

Far Be It from You to So Such a Thing (Part 2)
(Genesis 18)

Will You destroy the righteous together with the wicked, asked Abraham to the Lord, when He revealed to him his plan to destroy Gomorrah. Suppose there are in the city fifty righteous; will You destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous in it? He continued asking the same question to the smallest number of ten righteous people found in the city and to all these questions the Lord answered "I will not destroy it for the sake of fifty, forty-five, forty, thirty, twenty and ten". The Lord went His way when He had finished speaking with Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place (Genesis 18: 23-33). When morning came, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, Arise, take your wife and two daughters who are here, lest you be **consumed and swept away in the iniquity and punishment of the city**. But while he lingered, the men (angels) seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, for the Lord was merciful to him; and they brought him forth and set him outside the city and left him there (Genesis 19:15-16). It seems that Lot was having a difficult time leaving that valley that once he had coveted, even in time of its destruction. The angels had to lead them out of the city by the hand; they warned them to hurry or make haste and directed them to escape to the mountains; but Lot, afraid of the destruction, pleaded to let them escape to another city, which he was permitted to do so, under the urgency of the angels, Make haste and take refuge there, **for I cannot do anything until you arrive there** (v.22). Abraham went up early the next morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord, and he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the valley, and saw, and behold, the smoke of the country went up like the smoke of a furnace. When God ravaged and destroyed the cities of the plain **He remembered Abraham, and He sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when He overthrew the cities where Lot lived** (V.27-29). For the sake of Abraham's faith in Him, God saved his nephew and his family from the destruction of those cities.

God is mindful of His promises to His people; He promised Abraham that He would not destroy the city for the sake of even ten people and He did not. He promised to save His bride from the coming tribulation and He will do so; How would He reverse His ways and be contrary to His own character, which denotes Who He is? How would He be inconsistent with the way He judges and incur His wrath on His Bride? How will we be prepared dressed in our fine linen, dazzling and white (God's righteousness imputed to us) for our marriage with our Bridegroom, when we will be found at that time under His wrath?

He has put His seal upon us and has given us His Holy Spirit in our hearts as the security deposit and guarantee (of our salvation) (II Cor. 1:22). The redeemed of the Lord have been washed by His blood, sanctified by His Holy Spirit and we are no longer under the condemnation of God's judgment, be it by means of the tribulation or eternity in hell. When God passed through the land of Egypt bringing His judgment on Egypt smiting their firstborn, He saved Israel's firstborn by the blood of the sacrificial lambs they were to kill that day. They were to mark the posts and lintel with the lamb's blood on the houses in which they were to eat... the blood was to be for a token or sign to them upon the houses where they were. **When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall be upon you to destroy you when I smite the land of Egypt (said the**

Lord) (Exodus 12: 7,13). So it will be for those who are faithful to God, when He punishes the earth with its wicked people, because we are sealed with His redeeming blood and with His Holy Spirit. God's coming wrath will not be against those who love Him; but against the wicked, those who oppose Him. The letter of Jude identifies who these people are: ungodly, (impious and profane), they pervert God's grace (His spiritual blessing and favor) into lawlessness and wantonness and immorality, and disown and deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ, (the Messiah, the Anointed One). Jude said, although the Lord delivered a people out of the land of the Egypt, He subsequently destroyed those who did not believe; [the wicked are sentenced to suffer] just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the adjacent towns – which likewise gave themselves over to impurity and indulged in unnatural vice and sensual perversity; it was to these people, moreover, that Enoch in the seventh [generation] from Adam prophesied when he said, **Behold, the Lord comes with His myriads of holy ones to execute judgment upon all and to convict all the impious (unholy Ones) of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed;** these are devoid of the Holy Spirit and destitute of any higher spiritual life. However to those who love the Lord he said, But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit; guard and keep yourselves in the love of God; **expect and patiently wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto life eternal** (Jude 1).

Many are teaching that we believers are going to face the wrath of God – the tribulation. They use the passage of second letter to the Thessalonians chapter 2: 1-3 to justify their beliefs. The concern of the believers of Thessalonica of chapter two, was that they supposedly had missed the rapture and were in the tribulation, due to some report they had received informing them of that, to which Paul refuted by saying, But relative **to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, (the rapture),** we beg you, brethren, not to allow your minds to be quickly unsettled or disturbed or kept excited or alarmed, whether it be by some revelation of [the] Spirit or by word or by letter from us, to the effect that the **day of the Lord (tribulation) has [already] arrived and is here.** Let no one deceive or beguile you in any way, for the day of the Lord (tribulation) will not come except the apostasy comes first; here the word apostasy or apostasia in Greek is a possible rendering of the word departure [of the church]. The rest of the chapter is contextual with the word departure (v.1-2). The terms, the coming of our Lord and the day of the Lord, are distinct in meaning. They don't mean the same thing. The coming of the Lord is our "gathering together with Him" when He will come in the clouds and we simultaneously will be caught up along with the resurrected believers to meet Him in the air (I Thess. 4:16-17); the day of the Lord is the day of His vengeance, the tribulation, the Jacob's trouble as it is described in Joel 2: 1-2: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the residents of the land tremble, for the Day of the Lord is coming; a **day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and dense overcast, like the dawn spreading over the mountains.** Alas! For that day will be great, **so that none will be like it; it will be the time of Jacob's (Israel's) trouble** (Jer. 30:7a). The Day of the Lord is for the "sons of darkness"; we are the sons of light; we are sons of the day; we do not belong either to the night or to the darkness. Paul said that when people are saying, All is well and secure, and, there is peace and safety, then in a moment unforeseen destruction will come upon **them** (not us), as suddenly as labor pains come upon a woman with child; and **they** (not we) shall by no means escape, for there will be no escape (I Thess. 5: 3-5). This will happen when Israel signs a

contract with the devil (antichrist), breaking their covenant with God. We read in Isaiah 28: 15, 18,19, Because you have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have an agreement – when the overflowing scourge passes through, it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge and in falsehood we have taken shelter. Your covenant with death shall be annulled, (says the Lord) and your agreement with Sheol shall not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, then you will be trodden down by it. As often as it passes through, it will take you; for morning by morning will it pass through, by day and by night. And it will be utter terror merely to hear and comprehend the report and the message of it. This is the time of God’s coming wrath upon the wicked and unrighteous people.

Never have we found in any of the teachings of YAHSHUA or of the disciples, including Paul, a warning for the church to prepare herself for the wrath of God. Instead, Paul says in I Thessalonians 1: 10, And [how you] **look forward to and await the coming of His Son from heaven, Whom He raised from the dead- Jesus, Who personally rescues and delivers us out of and from the wrath which is coming and draws us to Himself.** The apostle Peter wrote, **But we look for new heavens and a new earth according to His promise, in which righteousness is to abide;** so, beloved, since you are **expecting these things, be eager to be found by Him [at His coming] without spot or blemish and at peace** (II Peter 3:13,14). James writes, **So be patient, brethren [as you wait] till the coming of the Lord.** See how the farmer waits expectantly for the precious harvest from the land, he keeps up his patient over it until it receives the early and late rains; so you also must be patient. **Establish you hearts for the coming of the Lord is very near** (James 5:7-8). And how are we to be prepared? Filling our pantries with food, water, digging wells, building storages to keep the extra supplies of food for the Day of the Lord? Absolutely not! We are commended to be spiritually prepared. In submission to our Lord, obeying His word, resisting the devil, love and forgiving one another, as we are also forgiven, loving and forgiving the enemies of our faith, be unceasing in prayer, in gratitude and contentment, not suppressing the Holy Spirit and many more godly ways found in the word of YAHWEH. Our spiritual energy should be applied on being holy as He, Who called us, is holy, not worrying about the future, as if our God was aloof and indifferent to all that is happening. Paul said to the Corinthians, That you are not falling behind or lacking in any special spiritual endowment or Christian grace, **while you wait and watch for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and [His] being visible to all** (I Cor. 1:7).

When the seals were to be opened to introduce the Day of the Lord or the tribulation, John saw a second angel coming up from the east and carrying the seal of the living God. And with a loud voice he called out to the four angels who had been given authority and power to injure earth and sea, saying, **Harm neither the earth nor the sea nor the trees, until we have sealed the bond servants of our God upon their foreheads.** And I heard how many were sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel: there were 144,000 (Rev. 7:2-4). The only righteous people that will be found at that time here on this earth will be those 144,000 chosen by God for a purpose of evangelizing the world. And they will be protected from the wrath of God with His seal on their foreheads. This will not be the time for believers in YAHSHUA to be evangelizing the world. The time for us to do that is now. We are sealed now with His Holy Spirit to guarantee our salvation and deliverance; so He will not incur His wrath on us, just as He will seal His

chosen righteous ones in the tribulation for them not to suffer His wrath, for He is not inconsistent with His nature. YAHSHUA promised the faithful church of Philadelphia, saying, Because you have guarded and kept My word of patient endurance, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which is coming on the whole world to try those who dwell upon the earth (Rev. 3:10); and Paul affirmed to the Thessalonica Church that God had not appointed her to wrath but to salvation through the Lord YAHSHUA the Messiah, Who had died for her, so that whether she will be dead or alive, she might live together with Him and share His life. He told them to comfort and encourage one another with these words – words of the gathering of the church with Him in chapter four of I Thessalonians. What comfort is there in knowing that we are going through the wrath of God? None whatsoever! But the truth is that the church of YAHSHUA – His bride, will not go through it, but will experience His salvation. Let's be comforted with these words.