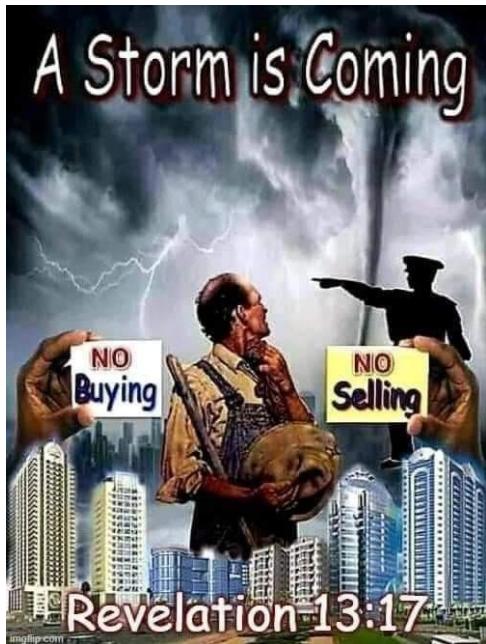


GROWING IN GRACE LETTERS! – Calling saints in Christ, (in our homes and with one another in Church), to walk in the Steps of Jesus! (1 Peter 2:15-25) Edited by James Bell, a servant of Jesus Christ!

1 20 26 V1n37 ‘STORMS!’ — HAVE BEEN, ARE, and ARE COMING! Revelation 13



REALITY: [1] ‘**Storms**’ have been here since the historical moment when Adam and Eve sinned (Genesis 3)! [2] ‘**Storms**’ have continued and are with us today! [3] **ULTIMATELY**, THE ‘**STORMS**’ will **come to a climatic end!**

Over the last 57 years of gospel ministry, I have noticed (at least for the last 50 of those years) that

ALMOST every time there is a serious CRISIS in the world—the prophecy preachers and those who live by their books, will commence a new wave of ALARMS and promises of ESCAPE: **THEY SAY THINGS LIKE:**

“In view of these CURRENT events, the RETURN OF CHRIST MUST BE SOON! LOOK AT ALL THE BAD THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING ... and that will soon happen, ESPECIALLY after the Christians are raptured out!”

HOWEVER, beginning with the First Century Christians; Christians through the centuries; and Christians today, **there have been and are MILLIONS of Christians** who have SUFFERED; and were/are

PERSECUTED; and/or were/are MARTYRED. THIS was, (and IS), all ACCOMPLISHED by the same 'ANTI-CHRIST' SYSTEM spoken of in Revelation 13— just earlier versions!

THE LONG STANDING 'ANTI-CHRIST SYSTEM: Professing Christians, (be *they* those who were deceived by some of the many anti-christs in the Epistle of First John era, (1 John 2:18-19); **or multitudes** deceived by or yielded to anti-christ forces since then) — **THEY WERE ALL FIRST MARKED IN THE SECRETS OF THEIR HEARTS** before they took outward actions which exposed them. Those spoken of in Revelation will FIRST BE 'MARKED' IN their hearts before being marked on their hands or foreheads!

GREAT, DEADLY TRAGEDY:

Many are curious and interested in various end time prophecy theories; and in speculations about NON- REVEALED details about the end time Anti-Christ and the end time Mark of the Beast— while at the same time they are carelessly, blindly ALREADY BEING MARKED DEEP IN THEIR SOULS WITH anti-christ bondages of PORNOGRAPHY; gluttony; hate/bitterness, and/or other forms of LOVELESSNESS, etc.

AND CONSIDER THIS: THE VERY LAST generation of SAINTS IN CHRIST, [Whose NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE OF THE LAMB, Rev. 13:7-10; 15-16], MANY OF WHOM WILL BE martyred at the hands of the final expression of the anti-Christ system— **what these saints WILL suffer is not any different than that which SAINTS IN CHRIST have often suffered from in the past — from Able at the hands of Cain ... to this very hour!** **THE ULTIMATE**

ENDTIME EXPRESSIONS OF THE ANTICHRIST and his crowd ARE NOT THE FIRST to prohibit Christians from buying and selling; or of marking them in some way; and/or torturing and mercilessly killing masses of Christians!

Many anti-christs and The ANTICHRIST:

1. Revelation 14:9–11 reveals that those who accept this mark are identifying themselves with Satan, and rejecting God. (NOTE: Being DECEIVED by master deceivers, they will likely actually believe that they are worshiping JESUS CHRIST!)

[O, BUT WOW ... THAT'S ALSO PRESENT reality in Christendom!]

2. Revelation 20:4, in contrast, explains that true believers are those who have refused this mark, and many will be martyred as a result. **They refuse the mark of the beast because they are MARKED by the indwelling Holy Spirit ... The voice of a false 'shepherd' they will not follow!**

NOTE: That is ALSO the core reality of this very day!

WHAT ABOUT THE EXACT NATURE OF THE MARK OF THE BEAST?

IN ONE SENSE, THE BIBLE itself gives very little detail about the mark of the beast. ... **THUS, we will not speculate. Don't waste your time with those who do speculate.**

RATHER FOCUS ON NOT being MARKED DEEP IN YOUR SOULS with the works of the flesh, Galatians 5:19-21; AND instead, FOCUS on overflowing with the fruit of the Holy Spirit, Galatians 5:22-25!

MOREOVER, we can be sure,

**1. THAT NO ONE whose name is in the LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE, REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS—
NONE OF THESE WILL TAKE THE MARK OF THE BEAST BY ACCIDENT or on purpose! AND THE SAME IS TRUE TODAY!**

2. OTHER verses make it clear that the LITERAL act of taking the mark of the beast is intimately connected to GIVING worship and loyalty to the Antichrist.

[WAKE UP! IF YOU ARE LOYAL TO THE LITTLE LETTER 'antichrists' ... or the end time ULTIMATE EVIL ONE!] — EITHER WAY, ONLY THE WRATH OF GOD AWAITS SUCH ONES ... FOR ALL ETERNITY!

3. AND THOSE whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life ... LOVE JESUS, because HE FIRST LOVED THEM; and they will NOT DENY THEIR LORD and SAVIOUR!

REMEMBER... TODAY AS ALWAYS:

THE ULTIMATE ISSUE IS— WHO do I worship?

KNOW THIS: THOSE REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, FOLLOW THE LAMB; AND HE LOSES NONE OF HIS SHEEP! **SO,**

CHEER UP YE SAINTS OF GOD! STAY CLOSE TO THE LAMB; AND WORRY ABOUT NOTHING!

AND, REMEMBER: **Revelation 13** is not the last chapter! YES, FOR THE LAST 2000 YEARS CHRISTIANS HAVE EXPERIENCED, PERSECUTION, TRIBULATION, and MARTYRDOM.

Many of them FELT LIKE they were living in the climatic fulfillment of THE LAST DAYS and of Revelation 13 ... HOWEVER, AS THOSE WHO first read the REVELATION ... and AS multitudes of suffering saints who have read it since HAVE discovered: **Revelation 14 and 15** finishes what **Revelation 13** stated!!

1. Revelation 13— suffering, hated, persecuted, martyred saints of the last 2000 years have looked utterly FOOLISH... (EVEN AS present and future ones will!) **HOWEVER,**

2. Revelation 14 and 15 reveal that those who looked so smart and wise as they took the MARK of the beast; and as they got their stomachs filled — they are now (OR will be) TORMENTED FOREVER **AS they 'drink of the wine of the wrath of God;** THEY are/WILL BE tormented in fire and brimstone, in the presence of the LAMB— forever, and forever! **PLEASE UNDERSTAND:**

THOSE, WHO ARE RIGHT NOW BEING MARKED WITH THE 'PRESENT EDITION' OF THE ANTI-CHRIST SYSTEM — OFTEN LOOK SO SMART!! BUT JUDGMENT IS COMING!

3. AND AT THE SAME TIME, THOSE WHO FOLLOWED JESUS... EVEN TO DEATH— are for eternity WITH THE LORD ... worshiping ... serving ... having NO REGRETS!

A BLESSED HISTORICAL ILLUSTRATION: WRITTEN IN 1974; 52 YEARS AGO: Most CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA have little knowledge of what is already going on across the world. I have been in countries where the saints are already suffering terrible persecution. *In China, the Christians were told, "Don't worry, before the tribulation comes you will be translated - raptured."* Then came a terrible persecution. **Millions of Christians were tortured to death.** Later I heard a Pastor from China say, sadly,

"We have failed. We should have made the people strong for persecution rather than telling them Jesus would come first. Tell the people how to be strong in times of persecution, how to stand when the tribulation comes – to stand and not faint."

In America, (IN 1974) the churches sing, "Let the congregation escape tribulation!", but This last year alone **(1973) more than two hundred thousand Christians were martyred in Africa.**

Several years ago, I was in Africa in a nation where a new government had come into power. The first night I was there some of the Christians were commanded to come to the

police station to register. When they arrived, they were arrested and that same night they were executed. **The next day** the same thing happened with other Christians. **The third day** it was the same. All the Christians in the district were being systematically murdered. **The fourth day I was to speak in a little church.** The people came, but they were filled with fear and tension. All during the service they were looking at each other, their eyes asking, "Will this one I am sitting beside be the next one killed? Will I be the next one?" The room was hot and stuffy with insects that came through the screenless windows and swirled around the naked bulbs over the bare wooden benches.

I told them a story out of my childhood. **"When I was a little girl, I said, "I went to my father and said, "Daddy, I am afraid that I will never be strong enough to be a martyr for Jesus Christ."** "Tell me," said Father, "When you take a train trip to Amsterdam, when do I give you the money for the ticket? Three weeks before?" "No, Daddy, you give me the money for the ticket just before we get on the train." **"That is right," my father said,** "and so it is with God's strength. Our Father in Heaven knows when you will need the strength to be a martyr for Jesus Christ. **JESUS will supply all you need – just in time!"**

My African friends were nodding and smiling. Suddenly a spirit of joy descended upon that church and the people began singing, **"In the sweet, by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore."**

Later that week, half the congregation of that church was executed. I heard later that the other half was killed some months ago.

But I must tell you something. I was so happy that the Lord used me to encourage these people, for unlike many of their leaders, I had the word of God. ***I had been to the Bible and discovered that Jesus said He had not only overcome the world, but to all those who remained faithful to the end, He would give a crown of life— Revelation 2:10!***

For seventy-six years I have known the Lord Jesus and not once has He ever left me, or let me down. Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him, for ***I know that to all who overcome, He shall give the crown of life! Hallelujah!*** - (Edited from Corrie Ten Boom, 1974)

In recent weeks, AT SOUTHSIDE, Pastor Jaden Allen, in leading us through the Gospel According to LUKE, has preached several important messages from Luke 21. (Take advantage of our website and go through them again!)

In last Sunday's message, Pastor Jaden included this:

“A little while ago I was studying a man who looked at the recent pandemic; the resulting fallout in the economy; collapsing governments and wars all over the world— **his conclusion was that the Lord would likely return within his lifetime, or certainly within the generation to follow.**

That man was John Wycliff in the 1300's.

Wycliffe lived through the Black Death when approximately 1/3 of Europe's population died within just a few years. He lived through the

instability and uncertainty which followed that terrible plague. He truly believed that it was the beginning of the end.

And, praise God, when he looked at the external circumstances of the world he had the correct internal response.

He preached the gospel with fervency and zeal, believing the time was short. He did all he could to make the Word of God accessible to everyone.

Today John Wycliff is remembered as the “Morning Star of the Reformation,” because of the influence he had on later reformers.”

APPLICATION FOR US:

“Don’t be turned aside or discouraged by what is going on in the world. Take heed to yourself, that you walk in Gospel obedience. **If you do this, you will be prepared to meet the Lord, whether you meet Him in the air or meet Him when you pass in death from this life into eternity!"**

Grace to all in Christ!

James Bell / www.southsidegallatin.org

SUNDAY SERVICES: JANUARY, 2026- 25th

[1] Sunday School at 9:30am: Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes. **[2] WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

[3] January 25, 5pm Church-wide EVENING WORSHIP (Adam Trout, preaching)

EVERY SATURDAY* 8:00 AM,** — Men's Bible Study! (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!) **January 24 / Romans 5:12-21**

**NEXT Ladies Bible Study, 2/3/26 @ 11:00 AM –
Read Acts 3**

*****TUESDAYS: LADIES PRAYER MEETING @ 10:00am**

Young Adults ... Tuesdays at 7:15pm at Jaden and Rhi's home!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 6:30pm,

MEN'S Prayer Service // YOUNG FAMILIES SERVICE

LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD by MAIL or by ONLINE:

BY MAIL (checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066 /

TO GIVE via ONLINE GIVING:

<https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>