

# Don't Miss the Boat

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 9/12/2015

A long time ago, about 1600 years after Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, God saw that the **wickedness** of man had become very great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And so the Lord decided, I will destroy both man, and beast; for I am sorry that I ever made them.

But one man, Noah, found grace in the eyes of the Lord for you, God said, have I seen righteous before me in this generation. (Genesis 7:1) Noah **walked with God**. (Genesis 6:9)

You can find no higher commendation in the Scriptures than "A man walked with God." But the rest of the earth had become corrupt and filled with hate, meanness and violence. Then God said, behold, I will bringing a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, and everything shall die.

God puts up with that kind of rebellion against Him for only so long. So God directed Noah to build a large boat and make it watertight with pitch. And make it three stories tall with a lot of rooms, cages and stalls in it for all. And set aside provisions for all to eat. (Genesis 6:21)

God saw to it that a proper selection of fowls, cattle, and every living thing came unto Noah, to keep them alive. He also saves a reproducing pair of absolutely every animal and every living thing. And by the way, He said, bring seven reproducing pair of every clean animal including fowl. That was in the future expectation of clean animals being used for sacrifice and food.

And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous. The Lord **shut** Noah in and the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. The waters increased, and lifted up the ark, and it floated on the waters above the earth.

And every living substance was destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. All flesh upon the earth died because **they missed the boat**. (Genesis 6:5-7: 23) God started all over again with Noah. God said:

Genesis 6:18 But with thee, Noah, will I establish my covenant;

God **started** all over again with Noah and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives. Now that is a clear picture of how God is going to start all over again – **after the Millennium** – with a very select people.

We've come to the same place in our modern world that the pre-flood wicked world was in. Again, the **wickedness** of man has become very great in the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart is only evil continually.

None of us wants to **miss the boat** as billions have missed out before us, so Jesus issued a dire warning for our day. More than 7 billion people are about to die – and they do not have a clue. But we of God's people are **not clueless** – if we have the eyes to see and the ears to hear. Jesus said, nobody saw it coming back in Noah's day, and nobody sees it coming right now:

Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

It is going to be the **same thing again** – but with **fire** instead of flood.



Matthew 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were **eating** and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,

Brethren, look around you. People are eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, going to the mall, dropping the kids off at day-care, fishing hunting playing ball – and some going off to war. Let's not be waiting on the **Heavenly Signs** before we get serious about living our faith.

Only those brethren who are already in the Place of Safety will see the Heavenly Signs. The Heavenly Signs are mainly a call to repentance for this evil world upon whom God's wrath will come. I think that the only reason that God tells us when the **Heavenly Signs** are – is so that we will understand that what we are seeing now – are not the **Heavenly Signs** that follow after the Tribulation. They may even portend that God's Judgment is near.

The Tribulation begins without warning. There will be no big visible warning like Heavenly Signs to warn the whole world prior to the **Tribulation**. God tells His people what the **conditions** are prior to the end.

So likewise ye, when ye see certain conditions come to pass, know ye that the Kingdom of God is nigh at hand. (Luke 21:31)

We, God's Church Brethren, we can see very clearly that those conditions are in place – and the door is about to slam shut.

We do not need to **miss the boat** this time. When the Tribulation begins, the 5th Seal, folks will be doing business as usual – there will be no collapse of society. Little kids will be coloring and going to the zoo. Dads will be at work – the construction industry will be fine. Young moms will be going to the supermarket and getting supper.

Matthew 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Everything will seem normal in society. The wrath of God will come like a "bolt out of the blue." It happened before, and it is about to happen again.

With the Feast of Trumpets quickly approaching, our minds should increasingly be on our preparation for the return of Jesus Christ – not being contentious of others – or frolicking like so many are.

The Feast of Trumpets pictures the time when Jesus Christ will return to the earth in great power. Many who think that they "have it made" are going to be seriously disappointed when Jesus returns. Let us take **very careful** notice of Christ's words spoken to the foolish virgins because His words are for now – and they are for us!

Matthew 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

God's Holy Spirit was not active in their lives.

Matthew 25:13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man comes."

That is now! The ironic thing is that these words are meant as an **urgent** warning to us – so that we will not be foolish virgins, as others who have already **missed the boat**! Yes, it is too late for some – but it is not too late for us now! Could it be that much of the Church of God is **not** heeding the obvious warnings that God is directing to His end-time people?



When Christ returns, the opportunity to be firstfruits will have **slipped away**. Now is the **only** time to act!

Make no mistake about it, now is the **only** time to prepare.

Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were **ready** went in with him to the marriage: and **the door was shut**.

Are we ready?

Matthew 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, [the foolish and unprepared virgins], saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Matthew 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, **I know you not**.

Horrors! It was too late to start living as Christians toward others. When the end comes upon us, will we be firmly founded and rooted in Christ? Will God **shut us in** and protect us as He did Noah, or could it be that the door is about to close on us as it did the foolish virgins? They **missed the boat**.

We are to look for and anticipate the return of Christ and the establishment of God's Kingdom as the ruling authority over the earth. As we observe this coming Feast of Trumpets we should be motivated to take to heart Christ's words.

Revelation 3:21 To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Revelation 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches.

An **invitation** is still offered to us and pending – the choice is ours. Jesus is being systemically shut out of the lives of the great majority of church brethren today.

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Do not become one of those who have the door **shut on them**. We are being told by God that we need to return to true Christianity – the first principles of Christianity. We are to love God **and** love our fellow man.

We all say, "I love God," but, True Godly concern for the spiritual welfare of our brothers and sisters in the faith is **woefully lacking**.

In this last era of God's Church, we have become a people of **substitutions** for outgoing concern of others – so much so that Jesus is no longer a part of our faith. Jesus says that He is **outside** of the church – we have **shut Him** out:

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and **open the door**, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

We know that a right and acceptable faith among the brethren will be **rare** indeed.

Luke 18:8 When the Son of man comes, shall He find [any] faith on the earth?

Make no mistake about it – this evil world is about to **perish**. God is just about ready to start all over again. His Plan to bring many sons and daughters to Glory is about to come to fruition.

But, there are **four distinct** categories of people God will be working with as we come up to the Tribulation – which precedes His return in great power to this earth.



**First Group:** God will provide a place of safety for the true saints. We know that a **small number** of the saints – those who have already overcome Satan – will be protected by God from Satan during the duration of the tribulation.

Somehow, in God's great providence, He will shelter that little flock from the horrors of the tribulation. When Christ returns, there will be a people whose love for one another – a true Christian love that distinguishes them from those who confuse their **social life** for Godly service.

From their protected location, this small body of saints will be a light and an example to their Christian brethren who have been left behind. Jesus says:

Revelation 3:10 Because you have kept the word of my patience, I also will keep **[protect]** thee from the hour of temptation [tribulation and adversity], which shall come upon all the world, to try [tribulation and testing] them that dwell upon the earth.

The **Second Group:** When Satan is unable to attack the saints in the place of safety, he turns his attack on the **remaining saints** who have been caught up in the tribulation – those who **missed the boat**.

But they can still be saved.

Revelation 12:17 The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to **make war** with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

God will graciously present one last opportunity to those saints – Church brethren – who have not yet learned to **lay down their lives**, to do so. The Tribulation also provides God's **last** great act of love and mercy on His end-time Church brethren to allow them to be made white in a blast furnace of refining. There is only **one way** those caught up in the Tribulation can be saved.

Those caught in the tribulation will have to **physically** lay their lives down in death for having **neglected** to be spiritual sacrifices prior to that time. They have not responded to God's admonition:

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

That is why they must be tested in the tribulation. Many will make it – though they have **come out** of great tribulation the hard way – but thankfully they make it!

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Revelation 7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Revelation 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

Revelation 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, you know. And He said to me, These are they which **came out** [from] of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them **white** in the blood of the Lamb.

Brethren, that is the hard way to go about it – let's not **miss the boat**.



**Third Group** of end-time Christians who have **missed out** entirely – **we saw** an example:

Matthew 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, [the foolish and unprepared virgins], saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Matthew 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, **I know you not**.

It is the same for those who capitulate with the Beast Power in the Tribulation. When they **give in** to the Beast – their salvation is **lost**.

Luke 13:27 But [Jesus] shall say, I tell you, I know you **not** whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

At that judgment – standing before Jesus Christ – they will realize that they have utterly **missed out** on an eternity of incredible Glory which God hath prepared for them that love him. (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Luke 13:28 There shall be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves **thrust out**.

Luke 13:29 And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

But Group **Three** will be thrust out from being in the Kingdom of God.

**Fourth group:** There is a **physical** remnant who will be able to survive the tribulation, and to live-over into the world tomorrow.

They will be the **physical stock** to live over into the new world tomorrow. They are analogous to Noah's sons – who re-populated the earth after the flood had killed everyone on earth.

God tells us that there will be a physical remnant of young men and women – not Church brethren per se – who will live through the Tribulation – saved alive – for the purpose of re-populating the new world tomorrow. God will bring them through the soon coming captivity of America, Canada, England and the English speaking nations around the world.

Jeremiah 30:3 For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again [those of] the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

That is the Promised Land where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived. That is the land of Palestine.

Who are these people? Where do they come from? How do they possibly survive the great tribulation? There is no need to despair or lose hope, God has contingency plans in place.

Have you ever wondered how God will choose the selection of **physical** individuals who will survive the tribulation and then begin to populate the land of the millennium?

We are nearing the day when Jesus Christ is going to return and establish His Father's Kingdom on this earth... But before that takes place, this present evil world will go through unprecedented turmoil, war and tribulation.

Who will live over into that Wonderful World Tomorrow? How will they be protected from that evil day? God says in:

Jeremiah 23:3 And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them **again** to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.



God reminds us that He has done this before – for His own name sake.

Jeremiah 23:4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall **fear no more**, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.

Can you imagine the **fear** of going through the tribulation as a captive – when 7 billion people are dying all around you? The shepherds – resurrected saints – will teach them and guide them saying:

Isaiah 30:21 This is the way [God's way], walk ye in it.

It is not that these young people “deserve” to be saved alive – more than all who perished in God's wrath on this evil world – but God has His Plan and it will not be obstructed:

Isaiah 48:9 For **my name's sake** will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off.

Isaiah 48:10 Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

The soon coming World War will see so many of our young men and women carried away captive into all parts of the world. Our defenses have been spent in vain.

An enemy will sweep across this nation and spare not – except for the young and strong who will be useful to them and **captured slaves** – to work their mines, factories and slave labor camps.

How will they survive throughout the tribulation to be able to see a new-day in the Kingdom of God on earth? To be protected, they must be **sealed** by God. This is a prophecy for our day!

Ezekiel 9:4 “The Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.”

God is looking for a certain attitude. Most people will be going right along with the abominations of the land. They will prostitute themselves – which is spiritual adultery. That disqualifies them from receiving the mark or seal of protection. Notice what God is doing. He is sealing some in their forehead for **divine protection** from what is about to befall all the evil inhabitants.

Ezekiel 9:5 And to the others [the slaughterers] He said in mine hearing [Ezekiel says], Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

Ezekiel 9:6 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come **not** near any man **upon whom is the mark**; and begin at my sanctuary.

Then they began at the old ancient men who were before the Temple.

Ezekiel 9:8 And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Only those who are to live over into the millennium need to be saved alive. The saints will be in the place of safety or else they will be martyred – in any case they will enter the millennium as spirit beings.



Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be **saved [alive]**: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Ezekiel 9:9 Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD sees not.

Because of the greatness of the iniquity of Israel, God will not spare. The abominable acts of Israel in rejecting the True God call for merciless punishment – the entire nation deserves destruction.

Ezekiel 9:10 And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head.

Ezekiel 9:11 And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me.

Let's jump forward to the immediate future. When the tribulation comes and the trumpet plagues come upon the entire earth, the faithful **converted** saints will be protected by God because they will have been already **spiritually sealed** in their foreheads.

2 Corinthians 1:22 Who hath also **sealed us**, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts...

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye **were sealed with that Holy Spirit** of promise.

So we see that the true saints of God are marked or sealed by God already.

Revelation 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his **Father's name written in their foreheads**.

But, here is the big question we are looking at, how will a physical remnant of Israel survive the tribulation to live-over into the world tomorrow? The survivors of the tribulation will be the physical remnant of Jacob or as we see most often – the physical remnant of Israel.

They will mostly be strong young men and women who had been carried into the captivity of slave labor camps of enemy nations. Most of the weak and elderly will not survive the rigors of the captivity, exportation and slave work camps.

Isaiah 10:20 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob [USA, England, etc.], shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

Notice God's promise.

Isaiah 10:21 The remnant **shall return**, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God.

Isaiah 10:22 For though thy people Israel [USA and the UK etc.], be as the sand of the sea, yet **[only] a remnant** of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness.

We've seen over and over that God's retribution, for the abominations of Israel, is coming.

Isaiah 10:23 For the Lord GOD of hosts shall make a consumption, even determined, in the midst of all the land.



God makes sure that we do not mistake **this recovery** of His people with the previous deliverance of Israel from Egypt.

Isaiah 11:11 And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set his hand again the **second time** to recover the remnant of His people, which shall be left [alive], from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

Israel has been carried captive into every foreign nation.

Isaiah 11:12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Let's jump to the New Testament where we find these four corners. Let's see what this chapter is talking about.

How and when will this physical remnant be sealed so that they may be afforded protection from the destruction which will come upon all the earth? Perhaps we are given a clue, if not the answer, in Revelation Chapter 7.

Revelation 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

Revelation 7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

Revelation 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed [mark of preservation] the servants [interestingly this word is slaves] of our God in their foreheads.

Revelation 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed [mark of preservation] the **slaves** of our God in their **foreheads**. [The seat of the mind and intelligence]

Wow!

Remember Ezekiel 9:4 The Lord said ... set a **mark** upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations.

Revelation 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were **sealed**: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

That is **not** speaking of today's **Church** of God brethren. The physical tribes of the children of Israel are modern day America, England, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand etc. "Sealed," in the previous verse means that a select number of people will be **protected** during the tribulation, as they were in Ezekiel's day, because they worshipped the true God.

Elsewhere, at a different time, the Scriptures speak of a spiritual 144000, and a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, standing before the throne of God, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes.. that is **spiritual** Israel...

But the Scriptures do not speak of them being sealed in the same way. That happens only here in Revelation 7



But here in Revelation 7 we are looking at a preserved physical remnant who are sealed by God and will be preserve over – for the millennium reign of Christ and the saints. These tribes of the Children of Israel are today's **physical** citizens of the English speaking nations.

When our children, the tribes of the Children of Israel, see the destruction of the world taking place, they will sigh, cry, mourn and weep for the abominations that are in the land. Not go along with the rebellion.

When we study the chronology of events surrounding those who have washed their robes, and those who have been protected, we can see that a physical remnant is preserved alive at the last possible moment.

Revelation 7:13 ... Who are these in white robes?

Revelation 7:14 And I said unto Him, Sir, thou know. And He said to me, these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

These **converted** saints referred to in this verse have died in the persecution of the tribulation, having been previously **sealed with God's Spirit** of promise.

There will be a new nation, made up of our children, gathered to Palestine to once again grow into a glorious People of the Lord.

Isaiah 43:5-7 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed [children] from the East, and gather thee from the West; I will say to the North, Give up; and to the South, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for My Glory.

There are **four distinct categories** of people God will be working with as we come to the Tribulation.

**First Group:** God will provide a place of safety for the true saints.

**Second Group:** When Satan is unable to attack the saints in the place of safety, he turns his attack on the remaining saints who have been caught up in the tribulation – those who missed the boat. But they can still be **saved**.

**Third Group** – who have the door shut on them. It is the same for those who give in to the Beast Power in the Tribulation.

**Fourth group:** a physical remnant will be able to survive the tribulation, and to **live-over** into the world tomorrow.

God has shown us His way – none of us need **miss the boat**.

End: Don't Miss the Boat