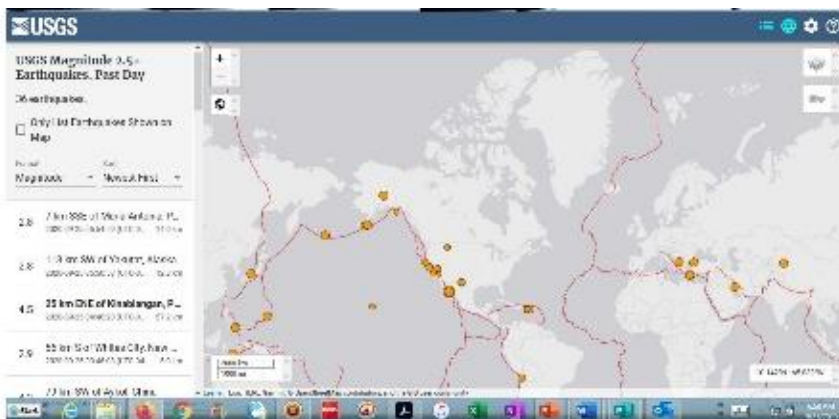


SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
SESSION 13 – CH 6 PART 3

REV 6:12-17 *12And 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; 13And 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. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 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; 16 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: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"*



Sixth seal Here is the first, of the earthly catastrophes to strike the earth. Today when events strike other parts of the world, many can instantly watch the events unfold from the comfort of their homes. Following the wars, famine, disease of the early part of the tribulation, A great earthquake rocks the earth. The whole earth will share in tribulation, including the rich and comfortable.



A recent USGS picture of earthquakes throughout the world.

Great earthquake: An earthquake occurs when the plates on which the crust rests move, causing a quake on the surface. More severe movements cause greater shaking. Earthquakes are tied to volcanic activity below the crust, and they are part of the same system. When pressure from underneath moves plates, this pressure is sometimes released as earthquakes. Other times the pressure is released when hot magma finds its way to the surface causing volcanic activity. The volcanic soot released during this quake causes the sun to be darkened for a time, followed by strange events in the sky turning the moon blood red.

The first four seals described judgments largely inflicted by man; the sixth seal describes a judgment clearly supernatural in origin. John tells of an earthquake so massive in verse 14, that **"every mountain and island was moved out of its place."** Perhaps John is referring to enormous volcanic activity, for he says, **"the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood."** Particulate matter (small minute particles) scattered in the atmosphere after a volcanic eruption has often turned the sky black and made the moon seem to turn red.

In the past several years we have had several blood moons, most of which fell on Jewish feast days. This is a very significant sign in the heavenlies. Do you think God is warning us about what is about to come?

The sixth seal brings natural disasters of various kinds (Matt. 24:7, 29). The earth and the heavenly bodies will go into convulsions. This terrible earthquake is told about in Isaiah 2:19, **"And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth."** In Ezekiel 32:7-8, we read about the darkness of the sun, moon, and stars. In Matthew 24:7, and 29, we read of this same thing in the heavens. **"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:"**

When Jesus opens the sixth seal, the great day of the wrath of God's Lamb has arrived. To announce this day there will be an earthquake so great that every island will be moved out of its place. The Sun will be darkened, the moon will become blood red and meteorites will fall from the sky. This may be an event as earth shaking as the earth encountering a great comet or having a gravitational encounter with something in the heavenlies above the earth.

This type of upheaval would account for the falling stars and for all the people hiding in caves and holes in the ground for protection. . Joel 2:30-31 predicts many of these judgments in nature as signs of the day of the Lord. This will fulfill this passage in Joel: Joel 2:31 **"The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come."**

Notice the passage says it occurs before the terrible day of the Lord, so this is only the announcement that it is about to arrive. It is not until after the opening of the seventh seal that the wrath of the Lamb actually comes. The world will be quite aware that the time for this judgment has arrived but before judgment, God sends His prophets to allow the world to repent. The world may even miss that point when they become misled to believe that the two prophets of God are the biblical Beast and his false prophet.

It is my opinion that this announcement of the day of the Lord is talking about the unfulfilled week of years that Daniel says takes place after the Messiah is cut off (**Daniel 9:20-27**..this speaks about after Jesus was crucified). After this last week of years, the kingdom is restored. Hereafter we will see God dealing with the Jews again to fulfill the final seven years. At the mid-point of these seven years, Israel has been told to flee to the mountains by Jesus and Daniel to escape the Beast. For that reason, the great final tribulation of 3 ½ years cannot happen until a future event occurs first.

This event is when Satan is cast out of heaven unto the earth. Satan appears to be cast out at the end of the sixth trumpet judgment just before he kills the two prophets of God. The prophets testify for 1260 days before they are killed. Therefore, it seems that there will be about 3 ½ years from the day of the Lord until Satan is cast out of heaven.

This scenario allows 3 ½ years for the two prophets to do their job and 3 ½ years for the Beast to fulfill the prophecy that says he will control the world for a 3 ½ year period. In the great day of the Lord there is first 3 ½ years for the two prophets to tell the world the truth and convince the sons of light given to Jesus to make the right choice. After that there is 3 ½ years for the counterfeit messiah possessed by Satan to lead the vessels of wrath to make the wrong choices that would bring the world to total destruction. Only the second coming of Jesus saves any flesh on the earth at all and that is done for the sake of the elect (**Mark 13:20**). In the first part of this first 3 ½-year period Jesus seals His 144,000 Israelite witnesses. They will receive the commission to preach the truth of the gospel of the coming kingdom of Jesus as a witness to the whole world.

The fig tree (physical Israel) rejected Jesus and His Holy Spirit. In **Acts chapter 2**, we read of the sound as of the rushing mighty wind that came and filled those in the upper room with the Holy Ghost. This mighty wind is the Holy Spirit, sent by God. Many times, when we read of the mighty wind it is a sign of the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit can be beautiful, as we read in Acts 2, or frightening to those who do not believe. The Old Testament and the New Testament agree that there will be a time when the heavens will be shaken. **Isaiah chapters 7, 13, 17, Matthew 24** and at least a dozen more chapters in the Old and New Testaments agree that there will be a day, just as this one spoken of that John saw, when the heavens will be shaken.

We read, also, of the spiritual shaking that will take place. We read that there shall be a great falling away in the church right before this occurs. **II Thessalonians 2:3** *"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;"* The word falling away means Apostasy, which is falling away from truth.

As you can see, apostasy will come, and many will fall away. In **Matthew 10:33-39**, we read how many will be betrayed by those of their own household. **Luke 21:25-26**, we read again of the commotion in heaven. *"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring. Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."*



You can easily see that this is prophesied, not just by John, but by dozens of passages throughout the Bible. The people of earth will clearly recognize these phenomena as coming from the hand of God, for they are said to cry out to the mountains where they take cover, *"Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"* (**Revelation 6:16**)

Suddenly they realize who Jesus is, but it is too late. They have rejected Him. Now that it is too late, they realize their terrible mistake of rejecting Jesus as their perfect Lamb sacrifice. They would rather die right now, than face Him and be told of their eternity in hell that awaits them. They now even realize that Jesus sits on the throne. What a terrible awakening!!!

6:17

"For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

The answer to that is "no one". The thing we must do is make sure that we are not left here to face all of these horrors. The way to assure that is by selling out to Jesus NOW. Make Him Lord of your life NOW before it is too late.

As a result of these first six seal judgments, many unbelievers will want to die and to hide from God but will be unable to. The great day of his wrath is the day of the Lord, the predicted time of God's judgment of the earth and its inhabitants (Joel **1:15; 2:1, 11, 31**).

The day of wrath is contrasted to the present "day of grace." Is come means God's day of judgment "is here", it has finally arrived, having begun with the first six seals. The "great day" spoken of in V-17, begins three and a half years of the worst things you could ever imagine. The last day has to be the last judgment. DOOM for the unbelievers.

Remember, Revelation is written to the church, the Christians. It encourages us to look forward to heaven. It, also, tells us the terrible things about the wrath that descends on this earth. And it leads true Christians to witness to their friends and family while there is still time. Knowing what is coming, we certainly do not want to leave anyone behind.

REV 7: 1-8

¹And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. ²And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, ³Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. ⁴And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel."

⁵ Of the tribe from Judah were sealed 12,000.

Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed 12,000.

Of the tribe of Gad were sealed 12,000.

⁶ Of the tribe of Asher were sealed 12,000.

Of the tribe of Naphtali were sealed 12,000.

Of the tribe of Manasseh were sealed 12,000.

⁷ Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed 12,000.

Of the tribe of Levi were sealed 12,000.

Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed 12,000.

⁸ Of the tribe of Zebulun were sealed 12,000.

Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed 12,000.

Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed 12,000

In chapter 6:15-16 we saw that everyone was hiding in the rocks and caves because they correctly saw that wrath or judgment was coming upon the earth from the Lamb. Most may not stay hidden because after the great earthquake and the signs in the sky the other judgments will not come immediately. Before the wrath of the Lamb takes place with the seven trumpet judgments, we will see that there is a short time of calm on earth while the sealing of 144,000 Jews takes place. These Israelites are first sealed so that they will not be harmed by the coming judgments.

There are underground cities that have been built all over the world. The rich and famous have reserved their places there in case of a nuclear war or other calamity that may arise. This may be the “caves” that are mentioned in chapter 6. Regardless, if this is what happens, those that don’t know the Lord will try to hide from him wherever they can.

After the religious wars, the world religious harlot that rides the world system becomes *intolerant* of true Christianity because she believes that only she has the mandate to prepare for the Christ and the Kingdom of God. Christians that will not join with her are being killed and persecuted for their faith somewhat like in the days of inquisitions. Israel continues in harlotry by joining with this world religion and by signing a seven-year peace covenant with the world political system confirmed by the man that had been riding on the white horse. The seven-year period known in scripture as the time of Jacob's trouble and Daniel's seventieth week of years has now begun.

Verse 1 lets us know that the four winds of the earth are staid by four angels standing on the four corners of the earth. The wind will not blow on the earth, or sea or any tree. Without wind there will be no clouds, and without clouds there will be no rain. This will be a very hot and dry period of time on the earth. Then another angel ascends from the East with the seal of the living God. He tells the four angels not to hurt the earth until the 144,000 are sealed in their foreheads. This is a mark designating they are righteous and saved. These are Jewish believers out of every tribe of Israel.



Chapter 7 answers the question, “Is there any hope for those who enter the tribulation?” Daniel’s 70th week, the seven-year tribulation period, starts with the agreement regarding the building of the 3rd Temple (Daniel 9:27). The tribulation is a time of incredible tumult on the earth, unequalled in history and never to be equaled again. How will people come to Christ during this period?

Throughout the book of Revelation, we see several Oases of salvation in the desert of tribulation, how the saints become victorious. Here in chapter 7, we see God’s plan to reach the lost in the tribulation. One of the controversies in the book of Revelation is the role played by the Church and Israel. The two main views here are the Covenant and Dispensational perspectives.

The Covenant perspective views the church as the “New Israel”, and that the church has replaced Israel, because Israel rejected Christ as their Messiah. Verses in the Old Testament and New Testament referring to Israel symbolically mean the church and not literal Israel in scripture yet to be fulfilled. Basically, Covenant theology views as God having one covenant, the *covenant of Grace*, from Adam until now, operating under different institutions. The church is now the recipient of this covenant in substitution to Israel. Therefore, references to Israel in the end times are actually symbolic and refer to the church.

Dispensational theology views the Church and Israel as two distinct groups. The word dispensation is translated from the Greek word, *oikonomiva Oikonomia*, meaning the management of a household or of household affairs. The church, for the present time, is responsible for establishing “Salvation” in the earth, by presenting the Gospel to the lost. Prior to the church, Israel was responsible for dispensing salvation in the earth. When Israel rejected Jesus Christ, the Messiah, Israel’s dispensation was placed in suspension until the **“Fullness of the Gentiles”** (Romans 11:25, Luke 14:15-24). Israel is not replaced by the church and references to Israel unless otherwise stated apply to Israel. Dispensational theology believes that following the rapture of the Church, Israel is restored to its dispensational position - the place occupied before their fall. (Romans 11:11-12) In the tribulation period, through the ministry of Israel, the Gospel of salvation, dispensed to the lost throughout the earth fulfills Israel’s initial call from God. (Exodus 19:6, Duet. 14:2).

In chapter seven, we see 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel, 12,000 from each tribe. The 144,000 has been the subject of great debate in many circles. Interpretations often center on ones view of Israel and the Church. Those who view Israel as “replaced”, view the 144,000 as “Symbolic” and not literal Israel.

While those from a dispensational understanding see the 144,000 as literal “Israel”, fulfilling the mission established for the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The 144,000 are “End time” harvesters who spread the Gospel to the nations.

To understand who this section of scripture is talking about depends on whether scripture is viewed as literal or symbolic. By viewing this section of scripture as symbolic many groups have taken the “144,000” and applied the number to their membership.

Probably the most famous among this is the Jehovah Witnesses. According to the Jehovah Witnesses, the 144,000 are not of the tribes of physical Israel, but “Spiritual Israel” which they apply to their group. This group of 144,000 JW’s, known as the “Anointed class” were part of the *Watchtower Bible and Track Society* (Jehovah’s Witnesses) when their numbers were much smaller. The problem they have today, is most of the members of the “Anointed class” are dead. So, the JW’s are forced to change their positions to accommodate these problems. Their doctrine is full of error, and denies the deity of Jesus Christ, along with other heretical teachings.

The JW’s are not alone in applying this number to their organization. Many other so-called “churches” apply this select group to their body. The only way this could seem plausible is if “Israel” does not really mean “Israel” and the tribes of Israel do not mean the tribes of Israel.

Once a literal understanding of scripture is applied, there is little choice but to understand this section of scripture as referring to the literal descendants of Israel. When taken in context of scripture, understanding the role Israel plays in the End times is the only option. There are several important points in understanding the role Israel plays. Those who remove literal Israel from scripture will never be able to grasp the book of Revelation and God’s plan for the end times. This is because the meaning of “Israel” will always change to fit the current situation. Today, one church is Israel and tomorrow another church is Israel. The question is can we take God at His Word? Does He mean what He says?

Here, we see the role of 144,000, from the 12 tribes of Israel. Do we know who belongs to what tribe in Israel today? No, we do not, but God certainly knows who belongs where. Twelve thousand from each of the 12 tribes of Jacob (Israel) represent a select group, descendants of Jacob who will fulfill the role planned for Israel, to be a light to the nations. They will spread the Gospel throughout the earth and reap an end- times harvest unequalled in the history of the world.

Out of all the nations of the Earth, God had chosen the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be a light to the nations, to be his witnesses (**Isaiah 43:10- 12**). Israel has for the most part failed to accomplish this mission. In the end-of-days, during the tribulation period Israel will succeed where preceding generations have failed. The 12,000 from the 12 tribes will reap a harvest unequalled in the history of the world.

Without understanding the role and plan for Israel in the end times, it is hard to grasp the events in scripture. Here are 6 points to consider when we understand the role of Israel and the Church.

1. **God keeps his word.** Throughout scripture, God clearly makes literal promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants. His promises are unconditional, and literal, if God does not fulfill His promises to Israel, why should anybody expect Him to fulfill his promises to others?

Isaiah 40:8 *"The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."*

2. **The land was promised to Abraham and his descendants as an eternal covenant.** Today, the land of Israel is the center of political controversy, over half the world's population claim a link to Israel and Jerusalem. Yet the land was promised to the descendants who number less than 20 million in the world and only 5 million in Israel. Israel's possession of the land was an event foretold about extensively. (See Also Genesis 13:15; 17:3-8 26:3; 28:13; Exodus 33:1; Numbers 32:11; Deuteronomy 1:8; 6:10; 30:20; Psalms 105:9-12; Romans 9:8; Galatians 3:16; 4:28)

Genesis 12:7 *"And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him."*

Exodus 33:1 *"And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I swear unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it:"*

3. **Israel, though disobedient, would in the future be an obedient and righteous nation.** Scripture teaches about Israel's fall, but scripture also teaches this fall is only temporary. Israel will recover and be restored to the position of blessing amongst the nations. Israel as a people and nation will again be restored to their land and have a relationship with the God of the Universe.

Deuteronomy 30:3-5 *"3 That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. 4 If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: 5 And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers."*

Jeremiah 32:37-40 *“Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: 39 And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: 40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.”*

4. Israel is part of God’s end time plan in both the Old and New Testaments, Israel plays a central role in the end times. Armageddon the famous battle known the world over takes place north of Jerusalem in the plain of Megiddo. We are told the nations of the earth will surround Israel. Jeremiah and Daniel, look to a period unequalled in the history of the world, centering around Israel.

Jeremiah 30:7-10 *“7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. 8 For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: 9 But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. 10 Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid.”*

Daniel 12:1-2 *“1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”*

5. Jesus would return to a repentant Israel Both in the Old and New Testaments, we see Christ returning to a repentant Israel who rejected Him at His first coming but will accept Him at the second coming. Christ in fact informed Israel, in the Gospel of Matthew, they would not see Him again until they recognized Him as their Messiah.

Zechariah 12:9-10 *"9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. 10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."*

Matthew 23:37-39 *37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 "See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 "for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"*

6. ***The Church cannot replace Israel*** (See also **Jeremiah 31:31**) Paul, in the section of **Romans chapters 9-11** makes a clear distinction between Israel and the Church. The Church for the time being has received the covenant blessing of Israel, who rejected Jesus Christ as Messiah. Following the sealing of the 144,000 Jews, ***"the fullness of the Gentiles"*** will be complete. Then Israel will be restored to the position they had before they rejected Christ. This time, however, Israel will not reject Christ but as a nation will turn to Him and cry out for His coming. Christ will then return, with the armies of Heaven (**Revelation 19, Matthew 24:30,25:31, Zechariah 12:9-10**) and establish the Messianic Kingdom. The Church is in the "New Covenant" promised to Israel in the book of Jeremiah. This promise was made to Israel, they failed to attain it, and the Church received it, but Israel as a nation will one day receive what God has promised.

Romans 11:25-27 *"25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."*

Jeremiah 31:31-34 *31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. 33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they*

shall be My people. 34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

The four angels with power to hurt the earth and the sea are told to withhold their assignments until after the seal of God is placed in His servants' foreheads. These servants are sealed just prior to the trumpet judgments and they are removed or martyred before the vial judgments. They will probably follow in the footsteps of Jesus and testify for 3 ½ years.



These will fulfill the commission of Matthew Chapter 10. The complete prophetic scripture in Matthew could not have been completely fulfilled by the twelve apostles or by the Church. The commission in Matthew chapter 10 is completely fulfilled in the ministry of those that are sealed here. Like many prophecies there was a partial fulfillment in the time it was spoken but it then goes on to speak of a greater end time fulfillment. Read the entire passage in question yourself and form your own conclusion.

Mat:10:6-25 ***"6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as ye go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. 9 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, 10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat. 11 And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. 12 And when ye come into an house, salute it. 13 And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. 15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city. 16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." 17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.***

19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. 21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death. 22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. 23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. 24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. 25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? 26 Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. 27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. 28 And fear not them which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." 32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. 34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household 37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. 40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. 41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

Please note that the Lord is not saying that we should hate our mothers and fathers and family members, this is only unless they pull us away from Him.

These family members that do not love the Lord will eventually turn us over to authorities to see us be dealt with. We must always put God first above anyone that is a believer or non-believer, whether it is our parents or our children, or spouse, or friend.

Time is short to get the job done before we see great destruction and devastation come upon the earth.

It appears that with all of the disasters happening, and all of the wars that are currently being fought everywhere, and the floods and earthquakes, birds dying, pestilences and plagues, that we are in the beginning of the tribulation. This is not a time to sit back and enjoy the presence of the Lord without sharing that joy with a lost and dying world before it is too late.

What about you? Do you know for sure that you have an eternal destiny with God? Are you ready to meet the great I AM before it is too late?

