

And the Door Was Shut
(Matt.25; Mark 13:34-37)

But on that day or that hour not a person knows, not even the angels in heaven, not the Son, but only the Father; be on your **guard and watch and pray**; for you do not know when the time will come; it is like a man going on a journey; when he leaves home, he puts his servants in charge, each with his particular task, and he gives orders to the doorkeeper to be constantly **alert and on the watch** (Mark 13:32-34). These words of YAHSHUA constitute readiness for His second coming; they do not apply to readiness for tribulation, for there is no way one can prepare for those seven years of tribulation. When we read YAHSHUA'S words of warnings nowhere do we find warnings of preparation for the tribulation. If you will find yourself being left behind, you will find out that there was no way you could have prepared yourself for those days, for they will be days of darkness, famine, plague, death and war. Instead of investing your money, time and worry on the preparation for the tribulation, get your spiritual house in order to meet the Lord and Savior YAHSHUA. Be like the wise virgins, who prepared themselves spiritually with the presence of the HOLY SPIRIT to meet the Lord. The prophet Joel describes those days as the Day of the Lord; there will be devastation from the Almighty; when the food will be cut off; the seeds will lie shriveled in their casings; the storehouses will be in ruin and the granaries broken down; the animals will groan, the herds of cattle will wander in confusion, since they have no pasture, the flocks of sheep will suffer punishment; even the wild animals will cry to God for the river beds are dried up and fire consumed the pastures of the wilderness (Joel 1: 14-20).

Paul instructed us that the Day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night: **but you, brothers are not in the dark, so that this day would overtake you like a thief; for you are sons of light and sons of the day; we are not on the night or of darkness. Since we are of the day, we must be sober and put the armor of faith and love on our chests, and put on a helmet of the hope of salvation, for God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ**, Who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. The phrase, thief in the night, is used to refer to the Day of Judgment, and not to the rapture of the church. Sons of light and of the day will not face the wrath of God; therefore that day will not overtake them. The believer must go through the "days of Noah" with faith and readiness for the return of Messiah for him/her. YAHSHUA warned us that hard times will come to all and we must not be given to drunkenness and worries of life or that day will come on us unexpectedly; we are to be **alert at all times** praying that we may have the strength to **escape** all that are going to take place and to **stand before the Son of Man** (Luke 21:34-36). Let not our heart be troubled, YAHSHUA said, believe in God, believe also in Me; for in His Father's house there are many dwelling places; He said, I am going away to prepare a place for you; (when) if I go away and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also** (John 14:1-3). The believer has no reason to worry in these hard times, for YAHSHUA has given us His promise and instructed us how to be ready for Him. Our readiness must be to meet Him, not the tribulation.

This is a fact to consider: one cannot prepare for the spiritual event with tangible things. What is flesh is flesh; what is spirit is spirit. At the end of the matter, if you believe what people are telling you and not the Word of God- words of deliverance and salvation, you will find yourself like the foolish virgins with no oil and on the other side of the door knocking, begging to go in, and the response, "I do not know you!" To the churches that have fallen away from the truth, as the church of Sardis, YAHSHUA had these words: you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead; be alert and strengthen what remains, which is about to die, for I have not found your works complete before My God. Remember therefore what you have received and heard; keep it, and repent. But if you are not alert, I will come **like a thief**, and you will have no idea what hour I will come against you (Rev. 3:1-3). YAHSHUA warned that "not everyone who says to Him, Lord, Lord! Will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of His Father in heaven. On that day, He said, many will say to Him, Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name, drive out demons in Your name, and do many miracles in Your name? Then He will announce to them, I never knew you! Depart from Me, you lawbreakers! (Matt. 7:21-23). Many are calling themselves prophets, healers, and even driving out demons in the name of YAHSHUA; many are standing behind a pulpit preaching the Word of God and bringing condemnation to themselves for not being a true believer in Christ; many are carrying on the good works thinking to belong to the kingdom of God. But at that day when we hear the calling to meet the bridegroom, many will be left behind with the door closed at them, because they do not have the HOLY SPIRIT in them. Their works of righteousness are annulled in the presence of God, since they did have a relationship with God; therefore He will say to them: I never knew you, depart from Me! But to the faithful church YAHSHUA says, Because you have kept My command to endure, **I will also keep you from the hour of testing** that is going to come over the whole world to test those who live on the earth. I am coming quickly. Hold on to what you have, so that no one takes your crown (Rev. 3:7-13). Endurance, faithfulness, perseverance, obedience, love are the requirements for readiness to meet the Lord YAHSHUA. Watch that you will not be so consumed with the readiness for the tribulation, to the point of you not being ready to meet the Lord, when He comes to fulfill His promise of deliverance to those who believed His word. In no way shape or form believe that God is so angry with you as a believer, that He will incur His wrath on you with the wicked people. When the heavenly door will be shut, which side of the door will you be on, the inside or the outside?