

*“while we wait for the blessed hope —
the glorious appearing of our great
God and Savior, Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).*



***The coming Day of Judgment is addressed in the Old and New Testament...
Jesus and Zephaniah are describing the same time period as in Revelation.***

Should Bible-believing born-again Christians be worried about the Apocalypse?

Zephaniah uttered these words in 625 BC –

The cry on the day of the LORD will be bitter...That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness...because they have sinned against the LORD...In the fire of his jealousy the whole world will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth.” (Zeph. 1:14-18).

Jesus uttered these words –

“...let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains...For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now – and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive...” (Matt. 24:16-22).

These verses demonstrate that the Day of Judgment is something that has been predicted from past ages. Notice how Jesus identified “Judea” or Israel as the center of the very worst time ever known on earth.

There are 21 different judgments in the book of Revelation. The Lamb opens the seals to introduce the Day of judgment. Very early in the Apocalypse, the 2nd seal judgment states that peace is taken from the earth and men slay each other with a “large sword” which suggests nuclear warfare. Since the Lamb of God opens the seals, we know the judgments are “God’s wrath” (discussed later).

When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword. (Rev. 6:3-4).

To their credit, the present US Administration is strongly supporting Israel, creating much more tension among regimes in the Middle East sparking antagonistic responses from age-old rivals. Talk of Israeli settlements in “Palestinian territory” and moving the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem have become fire-brand issues in an already inflamed environment. Some responses –

- “Settlement activities by Israel will result in Israel’s annihilation”*** Iranian Tasnim News Agency, 12/29/16.
- “Palestinian President Abbas urges terrorists to kill as many Israelis as possible in order to exact revenge for wanting to move the US Embassy”*** Observer.com, 1/27/17.
- Iranian backed Hezbollah on Israel’s northern border has a nasty collection of 130,000 rockets and mortars aimed at Israel. This is a bigger arsenal than all of NATO countries (except the USA) combined.*** Willy Stern, Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council, 6/27/16.

You may be wondering... will believers who are in the Body of Christ be here on earth for the terrible times described in Revelation Chapters 6-19?

Those who have been “justified by His blood” and are trusting the Lord for salvation will NOT suffer “God’s wrath”.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath* through him! (Rom. 5:9).

“...to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath*. (1 Thes. 1:10).

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath* but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thes. 5:9).

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath* remains on him. (John 3:36).

****Greek: “orge” – wrath, anger, strong displeasure, hostility.***

In the New Testament, the Greek word “orge” translated wrath is used exclusively when describing wrath poured out by God Himself. The Body of Christ (church) is saved from the coming wrath (as shown in the above verses) because Christ Himself bore the wrath of God against sin on the cross in our place. The present day members of the Church, will be rescued from the coming wrath described in the book of Revelation (see next frame).

In the previous frame, we saw that believers who are in the Body of Christ in this present age will be delivered from “God’s Wrath”. God’s wrath is fully expressed during the Apocalypse in Rev. 6-19 and finally at the Great White Throne in Rev. 20:11-15.

“God’s wrath” is fully expressed during the Day of Judgment in Rev. 6-19.

They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath* of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath* has come, and who can stand?” (Rev. 6:16-17).

The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath*. (Rev. 14:19).

Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath* of God Almighty. (Rev. 19:15).

****Greek: “orge” – wrath, anger, strong displeasure, hostility.***

Only a fraction of the earth’s population will survive the coming Apocalypse described in Rev. 6-19. See “Deliverance from the Coming Apocalypse” <www.bibleprophecytoday.net>

What about the trials that Believers in the Body of Christ have endured down through the ages even including martyrdom? Thousands of Christians are being martyred even today in 3rd world countries. There are different Greek words that indicate the source of “trials” is from men inspired by Satan as shown below. The Greek word “orge” is always used when God’s wrath is involved.

Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials* you are enduring. (2 Thes. 1:4).

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.** (1 Pet. 1:6).

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. (1 Pet. 4:12).**

*** Greek:** thlipsis – trouble, distress, oppression, tribulation.

****Greek:** peirasmos – test; trial; temptation.

The Apostles said that members of the Body of Christ will suffer painful trials while here on this earth. In fact, historical records tell us that all the Apostles died a martyr’s death except John who was exiled to the Isle of Patmos. But the Greek words for trials and tribulations are “thlipsis or peirasmos”. The word for wrath is “orge” and we are told that members of the Body of Christ will be rescued from God’s wrath. This implies they will be “Raptured” before God’s wrath is unleashed during the tribulation in Rev. 6-19.

According to Scripture, we know that the final end-time wars will be centered around Israel and Jerusalem. Since the UN's inception, there have been over 75 UN Resolutions passed against Israel and only 1 against the Palestinians. Today, world tension is building around Israel. Apparently, Rev. 6-19 is approaching.

"I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem." (Zech. 12:2).

"On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem."

(Zech. 12:9).

"In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them..." (Joel 3:1-2).

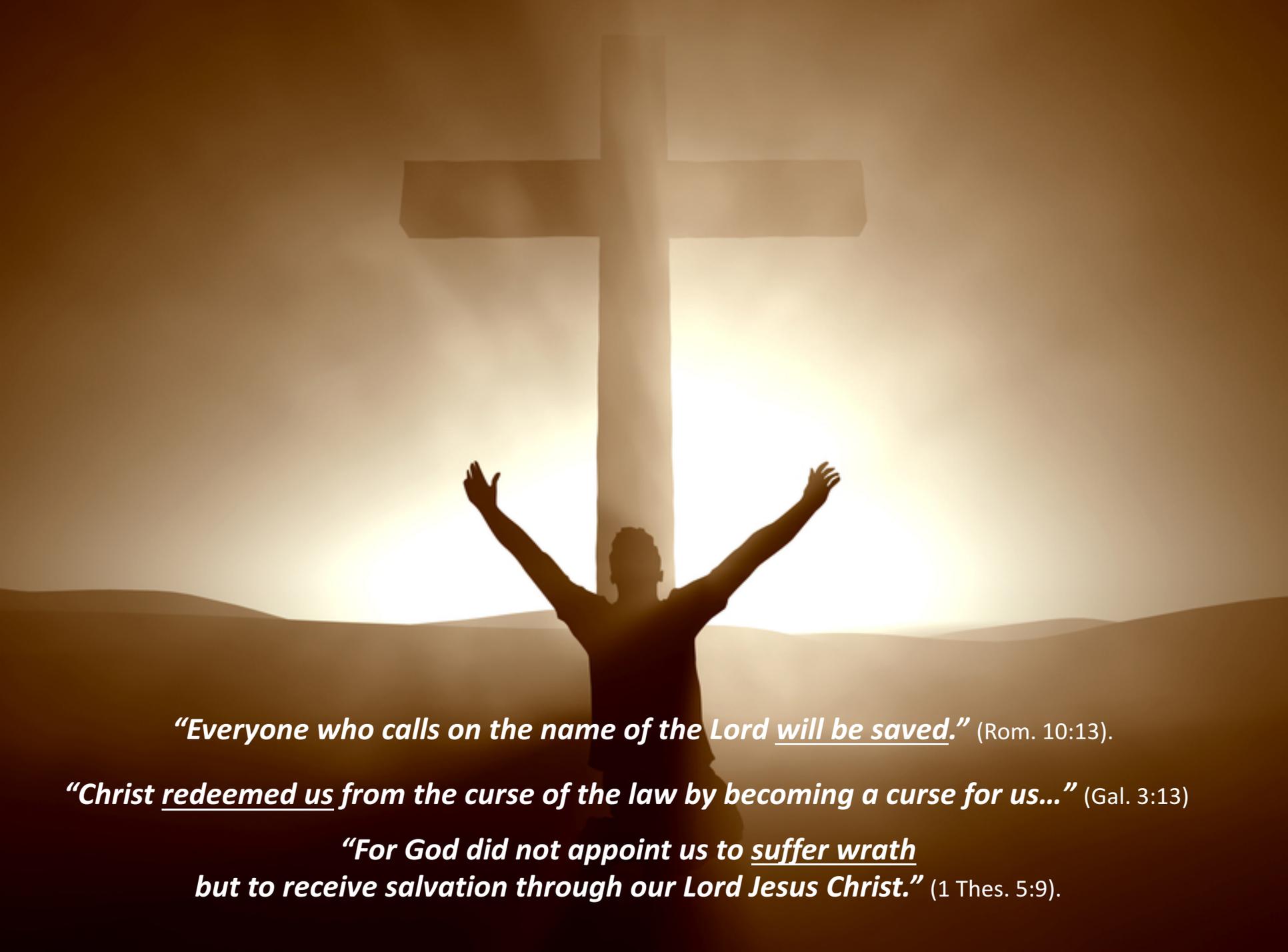
Israel has gone against UN resolutions and continues to build in the territory that the UN claims to be "Palestinian Territory". Israel claims that the entire territory between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean Sea was given to Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 15:18; 17:8). A few days after the latest UN resolution, Israel announced they planned to build thousands of new homes on the "Palestinian" West Bank of the Jordan river and East Jerusalem. The Palestinians claim that East Jerusalem, where the Temple Mount is located, is their capitol.

In Summary, God's people will be delivered from God's wrath on Judgment Day...

To Recap, tensions in the Middle East may lead to Judgment Day (Rev. 6-19)...

- ***Since the US now strongly supports Israel, hostility from Israel's rivals is growing at a fever pitch so Israel vows to strike back "full force" and not stop till they see a "white flag".***
- ***The Scripture prophesies that the final end-time wars will emanate from Israel.***
- ***Will current tensions in the Middle East lead to an end-time war?***
- ***Judgments in Revelation begin when peace is taken from the earth by men who use weapons of mass destruction.***
- ***Judgments in Revelation are God's wrath poured out on earth – Greek for wrath is "orge".***
- ***But those who trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord are delivered from God's wrath – "orge".***
- ***Suffering and trials in this age are described by the Greek words "thlipsis or peirasmos" and do not originate from God although they are allowed by Him to transform us.***
- ***So Believers who are trusting in the Lord will definitely be delivered by the Rapture before God's wrath is poured out on Judgment Day.***

The above argument is only one of many reasons to believe the Scripture teaches an Imminent (can happen anytime) Rapture that will occur before the coming Day of Judgment. This is why followers of Jesus should have a confident hope for the future and look forward to "the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). In the meantime, we should be praying for those who are not ready for Judgment Day.



“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Rom. 10:13).

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us...” (Gal. 3:13)

***“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath
but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*** (1 Thes. 5:9).