

Perspective

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December 04, 2025

There Is a Way of Escape

The book of Revelation describes graphic frightening events which bring about the end of this age. It will be a time of catastrophic upheaval in the world with massive earthquakes, widespread famines, and deadly epidemics, in addition to wars with colossal nuclear exchanges between nations. The book describes a series of catastrophic events, such as the opening of the seven seals and the sounding of the seven trumpets and the pouring out of the seven bowls (Revelation 6; 8:6-9:21; 16:1-21). These events include wars, famines, plagues, earthquakes, and unprecedented disturbances in the sun and moon. Luke 21:26 says, men's hearts will fail them from fear, *"and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken."* The world is on the cusp of this coming time of doom and destruction. God will protect His people during the Great Tribulation, but how can we be of those who escape?

"Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction

There is a lot of talk about peace nowadays. President Donald Trump is in the forefront of a number of theaters of war where peace is much needed. President Trump hosted the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia at the White House in August of this year for what he called a "historic peace summit." The meeting culminated in a peace agreement between the two long-term enemies. In another case, after bitter battles killed dozens and displaced more than 260,000 people, according to the AP; "Donald Trump helped broker a peace deal between Thailand and Cambodia." In June, 2025, leaders from Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo signed a U.S.-brokered peace agreement to end their protracted conflict. India and Pakistan have had major clashes over Kashmir this year; Trump announced a ceasefire in May between the two countries. Efforts are underway to end the war between Russia and Ukraine, as well as the war between Hamas and Israel. President Trump was very instrumental in securing a deal to bring about an Israel-Hamas ceasefire in Gaza with a lot of help from U.S. Arab and Muslim allies. Everyone is talking peace, peace, but will it last?

Wars have a way of drastically changing a countries' way life almost overnight. The attack on the New York World Trade Center dubbed, "911," is a case in point of how quickly a nation can change in so many ways. 911 marks the time when the war on terrorism really began. It was a time when the Western World suddenly became more security conscious. TSA was born as a result of 911, and soon after we were taking off our shoes and going through security lines, placing computers and metal objects in trays, and walking through x-ray machines to insure we weren't packing heat.

We are in a time when peace is in the air more than ever. However, I Thessalonians 5:3 warns us: *"For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape."*

Despite all the talk of peace, the world is still a mighty dangerous place, and saber rattling still persists. National and military leaders know exactly what the next war will be like. They know trained soldiers sit at the controls of destructive nuclear missiles capable of blotting out all life in minutes. Life on Earth would be reset back to the stone age.

The famous theoretical physicist, Albert Einstein, stated, "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." Actually, Einstein is wrong. After the next world war, no one would survive unless Jesus returned to intervene to stop man from blotting all life off the planet (Matthew 24:22).

How can you escape?

Jesus gives the answer in Luke 21:36 *"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

Carefully note, Jesus said watch and pray always. Pray daily without ceasing. Have faith in God, trusting what He has said, always overcoming our sins and remembering we need God's grace made possible by Christ's sacrifice, and in so doing we may be *"accounted worthy."*

“Watch,” taken in context, means we watch first our spiritual condition, and secondarily, world conditions so we know the times. We pray daily as Jesus taught His disciples in Matthew 6:5-15. Additionally, within our daily prayer, we pray we are protected from the trials and temptations which come in our life. If we do that, with the right attitude faithfully, then with God’s mercy, we will be accounted worthy to escape to safety. It is an error to think Christ was saying our prayers should focus entirely on escaping.

Why some may not escape the Great Tribulation?

Many are too fixated on escaping to a place of safety, and not the return of Christ and the kingdom. As a consequence, some may not escape. In Deuteronomy 28:47-48, there is a revealing prophecy about the coming captivity which immediately follows the Churches’ escape into the wilderness: *“Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.”*

So, here is a major reason why some of God's people may not be protected; they are not serving God with *“joy and gladness of heart.”* God has blessed us more than any other people in history, but do we truly praise our Father for it? A lack of thankfulness to God for His grace and the bountiful blessings, both spiritual and physical, He has mercifully bestowed upon us, will cause some not to escape to safety.

The burden of our afflictions is light compared to the tremendous glory that God will grant us in the kingdom (II Corinthians 4:17). The time will come when Satan will be so agitated in the Great Tribulation, and the trials of believers will increase much and without God’s protection, not one saint would survive (Matthew 24:21-22).

Woman flies to her place

The book of Revelation speaks of a war when Satan and his angels and Michael and his angels fought, and Michael prevailed over the Devil. Satan and his angels were kicked out of heaven and cast back down to the Earth (Revelation 12:9). Then it says in verse 12, *“Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”*

It is at this time in Revelation 12:14, the saints of the church are miraculously rescued, *“But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.”*

“The woman” is symbolic of the church, and she will *“fly into the wilderness to her place.”* The church is nourished or fed for a time, times, and half a time (3½ times). The phrase “time, times, and half a time” is generally understood to represent a period of three and a half years. Revelation 13:5 states it as forty-two months.

So, God allows the woman to escape to her place from the bitter vitriol of the serpent, the Devil, to be out of his presence and out of his reach. Satan strives to destroy the church by spewing a flood out of his mouth to carry the woman away, but God thwarts the Devil’s every effort, swallowing up the flood (Daniel 11:22).

This angers Satan even more: *“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”*

Who are, *“the rest of her offspring”* who keep God’s commandments and have the testimony of Christ? Note, they keep the commands of God; they are not like the churches of this world, and they know what the true gospel is--- the worldly churches do not. Why then do they not flee with the saints of the church (Mark 1:14-15)?

There are a number of reasons, but critical is some do not have the faith and do not fully trust in God. Also, there is a prophesied martyrdom of believers. They are slain by beheading for their belief in the word of God and their testimony (Revelation 6:9; 20:4). Perhaps, they must lose their heads as proof of their conviction, because they did not use their minds wisely to have complete faith and trust in God’s promises.

These believers will have to prove themselves faithful unto death as they reject the Antichrist, keep God’s commandments, and bear witness to the true gospel. This time of persecution is also predicted in Daniel 7:25; as the *“little horn”* on the beast will make war against the saints, and prevail over them (Daniel 7:21).

There is a way to escape the great cataclysmic events of the future, but our faith must always be placed entirely on God. King David wisely encourages us: *“Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.”* (Psalm 4:5). Will you be among those who will be protected and stand before Christ at His coming?