

Anchored

Hope Secured in Turbulent Times

“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.” Hebrews 6:19



THE Friends of Israel
GOSPEL MINISTRY

Building bridges. Bringing hope.

foi.org

Copyright © 2020 by The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc. Bellmawr, New Jersey 08099

Unless otherwise noted all Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version®.
Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.

All rights reserved. No part of this study guide may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, otherwise, without prior written permission of the publisher. For information, address The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc. P.O. Box 908 Bellmawr, NJ 08099

Hope in God's Judgment

JIM SHOWERS

I. Three Questions

- A. Why Does God Allow Bad Things to Happen to Us?
- B. Are Turbulent Times a Judgment from God?
- C. Where Is the Hope in God's Judgment?

II. Why Does God Allow Bad Things to Happen to Us?

A. Sudden Turbulence in Life

- 1. Tests our faith
 - a. "If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small" (Prov. 24:10).
- 2. Reveals what is in our heart
 - a. Shows us in what we are trusting
- 3. Our hope should be anchored in Christ
 - a. "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" (Heb. 6:19).

B. What Is Hope?

- 1. Not – We don't hope in what we see (Rom. 8:24–25)
- 2. Is – We hope for what we don't see (faith)
 - a. Waiting with patience
 - b. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

C. Our Anchor

- 1. When facing troubles we can't control
- 2. Our hope should be in God – not in ourselves
 - a. All He secured in Christ
 - b. "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" (Heb. 6:19).

D. God Allows Bad Things to Happen

- 1. To test our faith
 - a. Reveal to us what we are trusting in
- 2. Reveal whether our hope is anchored
 - a. In Jesus Christ & God's promises
 - b. Or in ourselves

III. Are Turbulent Times a Judgment From God?

A. The Source of Our Troubles

- 1. Sin – rebellion against God
 - a. Adam's choice to join Satan's rebellion
 - i. Brought God's judgment on mankind
- 2. Biblically, God does bring trouble on us

B. God's Purpose in Our Troubles

- 1. Act of Grace – God warns mankind
 - a. Speaking of those who tragically died, Jesus said their misfortune is a warning to repent.
 - i. "But, unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:5).

- b. Awaken some to their spiritual need of Christ
- 2. Remind mankind of its limitations
 - a. Man is not capable of solving all his problems
 - i. Science doesn't hold all the answers
- 3. God, through Christ, is the only answer
 - a. To the world's troubles
- 4. To bring judgment on mankind
 - a. Bible – viral epidemics are called pestilences
 - b. Never random or naturally occurring phenomenon
 - i. Pestilence – a widespread and devastating contagious epidemic disease with a high mortality rate & causes widespread panic
- 5. Appropriate response to the judgment from God
 - a. Turn away from sin & pray for forgiveness
 - b. Not to try to eliminate the cause
- C. Biblical Examples of Pestilence
 - 1. God warned Israel of pestilence if they disobeyed
 - a. Lev. 26:25; Deut. 28:21–22
 - 2. Jeremiah & Ezekiel announce a pestilences on Israel
 - 3. Psalmist promised protection from pestilences
 - a. To those who are faithful to God (Ps. 91:1-3)
 - 4. Also used to judge individuals, families & nations
- D. Is COVID the Beginning of the End?
 - 1. Jesus taught pestilence is one sign of the end of this Age
 - a. Pestilences on Earth prior to His return (Mt. 24:7)
 - i. Along with wars, famines, & earthquakes
 - b. Beginning of birth pangs
 - 2. Jesus warned to keep watch & be ready (Mt. 24:42)
 - a. "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near" (Isa. 55:6).
 - 3. Some say, "Coronavirus is a sign that the end is near!"
 - a. It is possible we are witnessing the preparations
 - 4. But, other things must occur first
 - a. Wars, famines, & earthquakes
 - b. Rapture of the church
- E. Pestilences in Human History

Epidemic	Date	Affected	Died
COVID-19	2020	Worldwide	500,000
West Africa Ebola	2014–16	West Africa	11,000
Swine Flu H1N1	2009–10	Worldwide	500,000
HIV/Aids	1981–2020	Worldwide	36,000,000
Hong Kong Flu H3N2	1968	Worldwide	1,000,000
Asian Flu	1956–58	Worldwide	2,000,000
Spanish Flu	1918–20	Worldwide	50,000,000
Russian Flu H3N8	1889–90	Worldwide	1,000,000
Cholera Pandemic	1852–60	Worldwide	1,000,000
Russian Plague	1770–72	Russia	100,000

Great Marseille Plague	1720–23	France	100,000
Cocoliztli Plague	1545–48	Mexico	15,000,000
Black Plague	1346–53	Asia/Europe	135,000,000
Justinian Plague	541–542	Europe	25,000,000
Antonine Plague	165–180	Rm. Empire	5,000,000

F. Turbulent Times From God

1. Turbulent times are a sign of this sin-cursed age
2. God uses His judgments
 - a. To warn mankind to repent before it is too late
 - b. To show man his limitations – God is only source of hope
 - c. To awaken some to their need of faith in Christ Jesus
3. We need not fear because our hope is anchored in God

IV. Where Is the Hope in God's Judgment?

A. Hope in God's Judgment

1. God's judgment – awakens us to our need for hope
 - a. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn. 14:6).
2. God's judgment – produces hope that only He can bring justice
 - a. God will be faithful to His promise to redeem us
3. God's judgment – our hope is anchored in Christ Jesus
 - a. Safe & secure
 - b. In the things we can't see but we wait for patiently

B. Our Anchor Holds, Safe & Secure

1. Are you secured to the Anchor, Jesus Christ?

Hope in God's Cure

TOM SIMCOX

Introduction: Luke 5:17–26 (Mt. 10:28)

It's as easy as:

A –

B –

C –

I. Regenerates Us (Eph. 2:1–5)

II. Resurrects Us (Eph. 2:6a)

III. Relocates Us (Eph. 2:6b)

IV. Recommissions Us (Eph. 2:7–10) (Col. 4:2–6)

A. Prepare (1 Pet. 3:15)

B. Practice (Mt. 28:19–20)

C. Persist (1 Tim. 4:1–2)

Hope in Troubling Times

DAN PRICE

I. Introduction

- A. Troubling Times for believers and the church are to be expected
 - 1. John 16:33
 - 2. John 15:20
 - 3. 1 Peter 4:12
- B. Walking with God through trouble is an essential part of the Christian life.

The hope the apostles offer the church in troubling times:

God promises to be with us in our suffering until we are with Him forever!

II. God promises to be with us in our suffering: How?

- A. Intimacy grows as we learn to suffer with Christ.
 - 1. Colossians 1:24
 - 2. 1 Peter 4:13
 - 3. Philippians 3:7–10
 - 4. "Friendship... is born at the moment when one man says to another 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one...'"
– C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*
- B. Our faith can be focused in our suffering.
 - 1. Hebrews 12:3–11
 - 2. 1 Peter 1:6–9
 - 3. "We are not adrift in chaos. We're held in the everlasting arms.... My faith can help me say [in suffering], 'Yes Lord, I don't like what you're doing. I don't understand it... But God you're in charge.' How many choices have you got...? You either believe that God knows what He's doing or you believe He doesn't. You either believe He's worth trusting, or you say He's not. And then where are you? You're at the mercy of chaos. – Elizabeth Elliot, *Suffering Is Never for Nothing*

C. He empowers us to use our spiritual gifts in our suffering.

1. Romans 12

2. 1 Peter 4:1–11

III. God promises to be with us until we are with Him forever!

A. For you that day might be at your death, or it could be at the Rapture when Jesus comes and sweeps the church, His bride, off her feet to heaven.

B. Your trouble and suffering are short!

1. Romans 8:18

2. 2 Corinthians 4:17

3. 1 Peter 1:6

C. Illustration

D. "You make known to me the path of life, in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Ps. 16:11).

Conclusion: The hope the apostles offer the church in troubling times: God promises to be with us in our suffering until we are with Him forever!

Hope in Christ's Wedding

STEVE HERZIG

I. Introduction

A. Examples of Human Hope

1. New Hope, PA
2. Hope Chest
3. Hope Diamond
4. Isle of Hope

B. Biblical Hope Is Different

II. What the Rapture Is Not

III. What the Rapture Is

IV. Insight From the Jewish Wedding

V. What Difference Does It Make?

VI. Conclusion

Hope in God's Wrath

MIKE STALLARD

I. Introduction

A. General examples of God's gracious nature in the midst of judgment

1. King David – 2 Samuel 12 – God has a gracious side
2. Habakkuk's prayer – "In wrath remember mercy" (Hab. 3:2)

II. Hope in God's Coming Wrath in the Old Testament (Jer. 30)

A. Context of Jeremiah 30

B. Promise of ultimate restoration (vv. 1–3)

C. Prediction of severe judgment for Israel (vv. 4–7)

D. Why is this not the return from Babylon in the 6th century BC?

1. Return from Babylon focuses mostly on Judah and not all Israel (v. 3)
2. The time of trouble is the coming Tribulation since there is nothing else like it (v. 7)
3. The mention of David refers to the end-times (v. 9)
4. The next chapter predicts the end-times fulfillment of the New Covenant for Israel (31:31–37)

E. Hope in the midst of trouble (vv. 10–24)

F. The Tribulation: God's way of cleansing Israel and the world in preparation for His earthly Kingdom

III. Hope in God's Coming Wrath in the New Testament

Selections From the Book of Revelation	
Judgment and Despair	Hope and Triumph
The "Four Horsemen" of the Apocalypse (first four seals—Rev. 6:1–8)	The Martyrs (fifth seal—Rev. 6:9–11)
Sickness and death (the first four trumpets—8:1–12; see 8:11)	God protects 144,000 Jewish people on earth (7:1–8) The saved in heaven out of the Great Tribulation (7:9–17)
Satan attacks Israel (12:13, 15)	God supernaturally defends Israel (12:14, 16–17)
Antichrist & False Prophet attack the world (Chapter 13)	The 144,000 on Mount Zion with Christ who are redeemed and follow the Lamb (14:1–5)
The first five bowl judgments or plagues (16:2–11)	
Babylon is destroyed (17:1–18:19, 21–24)	Rejoicing over the fall of Babylon (18:20)

IV. Conclusion

- A. God's future Tribulation judgment is leading toward the Second Coming (ch. 19), the Millennium (ch. 20), the binding and destruction of Satan (ch. 20), and the eternal state (ch. 21–22).

- B. Once again, the Tribulation is a time when Israel and the world are cleansed and prepared for God's coming earthly Kingdom which starts when Messiah Jesus returns.

- C. In the midst of the awful judgments of the Tribulation, God still gives future hope and salvation.

Hope in Christ's Return

BRUCE SCOTT

I. The Corrupted Path to Despair

- A. We live in a world that has gone bad. It is corrupt. We are moving quickly in the same direction as the days of Noah (Gen. 6:11–12; 2 Pet. 1:4).

- B. There is corruption in our governments, in our physical bodies (1 Cor. 15:42), and in all of natural creation (Rom. 8:21).

- C. When God created the heavens and the earth, there was no corruption in government (His Kingdom on Earth), no corruption in human being's physical bodies, and no corruption in natural creation. Everything that God had made was very good (Gen. 1:31).

- D. So what happened? When Adam sinned against God, death and corruption entered the world and ruined everything (Rom. 5:12).

- E. When Adam sinned, not only was Paradise lost. The Kingdom of God on Earth was lost, delivered over to Satan (Lk. 4:5–6; Jn. 12:31), and turned into a corrupted world system (1 Jn. 2:16).

- F. When we look, therefore, at all the political, moral, and natural corruption in the world, it's no wonder that some would lose any sense of hope or purpose.

- G. "Why doesn't somebody do something?" Or more so, "Why doesn't God do something?"

II. Jesus Is Coming Back

- A. Jesus says four times in the Bible, "I am coming quickly" (Rev. 3:11; 22:7, 12, 20).

- B. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ back to this earth is one of the most important doctrines in all of Scripture and one of the fundamental doctrines of the faith (Rev. 19:11–13, 16).

- C. Jesus will return literally, visibly, and physically to the same mountain on this earth from which He left (Acts 1:11; Zech. 14:4).

- D. When Jesus returns after the Tribulation period, He will righteously judge and make war with the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and all the armies of the world that have come up against Jerusalem, and against Him (Zech. 14:2–3; Rev. 19:15, 19; Ps. 2:4, 9).

III. The Restoration of All Things (Acts 3:21)

- A. There will be a restoration of God’s Kingdom on the earth.
 1. Satan will be imprisoned for 1,000 years in the abyss (Rev. 20:1–3).

 2. Jesus will take His rightful throne for 1,000 years (Ps. 110:1; Rev. 3:21; 20:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).

 3. The Last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45) will act as God’s regent on planet Earth.

 4. As the righteous branch of David (Jer. 33:15), Jesus’ reign will be characterized by perfect and complete righteousness (Heb. 1:8–9).

 5. Jesus’ Kingdom will be characterized by a condition of perfect peace (Isa. 2:4; 9:6–7)!

- B. There will be a restoration of our physical bodies.
 1. When Jesus returns, our physical bodies will experience a change because “the last Adam became a life-giving spirit” (1 Cor. 15:45). “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive” (1 Cor. 15:22).

 2. When will this change take place? For Church Age believers, at the Rapture (1 Th. 4:17). For believers who have died during the Old Testament era and during the Tribulation period, after Jesus returns to the earth at His Second Coming (Dan. 12:2; Rev. 20:4).

 3. Our new bodies will be different than what we have now.

1 Corinthians 15:42-57	
Bodies Now	Bodies Then
Corruptible	Incorruptible
Dishonorable	Glorified
Weak	Powerful
Natural <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the earth • Bears image of First Adam 	Spiritual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From heaven • Bears image of Last Adam
Mortal	Immortal

Hope for Eternity

CHRIS KATULKA

I. Intro: God's Word Tethers the Boat to the Anchor (Ps. 119:105)

- A. The chain between the anchor and the boat is God's Word.

- B. The boat endures the chaos of the storm, the rage of the sea, the distress on the surface of the sea. The anchor is firm, foundational, true, secure, fastened. What links these two is the Word of God, which details and gives meaning to the hope we have.

II. God's Presence Dwelling (Rev 21:1–3)

- A. History of God's Presence Dwelling
 1. Garden of Eden (Gen. 1—2)
 2. Tabernacle (Ex. 40:34)
 3. Temple (1 Ki. 8:10–13)
 4. Glory Departs (Ezek. 9—11)
 5. Jesus the Messiah (Jn. 1:14)
 6. New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:3)
- B. God has been fighting for us... God longs to be with His creation.

- C. God's presence brings His peace... there is no longer any sin. Peace is the absence of sin.

III. God's Peace Prevailing (Rev 21:4)

- A. Wipes away tears (Isa. 25:8)

- B. No more death (Isa. 25:8)

- C. No more mourning/crying/pain (Isa. 51:11; 65:16–19)

- D. It's a return to Eden (Rev. 22:1–4)

IV. God's Makes All Things New (Rev. 21:5)

- A. Creation has been longing for renewal (Rom. 8:18–25)

B. The renewal comes in totality when the new heavens and new earth come (Rev. 21:1). Tears, pain, suffering, and death were associated with the previous heavens and earth.

V. Hope in the God of Eternity

A. God is our refuge when the world is turned upside down (Ps. 46:1–3).

B. God is in our midst, we will not be moved (Ps. 46:4–5).

C. Be still... (Ps. 46:10).

D. You don't have to wait for eternity to hope in the God of eternity.