

Being Lovers of the Truth (2 Thes. 2:10)

I. THE END-TIME CONFLICT OVER THE TRUTH OF WHO JESUS IS

- A. In the End-Times there will be a battle for the truth about Jesus. The Holy Spirit was sent to glorify and exalt Jesus by guiding us into all truth about Him. Truth is a gift of God.
¹³ The Spirit of truth...will guide you into all truth...He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. (Jn. 16:13-14)
- B. In the last days some believers will give heed to doctrines that lie about the person of Jesus.
¹ The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...2 having their conscience seared... (1 Tim. 4:1-2)
- C. The conflict in the End-Times will center around defining who Jesus is and how we love Him. We must love God on His terms. Love for God is loyalty to His truth as seen in Jesus. Our love must be expressed in alliance with the Jesus of the Bible, not the Jesus of humanist sentiment.
- D. Three offensive truths about Jesus include, first, His deity thus His right to establish absolute standards for which the nations are accountable to Him for. Jesus is NOT tolerant and accepting of everyone's view of righteousness and love. Second, the only way of salvation is through Jesus. Third, that He possesses the wisdom and love to judge sin in time and eternity.
²² Consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. (Rom. 11:22)
- E. Love for the truth is more than adherence to it but it takes a firm stand regardless of the cost. Loving truth requires that we commit to accept any new ideas as long as they are substantiated in the Scripture regardless of how different they are from my religious background.
⁷ The mystery of lawlessness is already at work...9 The coming of the lawless one (Antichrist) is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception...because they did not receive the love of the truth... (2 Thes. 2:7-10)
- F. The mystery of lawlessness includes man's "surprising capacity" to hate Jesus and love sin. Humanists believe man is basically good and innocent, thus they hate God's judgments.
⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? (Jer. 17:9)
²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. 25...They hated Me without a cause. (Jn. 15:23-25)
⁹ They will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10 Many will...betray one another, and will hate one another. (Mt. 24:9-10)
- G. Some are naïve about the depth of sin in which many will walk in End-Times. The fullness of man's sin will be seen in the actions of evil people against one another (Rev. 9:21).
²¹ They did not repent of their murders...sorceries...sexual immorality or thefts. (Rev. 9:21)

1. **Murder:** the primary sin on earth (Rev. 6:9-11; 7:13-14; 13:7; 16:6; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2)
2. **Sorceries:** occult and demon worship will fill the earth (Rev. 13:3-15; 14:11; 16:13-14)
3. **Immorality:** demon energized perversion (Rev. 9:20-21; 16:13; 17:2; 18:3; 19:2)
4. **Theft:** legislation and persecution motivated by theft (i.e., the Nazi's anti-Semitism)

- H. Sin will reach the greatest heights ever in all history in the generation in which the Lord returns.
²³ *In the latter time...when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king (Antichrist) shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. (Dan. 8:23)*
- I. Sin will escalate to such a degree that it will surpass the violence in the days of Noah.
⁵ *The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...¹¹ The earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence... (Gen. 6:5-11)*
- J. The Antichrist be followed and worshipped in every nation.
³ *All the world marveled and followed the beast (Antichrist)... ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life... (Rev. 13:3, 8)*
- K. The nations will hate Jesus and rage with anger against His love and truth.
¹ *Why do the nations rage...? ² The kings of the earth set themselves...against the Lord ...saying, ³ "Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords..." (Ps. 2:1-3)*
¹⁸ *The nations were angry and Your wrath has come... (Rev. 11:18)*
- L. Judgment is necessary because God has created the human spirit with the great dignity of free will. *Many use their free will to hate God's love, truth and people.* Our freedom to act in love or hatred has real consequences. Our choices really matter to God and really affect others.

II. THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION: WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS

- A. The question to the End-Time leaders is "who do they say Jesus is". Jesus has called His people to partnership with Him through prayer that binds and looses in agreement with His Word.
¹³ *He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" ¹⁴ They said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah..." ¹⁵ He said, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Peter answered..., "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered..., "Blessed are you...for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father...¹⁸ On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom...and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Mt. 16:13-19)*
- B. The Book of Revelation is a "prayer manual" to equip the Church to partner with Jesus in confronting Satan's authority. The miracles of Exodus and Acts will be combined and multiplied on a global level. This "Jn. 14:12 prayer anointing" will loose revival and the Tribulation and will bind the works of Satan. The Tribulation redemptive judgments will be released by the prayers of the saints (Rev. 5:8; 6:9-11; 8:3-5; 9:13; 10:6; 14:18; 16:7; 19:2).
¹² *The works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do... (Jn. 14:12)*

- C. The Tribulation is released by the praying End-Time church under Jesus' leadership in the way that Moses released the plagues or tribulation on Egypt and the how first apostles established the Church in the Book of Acts. The Book of Revelation is an "eschatological Book of Acts" in that it is a record of the acts of the Holy Spirit through the End-Time apostles and prophets.
- D. The End-Time prayer movement under Jesus' leadership will both bind and release judgment.
⁴ The prayers of the saints, ascended before God...5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth... (Rev. 8:4-5)
- E. The primary theme of the Tribulation is God's judgment against the Antichrist's empire that is being released by the End-Time Church. The secondary theme is tribulation against the saints from the Antichrist (Rev. 12:12; 13:4, 8). In the Book of Acts, some were martyred however, the primary theme was the acts of the Holy Spirit through the praying apostles.
- F. We need not fear the Tribulation as powerless victims seeking to escape it. Rather, we stand boldly as anointed agents who release it under Jesus' leadership. Moses did not seek to escape his role in releasing tribulation on Pharaoh nor did the apostles hope to avoid the Book of Acts.
- G. God's love is expressed and promoted by His redemptive judgments to remove all that hinders love in confronting those who aggressively oppose and hate His love and leadership. God will use the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love.

III. THE PROPHETIC PICTURE OF JESUS IN THE SCRIPTURES

- A. The OT picture of Jesus: to comfort those who receive Him and to confront all that hates Him.
¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty...2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God... (Isa. 61:1-2)
- B. The day of vengeance (Great Tribulation) is in Jesus' heart. It is dear to Him and rooted in love. It prepares for the year of redemption (Millennium) in which His love is manifest worldwide.
² Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 3 "I have trodden the winepress...I have trodden them (nations) in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come...6 I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury..." (Isa. 63:2-6)
- C. We see Jesus as our Bridegroom King who judges all that opposes love in Rev. 19:11-21. There is no contradiction in the "Jesus of Christmas" who brings peace and goodwill to all men who receive Him and the "Jesus of Armageddon" who openly confronts all resistance to His love.
¹¹ He...was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war...13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God...15 Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 He has on His robe...a name written: KING OF KINGS... (Rev. 19:11-21)
- D. Revelation gives us the most complete picture of Jesus in the Scripture emphasizing Him as Bridegroom, King and Judge who manifests His power to win the harvest and cleanse the earth.

¹ ***The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him (Jesus) to show His servants. (Rev. 1:1)***

- E. Revelation reveals the plans of Jesus as Bridegroom King who judges all that hinders love.
1. Jesus is a passionate Bridegroom who is filled with tender and jealous love.
 2. Jesus is a King who will intervene to save the earth by taking over the nations for the glory of God and the good of His people forever.
 3. Jesus is a wise and just judge, who will redemptively confront deep hatred of God and the truth in order to establish love across the whole earth (Rev. 15:3; 16:5-7; 19:2).

IV. HOW ARE WE TO VIEW GOD'S JUDGMENTS IN THE TRIBULATION?

- A. All in heaven will rejoice as Jesus through His Church releases judgment against that which hates God and His truth and salvation. What do they understand about God's judgments?
- ¹ ***A great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia...² For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot..." ³ Again they said, "Alleluia!" (Rev. 19:1-3)***
- ²⁰ ***Rejoice over her...you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her...²¹ Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down... (Rev. 18:20-21)***
- B. All the saints will rejoice when they see the full fruit of Jesus' leadership in releasing His judgments in the Great Tribulation on the wicked.
- ³ ***Saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works...just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints...⁴ For Your judgments have been manifested." (Rev. 15:3-4)***
- ¹⁷ ***Saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty...because You have taken Your great power and reigned. ¹⁸ The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come..." (Rev. 11:17-18)***
- ⁷ ***He is coming with clouds...all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. (Rev. 1:7)***