

THE GREAT TRIBULATION AND THE 7 Seals



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THE GREAT TRIBULATION AND THE SEVEN SEALS

Foreword

It is not easy to depict the circumstances of the end times, especially in connection with sufferings and distress. Many people consider the case exaggerated or express pessimism alike the author. But the truth of God's word clearly proclaims that this needs special attention from us, who believe it.

Quite a lot of Bible verses describe about the persecutions upon God's children, whether in the past, the present, or the future. The Lord Jesus explained that those who believe in Him might undergo sufferings, since :

First :

The persecutors (tyrants) do not know the Lord Jesus or the Heavenly Father :

“These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.” (Jn 16:1-4).

Second :

They who persecute hate the Lord Jesus Christ :

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you ... He that hateth me hateth my Father also ... They hated me without a cause.” (Jn 15:18, 23, 25)

Third :

The persecutions in connection with the end-times are revealed in several parts of the book of Revelation.

The author's purpose is to share just some simple interpretations of the book of Revelation, due to their understanding. We need to realize that many mysteries in the book of Revelation are still kept sealed. Yet by seeing, hearing, observing and considering the circumstances we encounter today it seems that one by one those mysteries are being unfolded.

This book is not meant to incur the pessimistic feelings and hopelessness upon the readers. Instead, it is meant to arouse the readers' vigor to become even stronger in their faith and hope, and will lean solely on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Consequently, let us continue to be alert and keep "our lamps lit". This means that we should keep the enthusiastic diligence to serve God and our fellowmen while anticipating the Lord Jesus' return. Maranata!

Team of writers

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THE GREAT TRIBULATION AND THE 7 SEALS

I

INTRODUCTION

The persecutions before the second coming of the Lord Jesus are mentioned many times in the New Testament of the Bible, either expressed directly by the Lord Jesus Himself or by the apostles. Here are some of the verses:

Mt24:9 “Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.”

Mt24:21 “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

Rev13:10 “He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.”

Rev13:15 “And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

Rev13:17 “And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

Frankly speaking, no one wants to experience distress moreover suffering, but towards the end-times there will be a time of severe persecutions so devastating as it has never happened before on this earth. And that will be the very condition we as children of God are to face at the end of times.

Briefly, part of the seven seals in the book of Revelation depicts the persecutions upon the true followers of Christ by their enemies. The first four seals display the Four Horsemen at the end-times.

This book will discuss the atrocities that accompanied

the opening of the seven seals in the book of Revelation chapter 6, and part of this discussion is an elaboration of chapter VII of the first book we produced about the end times: ***"Is It True That The Chip Is The Fulfillment of 666?"***

We rewrite the material for as time goes by, the prophecies of the end times are waxing in their revelation according to Daniel 12:4 *"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."*

In addition, we also gained illumination and some new understanding, as about the fourth seal, which displays the pale horse and its rider.

Some time ago we also obtained the remarkable research data of Paul Grevas about the ***"The Perfect Sign of God In The Sky"*** of which we also wrote a book under the same title.

Recently we got a comprehensive perception of 1 Thessalonians 5:3, *"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."*

Since the persecutions during the end times would be all of a sudden and with severe intensity, we felt the need to rewrite about this period of devastation so that as God's children we would understand more and be better prepared for it. And at the end of this book there will be a review of how we should anticipate this period of persecutions and prepare ourselves to encounter it, also how to manage our fears.

II

THE FIRST SEAL

Rev6:1 “And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. 2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.”

Rev13:1 “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. 7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. 8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. 9 If any man have an ear, let him hear. 10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. 11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. 15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. 16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”

So during this period of afflictions these events are assumed to occur:

- **The appearance of 10 kingdoms**

*Rev13:1 "And I stood upon the sand and the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, and upon his horns **ten crowns**, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion."*

- **The appearance of antichrist**

*Rev 13:3 "And I saw **one of his heads as it were wounded to death**; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast."*

- **The appearance of false prophets**

*Rev 13:11 "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had **two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon**."*

The events accompanying the presence of the three appointed characters at the end times would be as follows:

- **The antichrist will be attacked on his head with a sword.**

The wound seems to endanger his life, but the antichrist will survive and remain alive so that the whole world will be amazed and overwhelmed. Then they will follow and worship him.

Rev 13:3 "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

- **There will be rumors of great wars.**

The antichrist belongs to the prominent figures or leaders of the world. So when he is severely wounded, there arises a wave of rumors around the world that there will be a great war. But these are just issues or rumors, which most possibly will not come true.

*Mt24:6 "And ye shall **hear of wars and rumours of wars**: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."*

The King James Version of the Bible uses the term "rumours of wars", so the news about the great war will

continue to be a hot topic in newspapers, magazines, websites, and other mass media. However, the great war will not happen even though there will be some wars in several places as it is written, "*ye shall hear of wars.*"

Nowadays (according to Paul Grevas' research in May 2015) about 49 of 192 countries are in chaotic times and experiencing wars, and in 61 countries God's children are suffering due to the "attack without a cause", but the third world war will not happen yet,

Mt24:6 "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."

- **The antichrist will become arrogant and blaspheme God.**

Rev13:5 "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven."

- **The Antichrist will persecute and kill the sons of God and rule the world.**

Rev13:7 "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. 10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

- **The false prophet will work together with the antichrist and cause the whole mankind to worship Antichrist.**

Rev13:12 "And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."

- **The false prophet will perform deceiving signs and lying wonders.**

Rev13:13 "And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men."

2 Th2:9 "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and

signs and lying wonders, 10 and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

- **The false prophet will command the inhabitants of the earth to make an image of antichrist.**

*Rev 13:14 “And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should **make an image** to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.”*

The false prophet will give life to the image of the antichrist so that it can speak and cause all those who do not worship it to be killed.

Rev 13:15 “And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

- **The false prophet will force everyone to wear a mark which is chip 666.**

Rev13:16 “And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their foreheads: 17 and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”

III

THE SECOND SEAL

Rev6:3“And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.”

Rev11:1“And there was given me a creed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. 2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.”

So during those times the following events are to happen:

- **The rebuilding of the Temple of God in Jerusalem**

Rev11:1“...Rise, and measure the temple of God.”

- **The Israelites will worship again in the Temple of God**

Rev11:1“...the altar, and them that worship therein.”

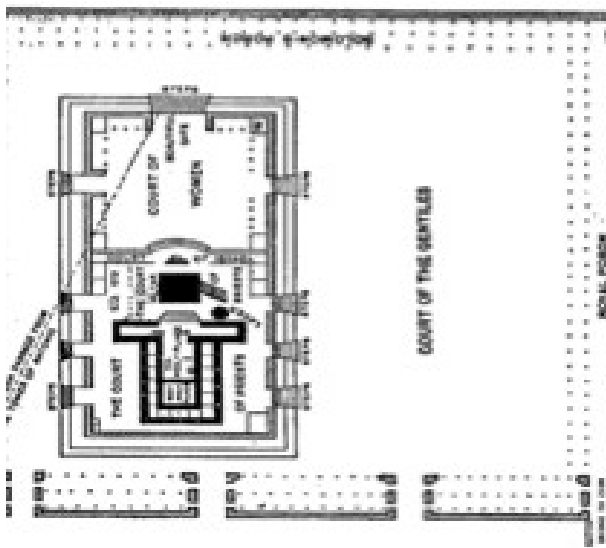
The rebuilding of the Temple of God will not include the court

Rev 11:2 “But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.”

A lot of researches were done to detect where the location of the Temple of God would be in Jerusalem. Finally, they agreed that the location will be on the site where at present the mosque with the golden-dome stands, known as the Dome of the Rock.



The picture above shows the Dome of the Rock that occupies the site of the court of the Temple of God where it will be built later.



As the site of the court of the Temple God is occupied by the Dome of the Rock, it is most possible that only the holy place and the holy of holiest will be built.



Here is a replica of the Temple of God to be built.

- **The peace on earth will disappear.**

Rev6:4 “...power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth,”

The building of this Temple of God in Jerusalem would likely be strongly resisted by the opposing religious community, so that the peace on earth would disappear as the opposition would grow so intense across the world.

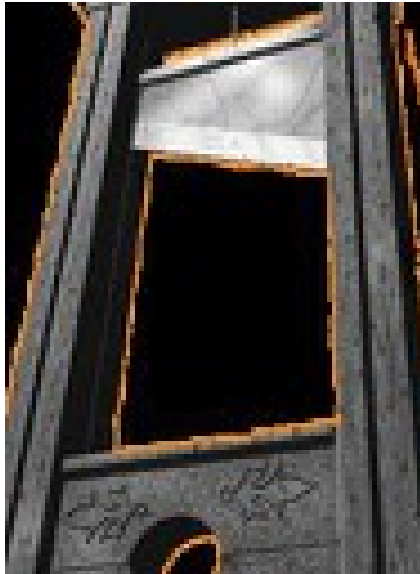
- **Killing each other.**

Rev 6:4“...that they should kill one another,”

The opposition will increase, causing different religious communities to get suspicious against each other, hate each other, and kill each other.

- **People of power can use the guillotine to execute his opponents.**

Rev6:4“... and there was given unto him a great sword.”



The usage of guillotine as a way to execute someone sounds very sadistic, cruel and primitive, especially in the modern era when human basic rights are highly valued and given much attention. Surprisingly, death penalty for criminal prisoners by using the guillotine turns out to be a legitimate execution in the US State of Georgia. It sounds strange, but it is true.

**Georgia House of Representatives - 1995/1996 Sessions
HB 1274 - Death penalty; guillotine provisions**

Code Sections - 17-10-38/ 17-10-44

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 17 of the Official
1- 2 Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the death penalty
1- 3 generally, so as to provide a statement of legislative
1- 4 policy; to provide for death by guillotine; to provide for
1- 5 applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
1- 6 purposes.

SECTION 1.

8 The General Assembly finds that while prisoners condemned to
1- 9 death may wish to donate one or more of their organs for
1-10 transplant, any such desire is thwarted by the fact that
1-11 electrocution makes all such organs unsuitable for
1-12 transplant. The intent of the General Assembly in enacting
1-13 this legislation is to provide for a method of execution

1-14 which is compatible with the donation of organs by a
1-15 condemned prisoner.

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/Archives/19951996/leg/fulltext/hb1274.htm>

Besides, the death penalty by beheading is also typical in some particular religions, so that due to anger their followers will decapitate members of other communities incompatible with them.

IV

THE THIRD SEAL

Rev6:5 "And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine."

One characteristic/phenomenon accompanying the appearance of the black horse is the high price of various staples or main food. It is announced that *a measure of wheat is for a day's wages (a denarius) and three measures of barley for a day's wages*. We know that a denarius is the wage of a worker for a day. So if we take the standard minimum wage in Jakarta about Rp.2.700.000,-- per month or Rp.103.846, -- per day (divided by 26 workdays), then the price of rice as the main food will reach to approximately Rp.100,000,--/kg and the price of the lesser grade, such as yam, cassava, corn, sago will be around Rp.33.350,--/kg. This price is considered very expensive whereas the daily salary of a worker can buy only one kilo rice or three kilos cassava.

What is the cause of the high price of these staples?

The first possibility is because of the chaotic condition of the world and the countries, due the commotions and contentions, and killing each other among communities of different religions in countries around the world. These local and global wars will lead to the collapse of the world trade systems and can disrupt even cease the production systems.

The Lord Jesus also explained that this would happen besides the conflicts between nations and kingdoms. Also many earthquakes will occur that lead to disturb and decline the production of foodstuffs. Great natural disasters occurred recently in several places around the world, one of which was

in Nepal where a tremendous earthquake shook the country. Undoubtedly the distribution of food, water to drink, clothing, and other needs there were badly disrupted and this can trigger to soar the price of staple food. We can not imagine what the consequences would be, if such unpredictable natural disasters were to happen more frequently and widespread.

Mt24:7 "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."

Lack of food production will continue on at the end times so that many people will be starving, since besides the two reasons above, the book of Revelation also provides an additional explanation in Revelation 11:6.

Rev11:6 "These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will."

So at the end of times, the Lord will entrust a task to two witnesses of God to prophesy in mourningclad, for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. And while they prophesy, they will be given the power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain, and the earth will experience drought which would cause the foodstuff more difficult to get.

THE FOURTH SEAL

Rev 6:7,8 "And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. 8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."

The fourth seal is characterized by :

A pale horse, while for "pale" the original word is *χλωρός* (read khloros), such as the color of a corpse! So this seems to describe a span of time in the future when a widespread of death or murder would take place, **"behold a palehorse."**

The rider is known as the one named Death or known as a figure who can bring death. So it is clear that this figure is a very powerful and influential Leader, so that he has the ability to bring death. This individual is very likely one of the religionLeader who is not only strong but also charismatic so he will be able not only to move his follower but also to make them do anything he commands, including to kill. This figure seems so terrifying that the Bible describes him as the Death itself, **"and his name that sat on him (the horse) was Death."**

If we study the word **"Hell"** in the above verse, the original language is "ᾗδης*" (read **"hades"**), translated "Hell" into English.

*Rev 6:8 "And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and **Hell** followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."(KJV)*

For the people at that time HADES was known as the incinerator outside the city. Thus the description in the Gospel of Luke is clear to them that mankind being considered as garbage for their filthiness and disgusting state (because of sin) will be burnt like that and the fire will never be extinguished.

Then the verse further explains :

*“And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, **to kill...**”*

The word **tokill** can have two meanings :

First:to separate the body from the soul.

Second :to separate the soul from God's grace.

Mt10:28 “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.”

When we see that Death kills and they who are killed enter the gate of hell/hades, it is clear that by to kill here is meant to **separate the human beings/children of God from grace**, or destroy one's faith! For if Death kills/separates the body of God's children from their soul, then they will go to the bosom of Abraham, not to hell.

*Lk 16:22-23 “And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels **into Abraham’s bosom**: the rich man also died, and was buried;(εις τὸν κόλπον Ἀβραάμ/eis ton kolpon Abraam) 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”*

The Bible mentioned that many children of God would fall away in the last days. About this we find among others in :

Mt24:10 “And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.”

God's children will face trials in the form of threats to be killed by the sword, famine, disease, or thrown into the cage or pond crowded with dangerous wild beasts. They who are resilient will maintain their faith in the Lord Jesus, but

those whose faith is weak will leave and turn to other beliefs, and become their followers.

"...to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."

The Death and his followers will cause 25% population of the earth's turn away from their own faith, and become followers of their religion.

*"And power was given unto **them** over **the fourth part** of the earth, to **kill** with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."*

According to Wikipedia, the population of the earth by July 2013 was approximately 7,095,217,980 people of which 31.50% were Christians (16.85% Roman Catholic, 6.15% Protestant, 3.96% Orthodox, 1.26% Anglican) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_religious_populations)

If 25% of the whole world population were killed or guilty of apostasy, then the remaining Christians alive would be about 6.5% or only $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total number of 31.5% Christians on earth.

And this is in accordance with what the Lord Jesus said in Mt 22:14, *"For many are called, but few are chosen."*

This also agrees with what the Lord Jesus taught in the parable of The Sower.

Mt 13:3 "And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow.

4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up.

5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth.

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them.

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

9 *Who hath ears to hear, let him hear!"*

18 *"Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.*

19 *When anyone heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

20 *But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it.*

21 *Yet hath he not root in himself, but for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.*

22 *He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.*

23 *But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."*

The parable above depicts 4 types of Christians :

First type of Christians :

Mt13:4 "And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up."

19 *"When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side."*

The first type of Christians are those already evangelised, **but still do not understand**. They may diligently go to church and "assume themselves to be Christians", but actually they are "**noreal Christians/children of God**". Some of them may register as Christians in their national identity card or even own membership card in a particular church. Some may have Christian parents so that they take it for granted that they themselves automatically are Christians too. People like them do not yet have the assurance of eternal salvation, because basically they have not yet made the confession to believe or put their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, as is written in Romans 10:9,

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

For how can someone confess truly that Jesus is Lord if he does not understand who the Lord is and why Jesus is Lord? Likewise, how can one believe that God has raised Jesus from the dead, if he does not understand the meaning of the resurrection of the dead?

Second type of Christians :

Mt13:5 "Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth."

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it.

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended."

The second type of Christians are those who after being evangelised accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, but the basis of their conviction is very thin, so that their faith is not deeply rooted and grows only for a little while. As soon as some trial comes, their faith withers and dies. They do not nurture their faith rightly!

Some of them may never go to church or rarely do so. They may not read the Bible, nor pray, nor seek the Lord Jesus who is the Living Water to nurture their faith that it may be rooted deeper and grow stronger. So eventually their faith dried up and dies for lack of living water.

*Jer17:13 "O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken **the LORD, the fountain of living waters.**"*

Lk 8:6 "And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away,

because it lacked moisture.”

The third type of Christians :

Mt 13:7 “And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them.”

22 “He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”

Lk 8:14 “And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.”

The third type of Christians are those who have accepted the Gospel and become children of God, but in their lives they are disturbed by their feelings and various situations, such as:

Worry:

They worry because they do not believe in God’s power and provision.

Mt 6:31 “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 For after all these things do the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.”

1Pe 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

They do not believe in God’s power, instead they put more confidence in their own abilities and their colleagues’ supports. They rely more on human mind and strength rather than on God’s.

Wealth:

Since they do not believe in God’s power and provision, so they put their confidence more in their wealth. That is why they are very diligent in seeking and heaping up wealth, because they are convinced that wealth will be able or trustworthy to secure their future. God’s children alike them

usually never pay their tithes. Whenever they do, they pay only some part or for certain purposes, either to gain a good name or position or to fit certain specific plans. Generally they are also unwilling to help their relatives. The way they earn money still conforms to the world at large.

Mt 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Living in the pleasures of this life :

They also are children of God who indulge in debauchery and take pleasure in the flesh rather than obey the Lord Jesus, deny themselves and take up the cross.

Lk 9:23 "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Matthew 13:7 previously quoted explains that Christians like this will have their faith die out eventually or will turn away from their belief -"**and the thorns sprung up and choked them.**"

The Fourth type of Christians :

Mt 13:8 "But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold."

23 "But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

*Lk 8:15 "But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and **bring forth fruit with patience.**"*

The fourth type of Christians are those who not only receive the gospel, but also **understand!** Why can they understand? Because they **have a genuine desire** to know more about the word of God. So whenever they read it or

hear it delivered, they absorb and digest it, and keep it in their hearts.

In addition, they **diligently do or practice** God's word in their life so as to bear the fruit of the Spirit during their life.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance..

Therefore, in the remaining time, we need to increase our understanding of the word of God, so that we will not be shaken easily. And besides, we also ought to undertake the word of God seriously to bear fruit and experience living with God that will strengthen our faith.

To bear fruit is a very important issue as the Lord Jesus said,

Jn15:8 "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

The above verse explains that to bear fruit means to glorify God and to be fruitful is characteristic of the Lord's disciples or God's true children.

VI

THE FIFTH SEAL

Rev 6:9 "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

In the fifth seal was shown the souls of those who were killed because of their faithfulness to God. And they cried out to God to avenge their blood. The answer given was *"that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."*

This verse explains more clearly that God's people will suffer severe persecutions, and even be killed, as described in the previous seals.

This vision is also a message of hope for whomever is encountering persecutions and live as a martyr. Those who have died for their faith, live in paradise. Physically they are dead, their bodies are killed, but their souls remain alive. Satan can destroy the body, but can not destroy the soul. God has provided a better place for them who die for Him.

VII

THE SIXTH SEAL

Rev 6:12 "And 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; 13 And 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?"

Rev 7:1 "And 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. 2 And 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, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. 4 And 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 of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. 6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. 7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. 8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand. 9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands. 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen! 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

The events occur after the sixth seal is opened are events the believers looking forward to, namely the second coming of the Lord Jesus and the rapture as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17.

15 "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first;

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

And it is very interesting that the Lord Jesus Himself had given the specific natural signs prior to His second coming as recorded in:

Rev 6:12 "And 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.

13 And 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."

The sun that turned black like sackcloth of hair and the moon that turned blood-red were also mentioned previously in Acts 2:20, that "***The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come.***"

Those signs were explained in our book entitled, "***The Signs in The Sky about The Second Coming of The Lord Jesus.***"

Furthermore, the events that will happen in the sixth seal are:

- A devastating earthquake followed by the stars falling from the sky and also some uncommon phenomena in the heavens (sky).

Rev 6:12 "And 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.

13 And 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."

We read in verse 14, "**every mountain and island were moved out of their places.**" So it is most possible that the earthquake that will occur at that time is not an earthquake caused by volcanic eruptions, but by the shifting of tectonic plates (earth crust).

- The rapture of 144,000 individuals from all the tribes of Israel as the firstfruit of those who are elected.

Rev 7:4 "And 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."

Rev 14:1 "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him **an hundred and forty and four thousand**, having his Father's name written in their foreheads."

- The rapture of the children of God who are faithful to the end.

Rev 7:9 "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands."

14 "And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, **These are they which came out of great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Rev 15:2 "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God."

1 Th 5:3 states, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not

escape.”

Theverse above describes the following events :

- *“When they shall say, Peace and safety.”*

This could mean that the period of severe persecutions or great tribulation at the end of times will happen when the condition of the world in general seems to be peaceful and safe.

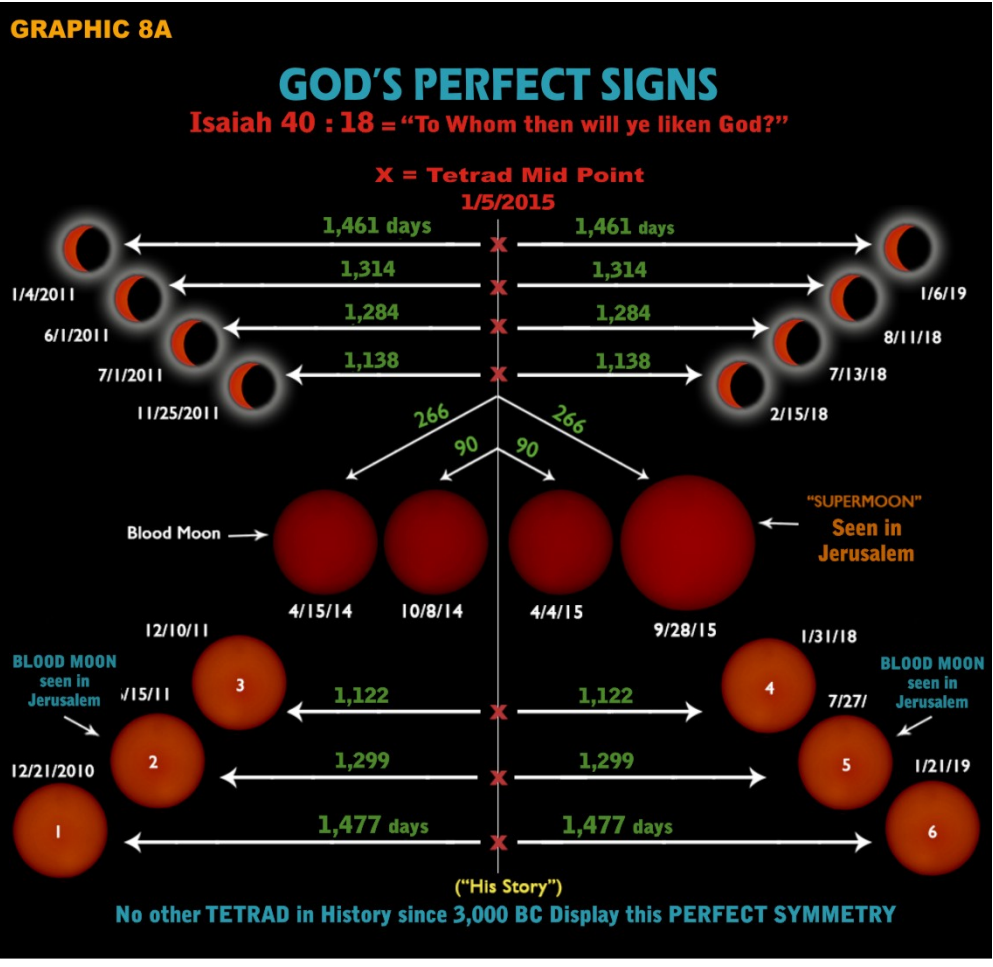
- *“then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child.”*

This can be interpreted that the future persecutions will come suddenly, though actually it is to be expected, like a woman who is pregnant knows at least when the baby will be delivered even if not the exact day, hour and minute. But the initial persecutions will come **suddenly** like a pregnant woman experiences unexpected pangs of childbirth due to labor contractions some time before giving birth.

Very painful like pains at child-birth.

Time is short as the duration of travail when a pregnant woman gets the first painful labor contractions till the delivery is completed. And the suffering **ends when the child is born.**

If we look at the result of Paul Grevas' research about "The Perfect Signs of God in The Sky", then we will see a very amazing truth.



The picture above shows that the length of time from the center line to the bloodmoon/supermoon which will be seen in Jerusalem on September 28, 2015 is 266 days, **exactly the same** length of time a baby is carried in its mother's womb, which is also **266 days!**

Could this be a sign that explains "*as travail upon a woman with child*"?

Is it possible that on September 28, 2015 would be the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles when the Lord Jesus Christ would descend from Heaven, and He would be seen in the clouds, then the dead in Christ would rise?

Can it be that the prophecy in 1 Thessalonians

4:16 will be fulfilled at that time?

Let us be alert, because we do not know exactly when that appointed day will come.

1 Th 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

Would we that might be still alive at that time enter a period of being tried, refined, and purified before being caught up to meet the Lord in the air as is written in the book of the prophet Daniel?

"Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days." (Da 12:10,12)

And the Epistle to the Thessalonians prophesies that,

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (1Th 4:17).

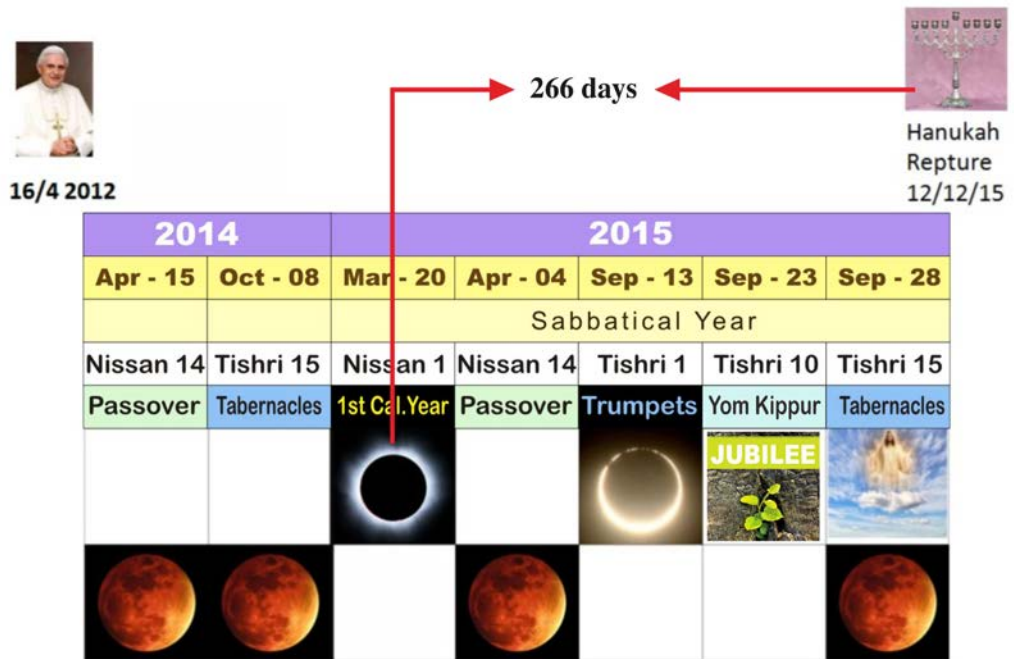
Is it possible that the rapture would occur at the Feast of Hanukkah on December 12, 2015? As it turns out, the Feast of Hanukkah on December 12, 2015 will have **the same length of days namely 266 days**, when calculated from March 20, 2015 which is to be the beginning of the new year in the Jewish calendar. According to the torah calendar, March 20, 2015 will be also the first day of the year 6001 based on the calendar of creation starting from March 20, 2015 afternoon.

We usually consider one day as starting from 12.00 o'clock at midnight to the same time the next day, while based on the calendar of creation each day

starts from the afternoon until the next afternoon. (www.torahcalendar.com)

Gen:5 “And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.”

Besides, on that appointed day the Lord gives signs in the sky in the form of a total solar eclipse.



VIII

THE SEVENTH SEAL

The seventh seal is opened after the rapture in the sixth seal. Then one by one the angels (who stand before God) will blow their trumpets, and later also will pour out the bowl of God's wrath. The people who are left behind (not caught up) will endure 3.5 years suffering of the vials of God's wrath.

Rev 8:1 "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake."

Rev 15:1 "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. 2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. 3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints! 4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art and holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest. 5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: 6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. 7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."

Rev 16:1 "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth."

After the seventh seal is opened, there will be silence in heaven. This atmosphere is an anticlimax after a time of singing and praising God prior to it. And in that silence,

an angel will put incense on the altar before the throne of God. The incense is the prayers of the saints that spreads fragrance before God.

The seventh seal also displays seven angels with seven trumpets and seven angels with seven vials filled with the wrath of God which will be used as a warning of the imminent calamity to come upon the remaining inhabitants of the earth, upon those left behind, who are not caught up. This is also a warning for those who mock at God's judgment which is sure to come.

IX

PREPARATIONS TO BE MADE

The signs of His coming are being completed, the fulfillment of the prophecies in the Bible become more evident, and the time is drawing near. Now the question is: what should we do while anticipating that Glorious Day?

What kind of preparations should we make?

The most important thing is to be prepared spiritually, since we need to get to know God closer, by reading His word diligently, praying fervently, listening attentively to sermons from responsible and trustworthy pastors, pondering on and exploring deeper and act upon God's word we have heard. For only God's people who know their God will remain strong and courageous to maintain their faith, despite the risk of being persecuted, losing all their properties, and even losing their lives.

*Da 11:32 "And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: **but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.**"*

The same issues are also conveyed in Revelation 13,

*"He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. **Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**" (Rev 13:10)*

Learning from the Great Disasters mentioned in the Bible.

Moreover we can also learn from the Bible in anticipating disasters that will strike the earth. The first time the LORD God gave a warning of an impending disaster in the Bible was when He commanded Noah to be prepared for it by building an ark (Genesis 6). Noah obeyed God's command and built the ark.

When the flood came, Noah and his family (along with various kinds of animals) were saved, because Noah had made preparations prior to the disaster, by obeying the word of God, no matter of the risks. One of those risks was the long span of time needed to make the preparations. But we learn that Noah did not procrastinate to obey the word of the LORD. If Noah and his family did not act upon God's command by building the ark, everyone including him and his family members would have drowned.

A second example of the importance of making prior preparations is when God warned of the famine about to happen soon in Egypt at Joseph time. Pharaoh got a dream he did not understand. Joseph interpreted the meaning of the dream, that there would be 7 years of abundance and thereafter 7 years of famine. Later on Joseph was appointed as ruler (second in command) of Egypt with the responsibility to prepare a program for storing up the grain so that Egypt could pass through this period of famine well, even helping other nations then, including Jacob and his children.

A third example is from the New Testament - Acts 11:28-30. The Prophet Agabus received a warning from God that the world would undergo famine. The early Christians then responded seriously to that warning by making serious preparations to encounter it. The disciples decided to provide help for the brethren in Judea. They sent Barnabas and Saul with their gifts to the elders there.

From these three examples we see that when God warned his people against some impending disaster, they showed their faith by doing everything necessary to be prepared, even though they had not yet seen any signs of the events. That is an act of faith!

Overcoming Fear

Fear has always been part of the struggles in human life, because fear is God's gift to man in order they would not be reckless in living this life on earth after the Fall. But to have an excessive fear for lack of faith can cause damage mentally or spiritually. Especially to live towards the end of times filled with trials and hardships, the believers need to have the ability to control their fears so that their energy can be used to enforce their motivations for useful things.

The main basis for getting rid of the fear is to have personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who forgives us our sins so that we obtain the assurance to enter the eternal life with God. When God is our Father, there's nothing to worry.

Lk 12:32 "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Second, every Christian should have a prominent life worthy of the calling we have received in Christ. Ephesians 4:1-3 teaches,

"Therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

To know Christ and live according to His will would overcome fear.

Third, actually what is going to happen at the last days will be something encouraging.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 records,

“13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

Instead of facing the coming persecutions with fear, we are called to anticipate the future with joy. Why with joy? Because in Christ, we will be "caught up" to meet Him in the air, and we "will be with the Lord forever". Isn't that something wonderful that should encourage us?

Furthermore, the Scriptures say that if we are truly God's children, then we need not fear the Day of Judgment:

17 “Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out our fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”(1 Jn4:17,18)

The Bible records that even if in the future we have to face sufferings, we need not fear them :

“But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled.”(1 Pe 3:14)

The Apostle Peter and many believers suffered manifold persecutions in their lives and even faced death for their faith in Christ. Suffering is not to be feared; suffering is a blessing if it becomes a testimony to the glory of the Lord Jesus' name.

People who do not know Christ do not have the promise of peace in the future. They have fear because they have not obtained

the assurance of eternal salvation whenever they should enter the life hereafter.

Those who know Christ are not afraid to face the last days of the world. On the contrary, we seek to live worthy of His calling, live in faith, endure our sufferings patiently, anticipate diligently and patiently the return of Christ, and rests upon the conviction that our days are in His hands.

Ps 31:16 "My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me!"

Christians are reminded that Jesus Christ is "the Sovereign Lord, holy, and righteous". The LORD God is omnipotent and is exalted over all the nations. Human beings do not have power whatsoever to harm the believers in Christ, unless God allows it. Thus mayhem can happen only when it is part of His plan and purpose. God is holy and righteous, so His plan would certainly be good for His people. Those who face persecutions can have peace, knowing that God would allow it to happen only if it is good for them. Of such is written in:

Mt 5:10 "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Rev 3:21 "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

So let us always be alert, whether the Lord Jesus would come this year or a thousand years from now, it is not our problem. Our problem is how we prepare ourselves to welcome His arrival by always being adorned in the beauty of holiness. Take heed and do not be careless. Let us always be ready, stand firm and always put on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-18).

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you

the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!