

8. "WE'RE OUTA HERE"

A DAMAGING DELUSION

In all our books and booklets, nothing quite like the following has ever been presented. The expression, "WE'RE OUTA HERE", was presented on a pre-tribulation, pre-trouble rapture, American website. Immediately the writer got into the meat of his "damaging delusion" which was that, at the first sign of either trouble or persecution (obviously in the Western World as in many other parts of the world the Church is a suffering persecuted entity), all believers would be "whisked away" out of all trouble, pressure and persecution. This suggestion is utterly contrary to both scripture and all of Church history. Never mind the nonsense offered by the false spirit of the "WE'RE OUTA HERE" practitioners, this is what the Bible says:

ACTS 14 v 22

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

One of the main reasons for this website is to plead for reality in relation to what lies ahead for believers as we move towards the beginning of sorrows, as foretold by our beloved Lord Jesus. We are warned to expect wars, rumours of wars, earthquakes, famines, pestilences and other natural disasters. Do compare this with the gallop of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse in REVELATION 6 v 1 - 8. We are told to "see that we are not troubled" by these events as they increase in intensity. Surely we must do all within our power to join with the Lord Jesus and the Apostle John, in issuing these warnings, and prepare the coming generation to put their roots down deep so the cold North wind of adversity leaves them firm and unmoved.

ANOTHER SOLEMN ASPECT

There is another solemn aspect that we feel we must mention, even though so rarely considered. We sincerely believe that the substance of what has been presented in the seven previous topics is biblically correct. This will mean that the church will live through the period we know as "The Great Tribulation". It follows that there is a vital service for the true believers to perform in those desperate days. Although it may well be costly, what an honour to be a "warning watchman", when almost the whole world will be flocking to take the "Mark of the Beast", who is the Antichrist. Do please take time to read and ponder upon the scriptures we now present.

WHAT A DESPERATE CHOICE

REVELATION 13 v 16 - 18

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."

What a choice! We have four dear children and their spouses. We have eight beloved grandchildren. We have many dear young friends who may well be presented with that choice of whether to take the "Mark of the Beast" or make a most costly resistance. Even

the "WE'RE OUTA HERE" deceived and deceivers accept that any rapture will only involve true believers. There are multitudes like King Agrippa who said to Paul, "*almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian*". If I was alive and could persuade just one soul to true faith and to resist the demand to take Antichrist's mark, it would be worth "whatever the cost". Just read and ponder upon the desperate end of those who do succumb to the almost irresistible pressure to comply to the demands of Antichrist and his False Prophet and take the 666 mark, the passport to survival. Now the solemn scripture for you to ponder:

REVELATION 14 v 9 - 11

And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, if any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the lamb:

And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

NOT HUMAN COURAGE BUT DIVINE GRACE

Your writer is not, by any means, a brave man, but would rather remain on earth if but one soul could be saved from such an awful fate, whatever exit strategies might be on offer. Something is known of the pressures that come when the norms of society begin to breakdown, having been chased by robbers on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in Burundi (the whole story is well worth telling sometime), having lived through a civil war in Malawi, seeing smoke rising from gutted buildings where our pastoral seminar was to be held and watching tracer bullets weaving patterns in the sky overhead while we tried to dine. A nightly experience, while we lodged in the no-mans-land between Kenya and Tanzania, was to hear gunfire as the rampant smugglers plied their trade. Perhaps the most poignant and unforgettable experience was in Rwanda and might just convince our readers that there is nothing naïve or cavalier about what we share.

EXPERIENCES OF THE RWANDA GENOCIDE

It was just another seminar like scores of others taken in East and Central Africa, although never before in Rwanda. Perhaps fifty or so Pastors and Elders present, more of them Tutsi than Hutu, but a mix of both tribes. My colleague and I were staying in a very African guest house cum small hotel and expected very meagre fare! To our surprise and delight the African chef had been trained by a French master chef and we ate like kings for the entire week. The seminar was a blessed one. We were soon home with another itinerary completed. Unbelievably, news began first to trickle and then explode upon the headlines of every form of media presentation. Genocide, not unknown in Rwanda, but never anything like this, caused the death of hundreds of thousands of Rwandans, mostly Tutsi but some Hutus who refused to be a part of the slaughter, some even endeavouring to protect their brother countrymen perished in the indiscriminate massacres.

HOW HAD OUR PASTOR BRETHERN FARED?

Our hearts ached and we could only conjecture over the fate of our brothers from the seminar. As soon as the worst of the carnage was over, we began to make plans to bring what comfort and succour we could to our brethren beloved.

THE JOURNEY TO KIGALI, RWANDA

Obviously the airports were fast shut. The only way we could gain access to Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, was by a tortuous overland journey from Kampala, the capital of Uganda. It was an all-day affair on a packed ancient minibus. We were the only whites onboard and mercifully no-one guessed that there were thousands of dollars and pounds sterling secreted in money belts around our waists. We were just about the first non military, non N.G.O's to arrive. What horrors awaited us. Almost all the Tutsi element of the seminar had perished. Amazingly, it would not be overstated to say miraculously, we made contact with one Amos Mtanbara, who had organised our seminar. When the machete wielding mob broke into his house, Amos, his wife and their children scattered in all directions. Amazingly, weeks later, they managed to find each other and all had survived. He took us to a huge nearby Methodist Church. It had been the scene of one of the worst of all the atrocities. Six thousand or so Tutsi had fled to the church and its grounds, for what should have been sanctuary. There was a Hutu bishop who, far from using his influence to protect, just walked away and the carnage began. Almost all of those, in what should have been a sacred sanctuary, perished. By the time of our arrival they had only just finished bulldozing the mass graves. I stood next to a Tutsi lady, aged beyond her years, who said, gesturing towards a mass grave site, my husband and I think, she said, nine children are there. The mind cannot comprehend such inhumanity and suffering.

PREACHING WHERE THOUSANDS PERISHED

We wended our way the few steps to the church itself. It was locked. We gained access via a broken window. We stood there, numbed with horror, at the satanic inspired, utter inhumanity. We were joined by a small group of Africans who had official access and had seen our unusual entrance. They asked us politely what we were about and we told our story, much as it has been penned here. They related that only recently had the cleaning of blood from floor and walls been completed. Then they made us what was an almost unbelievable request. They were going to try to hold a meeting in that very place the coming Sunday and would we be the preachers. Never had we ministered a more humbling message, endeavouring to bring a little comfort and hope.

CARING FOR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

Most of the Tutsi pastors from our seminar had perished. A few widows and a number of orphans were traced and cared for, for a number of years. So much more could be told, enough in fact to fill a book. However, our purpose is to convince our readers that our ministries concerning end-time persecution come with first hand knowledge of what horrors ensue when darkness of Antichrist proportion prevails. Yet, inspite of all that we have seen and experienced of horror, terror and bloodshed, "WE'RE OUTA HERE" is not a welcome option for us. Just ponder once more over the awful end of those who take the mark of the Beast (do read REVELATION 14 v 9 - 11 again), and realise that end is eternal. May God grant both us and our readers the grace to face whatever the future may bring and in the mercy of God minister hope and comfort to those who, through inconceivable pressure, will be tempted to embrace the 666 MARK OF THE BEAST. Never forget dear friend "*My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*" It has not been easy re-living those terrible Rwanda days and it would not have been attempted but for the fact it was felt that, perhaps, there would be a blessing in it. Let us move towards our close on a note of eternal glory.

VICTORY OVER BEAST, IMAGE AND MARK

REVELATION 15 v 2

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

We view here one of the most special of all the companies, whether small or great, that are seen in their eternal glory. We see them at the sea of glass, mingled with fire, which we know from earlier viewings is *before the throne* of God. No greater honour could be bestowed upon those persecuted, some even martyred saints, who have come out of great tribulation in *victory over the beast and over his image and over his mark*. Could the fact that they sing both the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb (see REVELATION 15 v 3), indicate that this blessed group contains both Jews and Christians? We get another view of this group in REVELATION 7 v 9 – 17. They are seen *before the throne of God*, and also *that these are they which came out of great tribulation*, and a clue as to how they achieved such honour and glory is that they *have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb*. The last view we have of them is just prior to the commencement of the thousand year reign of millennial glory.

REVELATION 20 v 4

....I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Their suffering seems to be great but, in one form or another, it is the lot of all the true people of God from every age and nation and can be the only prelude and preparation to reigning with Christ in millennial glory. As Paul said to his beloved Timothy, *if we suffer with him we shall also reign with him*. Brother Paul also encouraged in a similar vein the saints in Corinth.

2 CORINTHIANS 4 v 16 – 17

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

QUITE A JOURNEY

It has been quite a journey, but I trust we have exposed the "WE'RE OUTA HERE" mongers for what they truly are. In truth, a selfish, deluded unchristian group, unscriptural because of their blind allegiance to the pre tribulation rapture deceit. Equally tragic, because of the lack of compassion for the "almost persuaded" souls who could waiver and take "the mark of the beast", such are devoid of mercy. Strong words we know, but no more than the situation demands. We ask a question. Where do these "WE'RE OUTA HERE" deluders and deluded think they will be? Perhaps "ensconced" (dict. meaning, established in a comfortable safe and secret place) in some remote corner where, for years and years, the brothers can play celestial golf and the sisters can knit celestial socks, which is just about all they are fit for! But not for me. Dare I say not for my readers also? We want to be where the action is and where faith brings the victory. We want to experience the joy that our perfect exemplar, our beloved Lord Jesus

experienced, not in our own strength for we would surely fail. But *looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God (HEBREWS 12 v 2).*