always impatient and unbelief. What does God want to produce in our lives? We glory in our sufferings because we know suffering produces endurance; endurance produces, character; and character, hope" (ROM5:3) Patience is a courageous in the face of suffering. God wants to make us patient for every blessing. When believer learns to wait on Lord then God can do great things for him. Be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (HEB6:12)

Romans 12:12 *"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer"* All of us who are believers will suffer from persecution, have to endure trials and go through tribulations because we belong to Christ. A Christian runs the race patiently by persevering through difficulties. The patience is persevering towards a goal, enduring trials, expectantly waiting for a promise to be fulfilled. God's power and goodness are crucial to development of patience. Colossians 1:11 tells us that we are strengthened by Him to "great endurance and patience," while James 1:3-4 encourages us to know that trials are His way of perfecting our patience. Our patience is further developed and strengthened by resting in God's perfect will and timing. Job had the right outlook when he said, *"But He knows the way I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold"* (JOB23:10) Jesus is our model in all things, and He demonstrated patient endurance: "Who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (HEB12:2) Our Lord was able to endure the cross because of "the joy that was set before Him", the joy of returning to heaven and one day sharing His glory with His church. If the tribulations that bring patience are to be gloried in because of the fruit they bring in our lives. "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation produces patience" (ROM5:3-5) Jesus said, in the world you will have tribulation. Bible says, *"We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God"* (ACT14:22) God tells us to expect trials. Count on it, prepare for it, expect it, be patient in it and be in constant prayer. The "Spirit of glory" rests upon the suffering believers in their persecution. Let us pray: Gracious Father, we thank you for tribulation. Give us grace to be patient, endurance in tribulation. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Why do people suffer?

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Why am I suffering? The fact of suffering undoubtedly constitutes the greatest challenge to the Christian faith, and has been in every generation. There are a few things that Christians are able to say with confidence. Firstly, you are not suffering because God hates you. Secondly, your suffering will come to an end, and there will be an eternity in which peace and justice will compensate you. Thirdly, knowing the presence of God alongside you will make you stronger as you face painful circumstances. Everyone has troubles. We face problems, affliction, suffering and hardship. We all have stories of suffering and they come in many different types. It may be illness, loss of someone close to you, disappointment in your job or work, financial disasters—sorrow, pain, suffering of all kinds. It can be anything that ranges from something as small and or having to face a lion in the lions' den as with Daniel. What we need strength, endurance and patience.

Why does God allow trials, worries, anxieties, difficulties? Are all trials the result of sin committed by one who suffers? Can good come from suffering? Is it possible faithfully endure our difficulties? What solutions does the Bible offer to help us endure and overcome our problems, afflictions, hardships? The humans who are the part of creation that God loves are created capable of making choices. To a degree everyone chooses to do some bad things as well as some good things. Much of the suffering of the world is caused by humans in large numbers choosing together to do things that are evil. Wars, poverty, hatred are not caused by God. They are caused by people who are rejecting ways of God. Tragically, people who are entirely innocent often suffer most. Jesus, who grieved and finally died in shameful circumstances. In this life, we deal with trials of sickness, tragedy, natural disasters, malice. And yet, for the Christian, we are able to walk thru it all with peace and purpose. The life that God calls us to is wonderful because Jesus has overcome the world. Jesus says, *In this world you will have tribulation, trials and sorrows. But be of good cheer, because I have overcome the world.* (JOH16:33)

There are several reasons, why people suffer. A) Divine discipline or correction "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son He receives" (HEB12:6; REV3:19; PSA119:67) As discipline for sin to bring us back to fellowship through genuine confession. We sometimes suffer because of our own foolishness. Christians should be honest with ourselves about what God is doing through us. The eternal life comes from planting God's Spirit by faith in Christ, and not by works of the flesh, we must keep doing good. We reap what we sow. (GAL6:7-9) B) Because of the sin of others - Suffering at the hands of people (persecution, violent treatments) is used of God to fill up the measure of their sins. It shows the evil character of those who persecute others and justice of God's judgment when it falls. (1PE2:19-23, 1 TH2:14-16) C) To resolve angelic conflict between Satan and God. Job expressly states that Job's suffering was a temptation from Satan. (JOB1:1-2:10) Satan hoped that, because he was suffering, Job would turn away from God. D) To learn obedience to the divine plan - God lovingly and faithfully uses suffering to develop personal righteousness, maturity and our walk with Him. (HEB12:5f; 1PE1:6; JAM1:2-4) The Lord uses trials to test our faith in the sense of purifying it, to bring it to the surface, so we are forced to put our faith to work. Suffering helps to remove impurities from our lives such as indifference, self trust, false motives, self-centeredness, wrong values and priorities and human defense and escape mechanisms by which we seek to handle our problems (man-made solutions) that need to be removed like dross in the gold refining process. As a pruning tool to increase fruitfulness. (JOH15:1-7) E) Humbling, to keep pride down, to understand the grace of God. Apostle Paul saw his thorn in the flesh as an instrument allowed by God to help him maintain a spirit of humility and dependence on the Lord because of the special revelations he had seen. Suffering is a tool God uses to cause us to exercise faith in provisions of God's grace. It is God's grace in Christ that changes us, manifest life and character of Christ. (2CO12:7)

F) To develop perseverance and endurance. - Suffering or trials teach us the truth, the truth of learning to "trust on the Lord only" (PSA62:1-8) Suffering a tool that God uses to bring us to Himself so we will respond to Him and His Word. It forces us to turn from trust in our own resources to living by faith in God's resources. We may suffer persecution because of our faith, i.e., suffering for righteousness sake. (2TI3:12) Suffering is not limited to those who are wicked. This was the theory of Job's friends. (JOB4:7-9) G) To demonstrate the power and glory of God - and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me" (PSA50:15) God allowed evil because the temporary presence of evil in the universe would result in the greatest glory to His name. Suffering provides opportunity to manifest and magnify the power of God through His servants in order to verify and confirm the messenger and his message. God seeking our good and God seeking His praise are really one and the same pursuit, since our good and joy yields praise to His name. H) To witness for Christ- The divine purpose in trials which involves the gospel. (PHI1:12,21-24) To manifest the character of Christ in the midst of suffering as a testimony to win others to Christ, suffering often opens up doors for ministry. Look at the results of Paul's response to the trials" to live is Christ and to die is gain. The Apostle was undoubtedly continuing to rejoice in the Lord. I) To develop our capacity and sympathy in comforting others who suffers - For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so thru Christ our comfort overflows. *That we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.* (2CO1:3-5) J) To teach us lessons in prayer - *Lord, when they were in trouble and distress; they poured out a prayerful whisper when Your chastening was upon them.* (ISA26:16) afflicting hand of God as a fatherly chastisement. Examine, is it present trouble the hand of the Lord in direct rebuke or promised testing of our faith or are we being had by Satan? We should know, so we can respond accordingly.

The Lord tests the righteous (PSA11:5)

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The reason our God test us, is for a glorious purpose. That purpose is to refine us and to make us eligible to be with Him forever. Hence, we must never get tired facing trials, rather we must overcome them with the help of our almighty God. By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered up Isaac a sacrifice.(HEB11:17) Abraham faced a terrifying test of faith. He responded to God's test by obediently offering up his son Isaac.(GEN22:2) Abraham was moved by the sole desire to please God because he trusted God. Abraham faced the warmth with a holy desire to sanctify, or set apart his life for the glory of God. We know that God puts is through testing periods in our lives. In trusting God, Jews call kiddush HaShem, ie. sanctifying God's name. At binding of Isaac, Abraham surrendered his most prized possession, his son. In doing so his character was tested and made pure. Abraham learned that Isaac belonged solely to God. God will test us and remove our impurities. During times of testing, do not take your eyes off of Him! Remember that after each testing you will shine brighter! Our faith is always tested. When God called Abraham to live by faith, He tested him in order to increase his faith.

Have a look the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego.(DAN3) They went through the worst trial any-body could go through; the fiery furnace. After heating up the furnace 7 times, the three were bound before thrown into the fire. We know the end of the story and what a "faith" lifter this has been over the ages. After the Lord rescued them they were honored and promoted by the same king who had ordered for them to be burned. The Name of the Lord was glorified amongst all that were present. Daniel had been serving the Lord for a long time, praying three times per day. Then the "law" demanded no more prayers. They dragged him to the lions' den, by all means. Daniel in the Lions' den received deliverance at the right time. He was sustained by his faith in the Lord. (without faith God cannot work. Faith is the evidence of things not seen) The Lord rescued him. Daniel did have a definite purpose in that lions' den. In the deepest point of his life the Lord met Daniel. Joseph was righteous in his youth, but his brothers hated him for it and threw him in the dried up waterhole, sold him as a slave. Joseph ended up in Egypt, false accusation that landed him in prison. But, even in prison, Joseph remained righteous and faithful later promoted to King under Pharaoh. Joseph kept the dreams of his youth in his heart. He knew they were of the Lord. Joseph stayed focused on his God. Joseph said to his brethren, "You thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good." Moses was troubled by the Egyptian army on one side and the Red Sea on the other side with no way out; the people were struck with fear. Moses had to think twice how they were going to survive this one. Then the Lord told him to struck water and power of God cleaved the waters. All were delivered just in time when the Red Sea became dry to cross. Old Testament prophets are our examples of suffering.(JER38:6)

Have we suffered as much as Job? Job 1:22 says that, even after his troubles began, "in all this Job did not sin" Yet he remained faithful. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.(JAM5:11) Stephen, full of faith and power, spoke to the High Priest and all them in the council and called them stiff-necked. They gnashed their teeth cast Stephen out the city and stoned him. But before that, deliverance was there when Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit looked into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. This was a different kind of victory, because Stephen suffered for Christ's sake and died as a martyr. Paul suffered great hardship for the Lord and we should share in those sufferings. He endured without falling away.(2TH1:8) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?(ROM8:35) David was obedient and patient, he persevered through hardships trusting in God. He relied entirely on God. O Lord, remember David and all the hardships he endured.(PSA132:5) When he did stumble, he was quick to repent and ask forgiveness and didn't repeat his sins. He took personal responsibility for his actions and didn't try to get out of consequences. He took the time to learn God's voice and thank God in everything.

*"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God"*(1PE3:18) He suffered and died once for all the unrighteous race of humanity so that He might bring all who believe in Him into eternal fellowship with God. Jesus endured suffering for our benefit: to help fulfill God's purpose for us. During His ministry Jesus Christ was ridiculed, despised and rejected by the religious leaders of His day. This was a large part of His personal afflictions before His crucifixion. His own people demanded His execution. In the end, even His disciples abandoned Him to suffer His fate alone. He is despised and rejected by men a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief"(ISA53:3;JOH1:11) He endured the full range of human suffering. After He had triumphed over death through His resurrection.(LUK24:46) Since He was sinless, He did not suffer for any sins of His own, but He took the penalty for our sins upon Himself. His suffering, death was necessary for our salvation. Christ was put to death in the fleshly realm when He shed His blood on the cross. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan"(MARI:13;HEB5:7) Jesus Christ resist and overpower the desires of the flesh, perfectly resisted all temptations to sin. He suffered at Gethsemane "His sweat became like great drops of blood" There He prayed to the Father. He was obediently bowing to what He knew was the Father's will. Let us always keep Jesus before our eyes that we may be enabled to pass whatever tests. God will keep His promises to help His people endure faithfully. Let us remember, we too need to believe God in His promises and have faith in those promises. (HEB12:1-4;1PE2:19-23) Obviously, wicked do not pass the tests. Every test sent their way makes them hardened in their hearts. Their pride insists on handling every challenge according to their own desire, as they totally disregard God's word.

*Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.*(JOB14:1) We see these words when the suffering endured by the one who spoke them. Different people deal with different problems and afflictions and it seems that some suffer more hardships than others do. Troubles concern us, not just because hardship itself is a burden, but also because affliction can lead to spiritual temptations. We may be tempted to feel that our trials justify committing sin. We may become so discouraged that we blame God for our troubles, lose faith in Him or begin to doubt His goodness and mercy, as Job's wife.(JOB2:9) The word trouble means to produce physical disorder, to put into confused motion or to become mentally agitated, terrify, disquiet, unsettle. The Greek word for troubled is "tarraso", to describe something that is shaken or thrown into confusion. *Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God, trust also in me.*(JOH14:1) Jesus saw that there would be situations and circumstances that could shake their trust in God. He is not saying that they would not go through difficulties. Instead, Jesus was telling the disciples to not allow the difficulties to shake their trust in Him or the Father.

What is suffering? Suffering is a struggle. It's going to be a battle all the way. That's why they are called "trials" and "testings." Suffering is a tool God uses to get our attention and to accomplish His purposes in our lives. It is designed to build our trust in the Almighty God, but suffering requires the right response if it is to be successful in accomplishing God's purposes. *Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.*(1PE4:19) Suffering forces us to turn from trust in our own resources to living by faith in God's resources. Simply stated, suffering is anything which hurts or irritates. In the design of God, it is also something to make us think in a way that would never occur without the trial. We have the great opportunity to both please and honor our God by our faith and to simultaneously grow in the likeness of Christ. Suffering is painful. It is never easy. Regardless of what we know and how hard we apply the principles, it is going to hurt. *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,*(1PE1:6) "distressed" is lupeo meaning "to cause pain, sorrow, grief" Pain is a bodily, physical discomfort. It is common to people and it is real and the desire to have it gone. They identify themselves as having pain. This identity affects how they approach the problem of pain. Pain is felt, interpreted and acted upon as the person always carries a plan; to remove it, feel better and the pursuit of the goal. All illness and misery of this life, including pain result from the curse of sin.(ROM 5:12-21,2CO4:16-18, EZE18:4,20) The ultimate and primary blame for suffering rests on Satan who tempts people to sin and thereby brought sin into the world. The secondary blame rests upon people, ourselves included, who have given into temptation and committed sin that led to suffering.

All people suffer as a result of Adam and Eve's disobedience of sin. God originally placed Adam and Eve in a state of paradise with no problems of any kind. But He warned them of the consequences of sin. When they sinned anyway, He decreed they would endure pain, suffering, hardship, and eventual death as a punishment for sin.(GEN3:16-19) All people since that time have ached same problems. In particular, because of Adam all people die.(1CO15:22; HEB9:27) Remember, if you blame God and reject Him because you are suffering, then you are doing exactly what Satan wants you to do. He has defeated you! The only way to defeat Satan and really overcome hardship is to maintain your faithfulness to God in spite of it. Trials may become mirrors of reproof to reveal hidden areas of sin, weakness. The point is, obedience often costs us something and is hard. It can require sacrifice, courage, discipline and faith in the belief that God is good and has our best interests at heart regardless of how things might appear to us. Regardless of the reason God allows suffering into our lives, rarely does it not reveal areas of need, weaknesses, wrong attitudes. God should not be blamed for the existence of suffering. When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me" For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.(JAM1:13) Don't rebel against the intentions of the Lord. Don't fight the trials, which life brings. Take them as a challenge, allows the Lord to mold you into His image. He wants you to come through victoriously. Many take trials as bothersome, but they miss an opportunity to see God at work in their lives. Others believe that impossibilities are limiting God, while they forget that the Lord may be preparing them for something very special. Are you willing to allow the Lord to create something lasting in you? Melting you to pure gold! we find references to the refining of gold and silver as a parallel of God's refining us through painful trials. This unforgettable allegory is meant to help us understand the purpose beyond our pain—to conform us to the character of Christ. Psalm 66:10, *"For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver."* God working as the Refiner in our lives, we can gain much insight by understanding the refining process.

God will test you in order to prove your character. Some of these experiences may be scary, that does not mean you have to fear. Learn to float in Jesus. He has a purpose for your life, but if you don't co-operate you'll never know what His real purpose was, because you would have missed it. We suffer because we live in a fallen world where sin reigns in the hearts of men. If we believe that all suffering results from a person's own sin, and if we see good people suffering, we may be tempted or to think God is not keeping His promises. But we have learned that all people suffer, whether or not they are righteous. Faithful Christians of all ages have suffered. The command to endure suffering is another part of a Christian's life, like the command to study the bible, pray, worship, etc. We should expect suffering to come, so our faith will not be shaken when it does. The overcoming of temptations, trials build great confidence in God. Then, should we not rejoice in them? *For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him.*(PHI1:29)

Lord delivers the righteous

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*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.*(PS34:19) Bible have to say about overcoming life of faithful saints.(ROM11) Could you divert those trials into triumph? The following questions are designed to help us consider in the day of adversity.(ECC7:14) (1) How am I responding to it? (2) How should I respond to it?(3) Am I learning from it?(4) Does my response demonstrate faith, love for God and for others, Christ-like character, values, commitment, priorities, etc.? (5) How can God use it in my life? Suffering has as its chief purpose the formation of Christ-like character. As a process, it takes time, results God seeks to accomplish with the trials of life requires endurance. Suffering provides opportunity for God's glory, our transformation, testimony, ministry. We need to surrender completely to the Lord, allowing Him to have control in our lives; being obedient to the scriptures; crucifying the flesh; and keeping our will to Him. Beloved, if you do not know the sweetness of bearing burdens and the joy of overcoming trials then you need to humble yourself before God. Cast your burden on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be moved(fall, or fail).(PSA55:22) Choose not to focus on what is around you or on the problem. Choose to look to solution, the Lord Himself, then you will be able to endure it. *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*(PHI4:7) Guarding your hearts and minds is a continual growing and maturing process. We must learn what it feels like to be protected by God's peace, and stay there. Bible reveals that God's people are currently living in a world under the sway of the wicked one.(1JOH5:19) God has assured us that He will not permit us to be attacked with trials or temptations that are too over-whelming for us to handle. He will grant us grace to be overcomers. *And God is faithful; who will not allow you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide the way of escape, so that you will be able to endure it.*(1CO10:13) What can we do when trouble comes our way? Jesus gives the prescription for troubled hearts in a simple and sure manner. The only solution for a troubled heart is trust in God. When you go through the trials, you can claim the scriptures and stand on this: because God has said; *I will never leave you, nor forsake you.*(HEB13:5;PSA94:19-22) In moments like these God's Word becomes a Source of strength, a Resting, a Refuge, a Shelter. not think it strange when we face trials.(1PE4:12) Take everything up in prayer.(PHI4:6-7) Examine our Christian walks and repent/confess of all known sin.(ICO11:31) Consider Jesus, know that Christ sympathizes with us in our weakness.(HEB4:14-16) Come unto Jesus and learn from Him. *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart,*(MAT11:28) Rest our hope fully/patiently in Christ as the anchor for our souls, and for the promised final justice, healing and understanding.(ROM8:18; PSA119:28) Acknowledge that when our flesh is weak we can experience even more spiritual strength.(2CO12:7) Affirm that when the "outward" person is decaying, the "inward" Christian person is being "renewed" day by day. Remember that whatever afflictions are faced in this lifetime, they are both light and short compared to the Christian's future "eternal weight of glory"(2CO4:16-18) "rejoice" looking forward to the future glory revealed.(1PE4:13) experience of our own sufferings to help comfort and alleviate the sufferings of others. We all have many opportunities to prove our faith in God's promises, for God often determines that we must suffer for a season that we might be made perfect. How the true measure of our faith is brought out as we struggle through dark nights of sorrows and pain! When we are tried "so as by fire", we learn to look to Him who has promised, "*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.*"(ISA43:2) The overcoming of temptations and trials builds great confidence in God. Then, should we not rejoice in them? Every trial, every problem, affords a glorious opportunity to learn of the high calling to which God calls His own. give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.(1TH5:18)We should always be thankful for the guiding Hand that leads triumphantly in the confidence of right, even though that Hand at times may lead "through the valley of the shadow of death". If we will only trust at all times, we will be able to say, as the David said, "*I will fear no evil, for thou art with me*". God will bring you through every battle victoriously and make you more than a conqueror. You need never be troubled nor fear defeat as long as you obey God, who directs and sustains all His tried people. Then you can say "*It is good for me that I have been afflicted*"(PSA119:71) This psalm speaks to the way that the Word of God nourishes, protects, supports, and blesses the child of God. In short, the object of the believer's affections must be the person of Almighty God who can only be known and thus obeyed through His Word. that suffering actually accomplishes good in our lives and we can have eternal life when this life is over if we suffer faithfully.(JAM1:12) Let us learn from past experiences what God is like and how we can trust Him in any situation, that God is faithful and True. The Lord wants to hear from us the same as what the 3 Hebrew men said to Nebuchadnezzar when he was about to throw them into the fiery furnace. *But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*(DAN13:18) The point of their statement is that they will not bow down to the idol, whether God saves them or not! They are not doubting either God's existence or his power, but rather making a statement that they will never bow down to the idol even if they have to die. Such faith has been seen throughout the centuries by believers who have suffered martyrdom for the Lord.

When faced with disappointment, disaster, and despair, what is a Christian to do? Scripture teaches us that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.(ROM8:28) Because of His love for His children, He is willing to deliver every circumstance of our lives, including the sins, to work together for our good in Him. God wants His children to develop as they mature spiritually. When you respond to God's grace and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are "born again" into the Kingdom of God. At the moment of salvation the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in your spirit. He confirms your relationship with God, comforts you, and leads you into all truth. God begins the supernatural work of transforming you, His child, into the image of His Son Jesus Christ.(ROM8:29) As you mature in your faith, God uses tests and trials to develop your character and ministry. By responding to trials in the grace of God you will experience the power of God which will be manifested in your life through the fruit of the Spirit.

At one point or the other, a Christian passes through a test. It is either you are in the category of coming out of one, undergoing one or about to experience one. Below are brief descriptions of different types of tests that every Christian will likely face: Fiery trials: intense encounters, struggles; bursts of anger, grief, lust. Infirmities: physical limitations and illnesses. Reproaches: ridicule and rejection on account of faith or holiness. Persecutions: harassment, oppression due to religious convictions. Necessities: wear and care of daily responsibilities. Distresses: disappointments and deep hurts. Tribulations: unusual pressures and challenges. Temptations: opportunities to yield to our sinful nature.(ISA30:1-11) Note that your test period does not give you the license to sin and backslide. It gives you an opportunity to be closer to God.

The Apostle Paul regarded these "tests" as opportunities to grow spiritually. Instead of despairing when he encountered trials, Paul said he would glory in his infirmities so that the power of Christ would rest upon him. *My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.*(2COR12:9) Grace signifies the good-will of God towards us, that is enough to enlighten us, sufficient to strengthen and comfort in all afflictions and distresses. His strength is made perfect in our weakness. As we, choose to trust God and accept the grace He gives us, Christ's character will be formed in us. (ROM5:3-5) If you choose to trust God to bring about His purposes through the suffering and grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord.(IIC05:7;EPH4:31;HEB12:14) God will not allow anything to happen to you without His permission.(IPE4:12-13)

How can we take advantage of these opportunities to mature spiritually? The following five responses are keys to enduring tests and trials through God's grace: 1. Give thanks "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"(1TH5:18) To be thankful rather than to complain takes a conscious act of the will and a sacrifice of natural desires. Psalm 107:22 "*Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.*" However, through trials, "it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.(PHI 2:13-15) 2. Rejoice! Along with giving thanks, Count—a Joyful Attitude.(JAM1:2) "*Rejoice in the Lord always*"(PHI4:4) We cannot escape the pain of a difficult situation, but we can learn to rejoice in God Himself and in the good things God will do through our suffering. We should try to discern the positive benefits that could come about through the situation. "*For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*"(ROM8:14-18) 3. Believe and act on the Word of God. When Jesus was tested in the wilderness, He responded to each temptation by quoting Scripture.(MAT4:4) We can follow Jesus' example, successfully engage in spiritual warfare by proclaiming truth in the face of tests and temptations. Eph. 6:17 describes the Word of God as "the sword of the Spirit" the only offensive weapon in our spiritual armor. 4. Cry out to God. He alone must become our source of strength, provision, protection, and direction. God has the ability to protect us from every trial or distress. Instead, He often chooses to deliver us in the midst of trials. In Psalm 50:15 we are told, "*Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.*" We must trust Him to work in the ways and in the time frame that will produce the most good in our lives and the most glory for His name. As we call to the Lord in our distress, He will deliver us. When you experience a trial, choose—by faith—to put your trust in God. That God will fight our battles means we do not have to anguish, anxious, or discouraged when bad things happen in our lives.(EXO14:14) 5. Overcome evil with good. Jesus gave His disciples instructions responding to those who made life miserable.(MAT5:44) These directions are opposite to what we would naturally do: Love your enemies. Bless those who curse you. Do good to those who hate you. Pray for those who spitefully use you, persecute you. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good"(ROM12:21) God promises to give a blessing to those who reward evil with good. If you react to a person who offends you and become bitter toward him you actually put yourself in an emotional prison. Bitterness will control your thought life. In order to be freed from this prison, you must forgive as Christ did. Job prayed for his friends and God delivered Job. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.(ROM12:19) Scripture indicates that if we don't let go of our "wrath" quickly - at least by the end of the day - then we are opening the door for Satan and his evil forces to come into our lives. Developing stronger character is more important than getting your own way. Eternal treasures are more valuable than earthly riches. Demonstrating self-control is more heroic than dominating your rivals. Gaining intimate knowledge of Christ exceeds value of gaining more possessions. that I may gain Christ, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,(PHI3:8-10)

Our calling is to be "Patient in Tribulation." First of all, The afflictions of this Time; secondly, Our Calling to Be Patient; and thirdly, The Blessing of Faithfulness to this calling. Romans 12:12b, the apostle says to us that we are to be "patient in tribulation." The word which is translated "tribulation" means a pressing, a pressing together, pressure. Metaphorically, it refers to oppression, affliction, tribulation, distress. It teaches us that the nature of tribulation is that it is a pressure which is exerted against us. Having tribulation is like having a great burden pressed down upon us. It is like bearing the weight of a heavy that smashes us and grinds us to powder. That's why tribulation hurts. Tribulation is painful. Tribulation makes us miserable. In time, we learn that patience is something who we are in Christ. God wants to produce patience in us to slow us down and to show us how to trust in him. God does tests us to teach us to walk in his ways and to trust in him.

Troubles of any kind are tribulations: sicknesses and diseases, having a car accident and all the troubles that come with it, having problems in the family, a husband and a wife who cannot get along, children who are rebellious, troubles with our neighbors, money problems, difficulties in the church. When we fight against our flesh, devil, world, that is a struggle. That is troublesome. That brings pain, sorrow and hurt. But reality is that life is one problem after another. Why does life have to be filled with so many problems? Why can't life be easier? Sin is the reason for tribulation. Before the fall of Adam into sin, there were no sicknesses or diseases. There were no troubles, no problems, no difficulties. All of that came about because of sin. The very first troubles (tribulations) that Bible are referred to immediately after the Fall and of original sin. The words of God to Adam and Eve (read Gen 3:16-17) That was the beginning of tribulation and affliction.

In Phi.1:29 we read, God gives to us not only faith to believe in Jesus Christ, but in the giving of faith he gives to us a life of suffering. We will have tribulations for the sake of Jesus Christ. Even as they persecuted Jesus Christ, they persecute us. Jesus said, *'If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also,'* as recorded in John 15:20. The apostle Paul says, My suffering for the church is a filling up of Christ's suffering. And the same is true of us, then we are partaking of his suffering and filling up his suffering. But there is an ultimate reason for our affliction and tribulation, That's we learn from the book of Job. God said to the devil, "Have you considered my servant Job?" And when the devil went out and afflicted Job in all the ways that he did, it was because God allowed him to do it and because God providentially worked in and through him to bring it about. How, then, are we to react to the tribulations? According to text, we are to be patient in tribulation. This word "patient" means "to remain" and thus to persevere under misfortunes and trials. It means to endure, to bear bravely, calmly, bearing or enduring pain, provocation, irritation, with calmness. Today, Christians continue to face imprisonment, torture and death for their faith in Jesus.

However, it is not the way most people endure tribulation and affliction. We simply refuse to take what God allowed to us. We are dissatisfied. Sometimes we even get angry about it. We feel miserable. Life is not pleasant for us. We do an awful lot of complaining about it. Our unhappiness comes to expression in our words. Maybe we even blame other people for them, or God, because when we are unhappy with things, we usually point the finger at other people. This is the way the world reacts to tribulation. But a Christian, should not react this way! What ought to be testimony in this world is that in tribulation we are patient. And that patience is, first of all, that rather than rejecting, we accept the tribulation. even though it is unpleasant for us. Look at Job 1:20,21 he accepted it. Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." That is acceptance of tribulation. He worshipped, he praised, he blessed the Lord, even though God took everything away from him including his good health. Our wills ought to be in harmony with His will so that even though we do not like these things in and of ourselves, we want them because God gives them to us, because God wants us to have them. Jesus faced greatest tribulation of all--the cross, the suffering of hell--he said, *"Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."* Bible uses concept of "the cup" as a spiritual metaphor for God's wrath. This is the "cup" that Jesus takes on the cross for believers. He finishes His prayer submitting to the wishes of His Father.

To be patient in tribulation means that we do not simply quit ourselves in sorrow, but we accept it with joy and happiness. We ought to be so patient in tribulation that we rejoice. Listen to Habakkuk 3:17,18: *Yet will I rejoice in the LORD. I will joy in the God of my salvation.* In spite of calamities the people will joy in God; though earthly blessings perish He remains their portion. Would you be like Paul and Silas singing in jail, because you were happy for the tribulation which you suffered for the sake of Jesus Christ? We not only accept it and are happy, but we express that acceptance and joy. When we pray, rather than complaining, rather than accusing God, we thank him. We thank him for what he has sent. We express our happiness and our satisfaction with His will for our lives. And we express our belief in divine providence as that affects our own lives. We show others that in the midst of our troubles, we rejoice in the Lord so that we encourage one another, so that we build each other up in this holy faith. We accept it rather than reject it, we are happy rather than sad and we express that in our words. *"that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."* (1PE1:7) This is in response to God's great mercy, our hope of resurrection, being eternally provided for in heaven and the benefit of trials.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. (MAT4:1-11, MAR1:12-13, LUK4:1-13) Bible record Satan tried to tempt Jesus in the wilderness, but Jesus resisted temptation by using God's Word and power of the Spirit. These passages show us the three temptations of Jesus (Yeshua). To "tempt" is to try to get someone to do wrong. So, to "be tempted" means someone is trying to get you to do something wrong. Christ's temptation was an outward exposure to Satan's schemes and His refusal to partake, is that Jesus remained sinless, therefore remained the perfect sacrifice, able to take on the sin of mankind on the cross. Each temptations to determine what the temptation actually was and how Jesus dealt and overcame with it.

Satan is very clever in the way he disguises himself. When something evil happens, he seldom proclaims, instead, he often works behind the scenes so people don't realize just how active he really is. The Bible even says that at times "*Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light*" (2 Corinthians 11:14) This is that old Serpent who had been in Eden Garden; this is the prince of demons, the god of this world, the fallen angel who seeks to destroy God's work. He was successful in getting Adam and Eve to sin and plunge the world into darkness; but he was not able here to defeat the Son of God.

1. Turn stones into bread. After fasting in the desert, Jesus was hungry. His first temptation was to use his powers to to make bread in the wilderness. First temptation on the fact that Jesus was hungry. The tempter said, "*If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.*" Satan's first temptation was to entice Jesus to satisfy his hunger for food. The temptation was to turn His spiritual nature into means of satisfying His physical need without reference to finding the will of God. In response Jesus quoted: *Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*" (DEUS) Israelites hunger in the wilderness for forty years. God tested them in the wilderness so that they would learn that they must obey what comes from the mouth of God. He gave them Manna; but to acquire it required they follow God's instructions carefully. The first had to do with knowing what is most important in life-obeying the word of God--not living only to satisfy the flesh, making a living, just to meet physical needs. Living by obedience to God has fallen on hard times today when so many are interested in security of life thru investments, powers, titles or indulging themselves in the pleasures of the world. Jesus said to them, "*My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.*" (JOH4:34) Jesus denied himself the opportunity to satisfy his hunger, even though he had been fasting for forty days.

2. Throw yourself down from the temple. The second temptation was for Jesus to throw himself from the highest point of the temple and order angels to catch him. If the first test was in the realm of the physical, this is a test of the spiritual. And so Satan wants Him to do something spectacular to demonstrate that He is spiritually perfect. Satan quotes from a psalm 91:11,12 God will give the angels charge over him so that he will not dash his foot against a stone. God promises to protect His people; but you would be wise to think it through carefully. Jesus' response is from Scripture: "It is also written, '*You shall not put the LORD your God to the test.*'" Deu.6:16. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! Chapter exhorts the people to obey His commands and to do what is good and right before Him--but warns them not to test God. You shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah. The moment an individual puts God to the test, that person gives evidence does not really trust God. The context refers to Meribah in the wilderness where the people murmured against God because they did not believe He could give them water. So Jesus said, "No, And I will not test God's word by doing something foolish--at your prompting. The second temptation had to do with trusting God. Those who truly know God and experience the reality of their faith daily do not need to convince themselves and others.

3. Fall down and worship me. The third temptation is concerning the kingdoms of the world, being Satan's to give coming before for Jesus to worship him. Its purpose was to prevent the work for which He had come into the world. Satan claimed he had been given kingdoms and it was his right to give them to whomever he wished. Satan was saying to Jesus, Give me one moment's homage and I will hand over. Well, offer was coming from one who is the prince of liars. Unfortunately, far too many people have believed the evil tempter. The Father had promised the Son a Kingdom, united in peace and righteousness and harmony. So Jesus' response was, Away from me Satan! For it is written: '*Worship the LORD your God, and serve Him only.*' (DEU6:13) For the righteous there would not even be a thought of bowing down and worshiping the prince of darkness, Satan. So He would receive the kingdom in God's time, and in God's way--by defeating Satan, and later at the cross. And His will be a far better kingdom than this world could ever offer. The third temptation had to do with fulfilling the commission or plan of God with a shortcut. But with God there is a way to accomplish His plan for your life, it calls for absolute devotion and obedience to Him. But all of Jesus' responses declare in faith, "It is written..."

It ends with Christ's victory over the tempter. The attack of Satan was made against every vulnerable point--hunger, trust, and responsibility. He struck at the physical need of food, but he found one who knew the spiritual was more important than the physical; he struck at the spirit's confidence in God, but found one whose trust in the Father did not need testing; and he struck at the carrying out of the divine commission, but found one who was determined to carry out that plan in a divine way. What did this mean for Christ's mission? Jesus defeated the tempter who tried to ruin His mission. It was significant spiritual victory over the devil. And the anointing of the Spirit gave Him the power to resist the evil one and to fulfill His mission. Men/women in love with God resist temptation by keeping the greatest commandment: (MAT22:37)



Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us that we have a High Priest, Jesus Christ, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet He never sinned. This means that He fully understands all that we face in this world. We, the faithful, are to “hold fast the profession of our faith.” This means that, since we claim to have hope in Jesus and since we say we are saved and headed to Heaven, we are to live out that hope by remaining faithful to Him. James 4:7 tells us Resist the devil and he will flee from you. That indicates that the devil will go where there is least resistance. 2 Cor.11:14 we are not ignorant of Satan’s devices, and therefore should be able to resist the tempter. There are thousands of temptations-everyone is tempted to sin daily. Each temptation from the devil is to go against the will of God. And when anyone chooses to act contrary to what living God wills, that person has chosen death. Our true enemy is the devil, who tempts us and desires our destruction. Satan devises schemes, plans against us, one of most common strategies he uses to destroy us is by bringing sin into our lives.

Genesis 3 tells us that when the woman realized that the fruit of the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eye, and desirable for gaining wisdom, then she took and ate. This is referring to the cravings in the world as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.(1JO2:16) Temptation worked on all three levels--desire of the flesh to eat, desire of the eyes for beauty, and the desire to be like God, spiritual pride. But when they ate, all that they discovered were guilty fears and their vulnerability to evil. Satan will do his best to tempt, trick and trap every follower of Jesus, expect that the devil will do everything he can to get us to fail. Satan knew more precisely what God had said and was able to draw them into a discussion with that advantage, and Satan denied that there was a penalty for sin. Therefore, we must rely totally on the power of God to resist the devil’s snares. We tap into God’s power by following Jesus’ example. Divine tools God has given us-God’s Word, prayer, and praise - will do the work of defeating such a crafty, deceitful enemy.

*Sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace*(ROM6:14) It is a blessed state of being in Christ, under God's grace, we should apply in our Christian walk. God will enable you to overcome sin's power. 1: We need to be full of the Holy Spirit. With God’s power living in us, we can have the spiritual help that we need to overcome our human nature. The anointing of the Holy Spirit always produces power. The word ‘power’ which is associated with the anointing comes from the word ‘dynamo’ which means ability. He gives us the power to overcome sin. 2: Fasting is an important spiritual tool for our growth. Abstaining from food and drink, demonstrates our nothingness without God and how we are dependent on His blessings and divine providence. 3: Satan will take advantage of our human weaknesses. For some, weakness was food. 4: Satan uses pride to lead us to sin. Satan tried to play with our tendency to be boastful. He wants to take advantage of our “pride of life.” 5: We need to keep our spiritual sword sharp. We read that the Word of God is likened to a sword. We all must study God’s word often and ensure that we keep His words in our hearts. 6: We need to obtain our spiritual food daily. Just as we eat our physical food daily, we also need to eat our spiritual food. We do this by regular Bible study and meditation on God’s word. If we really want to submit to God’s will, then we must believe every word of God and live by it. 7: Satan uses the good to bring bad results. Satan can quote the scripture and even use it against Christ! Satan shows us the pleasure of sins but not its dire consequences.

8: Satan perverts the truth. Satan tried to destroy God’s word, but he failed. He made a counterfeit truth and corrupted the Bible. 9: We must not tempt God. We must not voluntarily throw ourselves into danger and then appeal for God’s help. 10: We must not exchange our spiritual reward for physical reward. Satan shows all the glory of this world, including all the pleasures that it can give. In the same way, Satan can show us the pleasure of sin and tempt us to disobey God. Remember that all the things in the world will just fade away. 11: Satan is the current god of this world. However, time will come when God will directly intervene and overthrow Satan’s rule. 12: We must only worship true and living God. It directs us to right path of living life. It shows us how to live a life of happiness, blessedness. Our commitment, loyalty should only be to God. We need to stay strong, motivated, zealous in doing will of God in lives. Receive Holy Communion regularly. We can’t serve God and mammon at same time. If we put something between God and us, we are committing sin of idolatry. Confess sin immediately. Don’t remain in defeat. Pray for God’s help to overcome every temptation. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. We pray that God gives you the strength to overcome every test you are currently passing through in Jesus name. Amen. Thank you, Lord, that you are a faithful deliverer.

And they overcame him(anti-christ)(REV12:11) Jesus shed His blood on the cross so that mankind can have forgiveness for their sins-receive imputed righteousness of God. Satan had us bound by sin, but Jesus freed us from our sins by His blood, obtained eternal redemption for us. We can claim our victory over Satan by the blood of Jesus. The word of testimony is applying Word of God wisely to every situation. It is our confession, belief of the truth of God's Word. This calls for publicly witnessing our identity with Christ that we belong to Him. We need to declare Jesus as our Savior and Lord before the whole world, who has accomplished through His death, burial and resurrection! Walking with Christ leaves the devil powerless. You can overcome the Devil by the Word of your testimony. They will give up anything for Jesus: reputation, status, possessions and even suffering the violent death of a martyr and they loved not their lives to death. They shall be Mine, says the Lord of hosts, “On the day that I make them My jewels. Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.(MAL3:17-18)

The phrase "day of the Lord" usually identifies events that take place at the end of history. The tribulation is referred to by other names as the Day of the Lord.(JOE1:15) the great tribulation, which refers to more intense second half of the seven-year period of time when God will finish His discipline of God's people and finalize His judgment of sinful world. *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.*(MAT24:21-22) It is a day of "wrath," and the "great day of God Almighty"(REV16:14) "Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near"(ZEP1:7) Rev. 6 is an overview of the seven-year period beginning with the Antichrist and ending with the second coming of Jesus Christ. This period is God's final count-down for humanity, visible return of Lord Jesus to this earth in great power and glory. "Maranatha"

An understanding of Daniel 9:24-27 is necessary in order to understand purpose and time of the tribulation. Many Christians believe that the 70th week(seven year period) still awaits, and during this time, evil will reign and God's wrath will be poured out on the world before Jesus' return on earth at the end of the seven years. This passage speaks of 70 weeks that have been declared against the nation of Israel, and a period of time that God has given "to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy." The first sixty-nine weeks (483 years) are accounted for in the period between the time Daniel received the message and the time when the Messiah[the Anointed One] was cut off or crucified. The final one week, seven-year period is known as tribulation period. It is associated with the time when the Anti-Christ makes a seven-year covenant with Israel and other nations. Antichrist will deceitfully establish himself, and then show his true colors. This coming world leader, will come at an economically difficult time. There will be war in different parts of the world, and he by establishing peace, he will deceive many. He will convince nations to sign a peace treaty, paving the way for the long-awaited third temple. His accomplishments will be so spectacular, so far-reaching and unprecedented, that many will hail him as Messiah. But we are warned in Scripture that he is a deceiver. Jesus calls "abomination that causes desolation"(MAT24:15) and is called "the beast" in Rev.13 that the beast will place an image of himself in the temple and require the world to worship him. In the middle of seven year peace agreement he breaks it which is coming will be the 'time of Jacob's trouble. (JER30:6,7;HOSS5:14,15;REV5:5) Besides being a time of judgment, it will also be a time of salvation as God will deliver the remnant of Israel, fulfilling His promise that "all of Israel will be saved"(ROM11:26), forgiving their sins and restoring His chosen people to the land He promised to Abraham.(ISA10:27)The final fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the day of the Lord will come at the end of history when God with wondrous power, will punish evil and fulfill all His promises.

After the Man-child rapture (REV12:5,6), the remnant church will have to suffer persecution in tribulation period. Rev13:14-18 tells us that the mark of the Beast is the mark of the Antichrist. In order to participate in the global economy will have to agree/accept to satanically controlled world government and its anti-Christian world religion. When make this pledge, they will be issued a number(mark of the Beast), for it is number of a man. His number is 666. Without this number they will not be allowed to buy or sell anything. And will be forced to worship the image of the beast. A person who takes this mark has effectively denied Jesus as his exclusive path to salvation and will be eternally lost.(REV14:9-12) But true Christians being sacrifice their lives for the testimony of Christ and die as martyrs.(MAT24:14,22) *They overcame him(anti-christ) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives to death*"(REV12:11)

There will be an increase in evil happening after the man of lawlessness is revealed. The true Church that remains will need to come together to help and encourage one another to be faithful to Jesus. They will recognize the anti-christ for who he really is and they will not believe the lie. Rev.12:9 calls him the great dragon ... that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, who leads the whole world astray will deceive people by performing signs and lying wonders through his subtle power.(2TH2:9,10) People will be required to receive a mark on their right hand or forehead, other alternative will be death. The true Christians will stand up for Jesus and they will refuse to bow down to the antichrist.[like Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego.(DAN3:16) They have to refuse the mark of the beast or number of his name and be martyrs [die in the Lord] (REV14:9-13) *Do not be afraid, Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*(REV2:10;MAT24:13) so let us heed the call to the church to hold fast to our faith in all circumstances. We should be ready because He will come at an hour we do not know and do not expect. Our lives could end at any time or he could return at any time, so let us remain faithful. Our Bridegroom is coming soon! We are exhorted to be ready at all times, in blessed hope, as chaste virgin.

The sounding of the seven trumpets and warning by the angels to inhabitants of the earth which will signal the forthcoming judgments of God. Seven judgments come upon the antichrist, the false prophet, inhabitants of earth, which take the form of plagues.(REV8:1) The seventh seal is broken has closed the door of heaven and the day of God's wrath has come. The wrath of God speaks of judgments of God is released on wicked world. The children of Israel took Jericho with trumpets. (JOS6:4) Now, God prepares to take earthly kingdom from Satan. Seven seals are broken, seventh seal has seven trumpets, the trumpets are sounded one at time and when seventh trumpet sounds the cities of the nations fall. And there were loud voices in heaven. *The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever*"(REV11:15) Christ's reign of the world begins as He is King of kings, and Lord of lords. Hallelu-Yah!