

## As a Nurse Cherisheth Her Children

1 Thessalonians 2:7 – 13

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~ There is so much confusion in the area of prophecy that it's a wonder anyone really understands how to apply it. Frankly, I don't see it being applied to hearts and lives of those in our modern day churches. Most contemporary teaching of prophecy is *wildly* off base; with no sound premise in or concurrence with the Word of God. But that doesn't slow the prophecy-monger down. It will help us in our lives if we can understand what we're looking at in the Bible regarding prophecy, and where and how the church fits into God's prophetic blueprint, in relation to our present evil world at large. Candidly, I can tell almost everything about one's life just by the eschatological theory they subscribe to. Since we have just studied Isaiah completely in our Spiritual Safari, I'll not be tedious. Let's just say we don't despair because God didn't cast off the nation Israel. They had failed completely when God did a new thing in Israel; remember, Isaiah said that God said, *"...I have spread out My hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts...."* God then began to form a people out of both Jew and Gentile for His Name. That entity would later come to be called the church; after the Day of Pentecost, when Simon Peter gave his sermon, and the Spirit of God indwelt believers. Of course, a *"church"* can be any body of like-minded people gathered for a specific cause....

***7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:***

~ So, the men that the Lord was sending into the world at the time in which we are studying formed a whole new witness – the church – the Body of Christ. This epistle reveals how Paul moved and lived among these people. He was like a nursing mother to them. It could also be an allegory of a nursing bird. Either way, it was a genuine love for others. That's how Christ manifests himself in the world today. He takes us under His wings. The true and living church is comprised of all believers everywhere who have truly trusted Christ as their Savior and who obey His commandments; irrespective of the physical location or the organization they represent, or

other affiliations in which they function. There are three basic subgroups that stem from believers and unbelievers which constitute the human family: the Jew, the Gentile and the church of God. Give none offense. That's first Corinthians chapter ten verse thirty-two, by the way.

Paul was teaching that wrath on this world begins when the first seal is opened in Revelation chapter six; and it is the Lamb of God — the Lord Jesus Christ — opening the seals. The church — the body of Christ — isn't appointed to wrath. To say Christ will have wrath on His Own body is to be highly confused. He won't be dying on the cross again. The church is not Israel; and the final seven years - called the Great Tribulation period - is a completion of the seventy weeks prophecy given to Daniel in Daniel chapter nine; which involves Israel - not the church.

God set Israel aside in the book of Acts, and picked up the church as His representative — His body — in the world. When the age of grace is over, God will remove the church and pick Israel back up to begin the final seven years of His dealings with them. Also, the twenty-four Elders in Revelation chapters four and five reveal that they are wearing white raiment; which is the robe of righteousness the church receives for being in Christ. The elders are wearing crowns, too. Only one group of people in the entire Word of God is promised crowns, and that is the church. Also, Revelation chapter four specifically states that the elders are sitting on seats. In Ephesians chapter two, we learn we have been raised to *SIT* together with Christ in Heavenly places. Finally, they praise the Lord Jesus for redeeming them with His blood — all of which only fits the church; as angels are not redeemed.

The twenty-four elders absolutely and unmistakably represent the church in Revelation. They are seen in Heaven with Christ before the first seal is opened beginning the Great Tribulation period. In other words: **RAPTURED** before the Tribulation Period begins. Paul said, "*... much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him*" — Romans chapter five verse nine. The Great Tribulation period is specifically called that "*great day of wrath*" by *all* of the prophets. That's also in Revelation chapter six verse seventeen. The serious student of Scripture will embrace no other theory of eschatology aside from the Futurist Theory;

as none of the other three theories - Preterist, Historical or Historical-Spiritual - can even be remotely supported with Scripture.

We must keep looking for the glorious appearing of our Blessed Hope - our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - as the Word of God tells us to; you'll find that much more edifying in your lives than all the end-time and Antichrist stuff. You might even win a few souls for Him if you do it His way. The organized church of the world – which is really just Baal worship – has almost entirely been given over to apostasy today. So, before the Great Tribulation period begins on earth, the true church will be called up to meet the Lord in the air. We will be changed to be like Him – perfect – and then go to rule and reign with Him forever in eternity. Christians have no fear of going through this dreadful period that is truly terrifying; as we just got a glimpse of in Isaiah on this safari. We'll get to the Book of Jude and Revelation soon enough; and it will be almost traumatizing. Don't run too far ahead. I don't want to lose you now.

All of the groups that play down and deny the rapture always play up the worthiness of the church. Well, the church is not worthy to go be with Christ - but that's what's going to happen. Jesus said He went to prepare a place for us and that He was coming again to receive us unto Himself. That hasn't happened yet or *YOU* missed it. You either believe that or you don't, my friends. A genuine believer is to witness to the world. The world is an enemy of the true believer and the world hates Christ. Jesus said, *"if the world hate you ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world the world would love its own. But because you are not of the world as I have chosen you out of the world, therefore, the world hateth you."* If the world loves you for what you do in the world, then you are not a child of God – because that would be impossible. That means *YOU* are part of the apostate church that will enter the Great Tribulation period worshipping antichrist. You are not of the true and living church. Here's something else Jesus said, *"love not the world."*

This isn't talking about people; no, this speaks of the world system with its methods and manners and all order of philosophy and materialism associated with an abjectly wrong theoretical thinking-pattern; one which lead lives into disaster - but is canned and sold as *"higher understanding"*

for an exorbitant price at university. Don't kid yourself, kids – this safari is a little smarter than you might like to think it is. The church picked up the idea of building a kingdom here on earth, so it had to put down its true missionary commission of witnessing the Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ Jesus to the world. You cannot have both. There is *NO WAY* to have both. Today, the so-called Judo-Christian ethic has been repudiated, rejected, and renounced by the world that condemns it on all levels. Honestly, I can't blame them. So, we look for our Blessed Hope and, in the meantime, we witness to the world as best we can by allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us in the lives of others....

***8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.***

***9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.***

~ So, our Spiritual Safari through the entire Word of God ends this leg of our expedition with Paul laboring night and day for the cause of Christ Jesus. He loved his churches and the work he did was motivated by love. He wasn't a paid preacher or a hired hand. There was an extremely careful discharge of his duties to God. That's truly holy living. That brought about the natural carefulness in Paul's duty to these churches. See, I get a little tired of all the so-called dedicated Christians around this forum on which I teach. You'll have to be watching God to know what's going on. We don't just work when the boss is around – we work all the time – because God's always around. What does your teacher think about you? What does your boss think about you? Are you lazy? If you are, then you aren't dedicated to anything. And we have too much sissy preaching today. We have way too many sermonettes, given by preacherettes, to Christianettes. It's a turn-off because there is no Gospel in it. That makes for a tastelessly bland temporary urgency. A mild-mannered man getting up before a group of mild-mannered people and urging them to be milder-mannered is ridiculous, my beloved. I think I'll just leave it at that, because I'm not criticizing any particular person. It's a general statement that holds true

across the board with little exception. Paul lived every moment justly and holily in the presence of God, my friends. I am giving these reports in the power of the Holy Spirit; I hope you are receiving them in that power. A holy life counts for something – something *BIG* to the Lord – you may be sure....

***10 Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:***

***11 As ye know how we exhorted and persuaded and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,***

***12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.***

***13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe ~***

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