

PREPARATION FOR THE TRIBULATION



AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW

By Daniel Cox

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INTRODUCTION

AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you as though some strange thing happened unto you; But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's suffering, that when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

(1 PETER 4 v 12 - 13)

Much has been written on preparation for the last days, most of it well meaning, but in this writer's view, much of it irrelevant and missing the essential points. All that is written comes from the standpoint of seventy five years on "Planet Earth", almost sixty years as a committed christian and not far off that figure as a "preacher of righteousness." As our title declares, we now present an ALTERNATIVE VIEW OF PREPARATION FOR THE TRIBULATION.

CHAPTER ONE

THE YOM KIPPUR WAR OF 1973

I said I have much goods laid up for many years; God said, thou fool!
(LUKE 12 v 19 – 20)

Your writer had just begun his first really serious study of the Book of Revelation, his conviction that the people of God, both Jew and Gentile, would be present during the tribulation, was hardening to a certainty. Then came war! Where was it? In the Middle East, in Israel itself! This is it, get ready. Food, heating oil and much else was stored. You name it, we stored it. BUT ALL THE PREPARATION WAS FOR ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

DAVID WILKERSONS PROPHECY OF 1973/4

Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it and whosoever shall lose his life shall save it.
(LUKE 17 v 33)

We were living and ministering in Dublin, Ireland at the time. The "last days" were a major theme. Then David's prophecy burst dramatically upon the scene. What a wake up call it was. Great numbers made great PREPARATION, some even to extremes. The prophetic warnings were sound, but as the brother himself conceded, the suggested timing was not. So, yet again, ALL THE PREPARATION WAS FOR ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

**A GRAND TOUR OF AN A-BOMB
SHELTER – WOW!
AGAIN IN THE 1970s**

The horse (and much besides) is prepared against the day of battle but SAFETY is of the Lord.

(PROVERBS 21 v 31)

The scene changes, no longer England, Ireland, Israel, or across the pond in the United States. We were in a large Christian Mission near Hamburg, in what was then Western Germany. The leading elder took us on a tour of the extensive campus, finally bringing us to their "**Pièce de résistance**" in the bowels of a little hill. Yes, it was an incredible construction, built to the highest specification and at great cost. It was an A-Bomb shelter, a Tribulation, Armageddon protection, containing every conceivable PREPARATION. Nearly a generation later we returned. The campus was almost deserted, the leading elder long dead and, yet again, all that costly PREPARATION WAS FOR ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

CHAPTER TWO

LESSONS FROM THESE TRUE STORIES

Ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

(MATTHEW 25 v 13)

So your aged brother, taking all these useless practical PREPARATIONS into account, has reached the only possible conclusion. They serve no useful purpose whatsoever, in fact, far worse, they cloud the vital PREPARATIONS that all "watchful" believers should be making. More on that later.

LESSONS FROM THE BIBLE

THREE YOUNG MEN IN A FIERY FURNACE

Take, my brethren the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord for an example of suffering, affliction and of patience.

(JAMES 5 v 10)

In the UK we were dressed in animal skins and lived in caves in Iron Age seclusion. America and the entire New World did not figure. Babylon was at its zenith, its hanging gardens were one of the "Seven Wonders of the World", its civilisation advanced, no so called democracy, but a benign (if he was in a good mood) dictator. His name, Nebuchadnezzar.

The story we are about to recount in précised form is found in *DANIEL CHAPTER THREE*. Do read the whole story. This Nebuchadnezzar built a huge statue of gold which all had to worship. The devil almost always uses music to mask or enhance his deceptions. He knows all the gimmicks and uses hypnotic powers to seduce, beguile

and bewitch the hearers, for was he not the first music/worship leader in heaven before his fall. Here was no exception. When the music started, everyone, yes, everyone, had to bow and worship before the golden idol image, any non-conformists had an awful fate for they were to be cast into a fiery furnace. What a sight! Multitudes on their faces with but three exceptions, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo. They were on their last chance, their final warning, which was simple. Bow or burn. We may perish they said, or God may deliver us, whatever, we will not bow! The furnace was stoked to seven times hotter. Shadrach, Meshech and Abednigo were consigned to the flames, so hot that the "throwers in" perished. Not a hair of our three was singed, not a whiff of flame and they walked in the flame with loosened bonds and accompanied by the Son of God. Surely a perfect pre-cursor of when Antichrist rules the world and demands that all in that world worship his idol image. In this instance, OUR THREE WERE DELIVERED.

LESSONS FROM (CHURCH) HISTORY

THREE OLD MEN IN A FIERY FURNACE

*But he knoweth the way that I take; when he hath tried me I shall come forth as gold.
(JOB 23 v 10)*

*Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life.
(REVELATION 2 v 10)*

It was the height of the reformation and the persecutions of the counter reformation were in full swing with imprisonments and even martyrdom for the Reformers the order of the day. There were three high ranking British churchmen who had

espoused the Reformation cause. They had been tried and sentenced to be burnt at the stake, their own "fiery furnace". May we suggest that our readers use their search engine to find their glorious stories which will stir even the hardest heart. Their names were Archbishop Cramner and Bishops Ridley and Latimer. Their struggles, as they faced the fearsome stake, are well documented as is their heroic end, and forms one of the most glorious chapters of all church history. Hugh Latimer's moving last words, "Be of good cheer Master Ridley and play the man for we shall this day light such a candle in England as I trust by God's grace shall never be put out." And, of course, it never was.

Too late for *HEBREW'S CHAPTER ELEVEN*, but so worthy of it, as they were true heroes of faith. Humanly viewed, they were not delivered from the flame, but their spiritual triumph was equally glorious to that of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo. Another glimpse of what will be when Antichrist rules the world. OUR THREE SEALED THEIR TESTIMONY WITH THEIR BLOOD.

More than forty years ago, your writer stood at the Martyrs Memorial in Oxford, England, dedicated to those three precious brothers and close to the hallowed spot of their glorious triumph of faith, and dedicated himself, to God and for whatever He had in store. Quite recently, four children and nine grandchildren later, my beloved wife and I stood at the same hallowed spot and, with tears, made a similar surrender and dedication. May we together say, "YES LORD WHATEVER THE COST."

CHAPTER THREE

TRIBULATION POSSIBILITIES

Some will experience sword, flame, captivity and spoil...

(from REVELATION 13 v 7 – 10)

The biblical accounts of the tribulation experiences make it incontrovertibly clear that there are a number of widely divergent situations that will be experienced by the saints of God during the tribulation rightly termed "the wrath of Satan". Some of them are now presented to our readers. All the scriptures are "end time". In the description of the events taking place at the zenith of Antichrist's power, *REVELATION 13*, we learn that his power is universal. Only those who have their names in the Lamb's Book of Life will both discern and resist him. Then is mentioned captivity, martyrdom and that the saints need both patience and faith. *DANIEL 11 v 33* tells us that those of us who have discernment (a vital gift of the Spirit, do pray for it) will be teachers and instructors, yet they will experience and fall by sword, by flame, by captivity and spoil many days (certainly at least 1260 days). By contrast in *REVELATION 12 v 14*. The woman that brought forth the man child is hidden in the wilderness and both hidden and nourished for times, time and half a time, a biblical three and one half years.

CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS FROM TRIBULATION POSSIBILITIES

Some will be hidden by God and nourished by him

(from Revelation 12 v 14).

1. Almost all who have written about the preparation for the tribulation have

missed the essential point – there will be no humanly devised hiding place.

2. The storing up of commodities etc., would be totally futile in mark of the beast and 666 times. Never forget Elijah's ravens are still on constant standby.
3. In the time of tribulation some will be delivered, some will be nourished, some will be hidden and this preparation is already planned by an all seeing, all knowing Divine hand.
4. In the time of tribulation others will experience captivity, spoil, flame and sword. They likewise are known in heaven already and the grace and preparation is similarly in hand. Never forget that amid their fiery trial, they will experience like Shadrech, Meshach and Abednigo, freedom from bondage and will walk hand in hand with the Son of God as have all tribulation sufferers all through the church age from the time of Stephen our first tribulation saint.
5. Secret hideaways. A-Bomb shelters are useless. Their locations would be known before they are completed by a network so sophisticated and supernatural from which there would be no secrets and would make our current all invasive surveillance look utterly amateurish. Finally, in the light of all this and more, surely it is best to let the Head of the Church decide our future and leave all to him.

CHAPTER FOUR

NOW WE COME TO THE VITAL PREPARATIONS

Laying up in store a good foundation for the time to come.

(1 TIMOTHY 6 v 19)

PREPARATION NUMBER ONE; DISCERN THE LITTLE LIES NOW

Deceivableness of unrighteousness has already blinded the eyes of them that perish.

(2 THESSALONIANS 2 v 10)

The Antichrist's coming is with all power and signs and lying wonders. Why? Because it is after the working of Satan. However, the lying wonders, deceiving doctrines of demons are with us now in mind boggling abundance. If we do not discern these little, lesser lies which are being foisted upon both world and church now, how can we hope to discern the big lie, which is "Antichrist is God, worship only him", when that appears with all Antichrist's miracles, abetted by the False Prophets wonder working power. Is it not true that the vast majority of the visible church have blinded eyes now, having been seduced, bewitched and beguiled by Satan already?

PREPARATION NUMBER TWO; WE MUST WARN THE GENERATION TO COME

Now also when I am old and grey headed forsake me not until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation and thy power to everyone that is to come.

(PSALM 71 v 18)

We must warn the current generation which, in the decadent West, have known little of war and deprivation, keeping in mind that this generation, which is likely to be the terminal generation, of the awesome awful days ahead when Antichrist reigns, not forgetting the days of the BABYLON WHORE who will bring him to power. The preacher who warns of the prophetic tribulation truths will not be popular, in fact the opposite because all hell and its allies in the church and pews will be let loose against him, but HEAVEN'S smile will be on him. You can take your pick, I know where my name is down!

**PREPARATION NUMBER THREE;
CALL ON ALL CHURCHES TO AWAKE!**

*Most in (for Sardis read most churches) have defiled their garments and they will not walk with Me in white.
(from REVELATION 3 v 1 - 6)*

*Further you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked and I will spue you out of my mouth.
(from REVELATION 3 v 14 - 20)*

The Lord Jesus is coming and soon. The midnight cry is beginning. Because of the proximity of both Comings, first of the Antichrist and then the Lord Jesus, no generation, young and old alike, should be more ready, yet in truth no generation is less so. Imagine if letters like those just cited, dropped on to the doormat of your church. But, is it not so, that the vast majority of christendom and its churches are similar, if not, worse? Never has the need for those few faithful men and women of discernment to raise their voices. So with the apostles of old we cannot but speak of the things we have seen and heard and must not, must not be disobedient to the heavenly vision.

PREPARATION NUMBER FOUR; FEED UPON THE WORD OF GOD

Study to show thyself approved unto God...rightly dividing the word of truth.

(2 TIMOTHY 2 v 15)

Further, the holy scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation.

(2 TIMOTHY 3 v 15)

One last challenge. Soon your writer friend will be celebrating his diamond jubilee of sixty years of walking with the Lord. What changes have been witnessed through that long christian life. Few christians feed upon the Word of God on a daily basis. So little ministry is bible based today, in fact few even take their bibles to church, either out of apathy or because the bible is irrelevant as what is offered from the pulpit in the name of the Word of God is but pap and fluff. Perhaps even worse, false doctrines of demons are presented and Torontoesque ministries still abound.

So, please dear reader or hearer feed on the Word of God everyday of your life. Hide the word of God in your heart. Amos said the day will come when there will be a famine, not for bread, but for hearing the words of the Lord. That day has come. Make sure you have a good translation. We love and use the King James Authorised Version, although, not "King James only," we recommend that version. Establish a regular reading pattern of Old and New Testament everyday. In our retirement the Old Testament is read through twice every year. The Psalms and New Testament read through four times in the same period and the Book of Revelation is feasted upon twenty times each year. It is a diet of the bread of life that is recommended. Even amid the busiest life, time can be found.

CONCLUSION

One last scripture, (well nearly).

And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

REVELATION 14 v 9 – 11

If we could prevent just one soul suffering that awful fate through our warnings and admonitions, would it not be worth it, whatever price one had to pay. So, as I bid you all a fond adieu, *Keep your garments unspotted from the world, keep your lamps trimmed and full of the oil of the Holy Ghost, be as those blessed servants whom when the Lord comes shall find watching and study, study, study to show thyself approved unto God, and when our beloved Lord Jesus comes you will hear those glorious words. WELL DONE THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT, ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD.*

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