

The Big Squeeze

We are already in it

By
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Most Christians do not understand the purpose of that period of time we identify as “the tribulation.” Nor do we understand that the tribulation is just the final phase of a much longer period of time during which the escalation of tribulation (trouble) and the parallel escalation of God’s supernatural shaking of everything that can be shaken until the shaking and squeezing have their desired result takes place.

At that time...(when He gave a revelation of His will to the Israelites from Mount Sinai)... *his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.* Hebrews 12:26-29 ESV
(explanatory inserts are the author’s)

“Tribulation” is the word transliterated in the Greek as *thilipsis*, which means to be afflicted with pressure or to be squeezed by the circumstances, whether natural circumstances like hurricanes, war, and economic chaos, or various painful psychological circumstances like fear and confusion. It also includes supernatural spiritual pressures in the form of demonic oppression and deception, which Christian believers receive as persecution.

We are clearly informed by the Lord that we (the church) will have “tribulation” in this world. But we are also informed that the testing of our faith through tribulation (being squeezed by difficult circumstances and temptations) will produce the “gold” of genuine Christian character, which is then a manifestation of His presence in us and through us (our manifestation of His glory).

Shaking, on the other hand, is God's supernatural destruction of mankind's comfort, dependency, and faith in the natural world and the world systems of government, economics, education, science and technology to fulfill our needs apart from Him. And this shaking will "squeeze" both Christian believers and non-believers for the purpose of manifesting His glory, the glory of Christ Himself, in those Christian believers who have submitted by grace through faith to the testing of their faith (that which cannot be shaken). It will also serve His purpose of manifesting the full extent of evil inherent in fallen and demonically deceived and infested mankind, already alarmingly present in the pop culture of Babylonian America.

The recent example of hurricane Katrina provides us with a perfect illustration. In this mini-model of shaking and squeezing, the good character of those who acted heroically and generously to those in need was revealed, and the corrupt character of those who looted, raped, and killed was also revealed.

The character of both was already present, but the time of squeezing magnified and revealed what was, to a degree, hidden in more normal times.

Lest anyone believe that we are not already in the last days, Paul's prophetic description of the character of people being squeezed in the last days should convince us that we are already there. This description may seem "normal" to us, because these character traits are a part of our current pop culture and are not juxtaposed against the more godly traits of the Jewish people at the time of his writing or the character traits of the American people only a few decades ago. Thus, if Paul suddenly appeared in America today, he would be shocked to see that this prophecy of Babylonian character traits present in the last days is already being fulfilled.

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. 2 Timothy 3: 1-5 ESV

What we have to face as the generation of Christian believers who will experience the BIG SQUEEZE is that our worldly expectations and desires will ultimately fail us in the escalating shaking and squeezing that has already begun.

All the hope and security we have in the American government will ultimately fail us. All the hope and security we have in our jumbo CD's, our 401k's, Social Security, and, even, our gold and silver, will ultimately fail us. All the hope and security we have in the infrastructures of society will ultimately fail us. Even those with great survival skills and natural abilities will find that their survival skills and natural abilities will ultimately fail them.

Everything that can be shaken will be shaken so that neither the world nor the church can escape the shaking and the subsequent squeezing produced by the shaking.

This is not DOOM and GLOOM. At least it is not doom and gloom for those believers who are fully dedicated to God's purpose and plan in their lives and in the world. It IS doom and gloom for those believers who are content with having their fire insurance policy but still want worldly fulfillment more than they want fulfillment in Christ. For them the coming pain will not be offset by their participation in the glory of Christ.

And lest you believe that the divided, immature church blown around by winds of doctrine and by the cunning and craftiness of evil men who are themselves deceived, will somehow escape the pain, remember that judgment begins with the house of God.

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 1 Peter 4:17 ESV

Historically we recognize the fact that God used tribulation (shaking and squeezing) to bring Israel to repentance, and it is no different today for the Israel of God, the church, and for the world at large as the escalating shaking and squeezing brings the Israel of God to repentance for the purpose of revealing (glorifying) Christ in the world to bring in the end times harvest of an uncountable number from every nation, tribe, and tongue.

Contrary to the easily recognizable plan of God in scripture, almost all the believing church in America and the western world (though not the persecuted

underground church elsewhere) continues to hope for increasing economic prosperity, world peace, and a better set of world systems (government, economy, education, science, and technology) for ourselves and our children, and, as a result, we are unwilling to face and respond to the truth of God's purpose and plan.

However, it is not wrong or inappropriate for us to fight for kingdom principles in these world systems. We must resist the encroachment of evil wherever it exists as faithful soldiers of the Lord, but this fight is a rear guard action.

The fight itself is necessary. It matures us and separates us from those who yield, but, for a time, it will seem like a losing battle.

Yet we will ultimately triumph in Him.

In the Olivet prophecy (Matthew 24 and 25) the Lord identified four time frames in God's plan to escalate His shaking and squeezing. The first and longest in duration is identified as **“not yet the end.”** This includes the life of the original disciples and continued on up into recent centuries, and this period was characterized by false christs and wars and rumors of war.

The second is identified as **“the beginning of birth pains,”** which is also the beginning of the end times during which God will increase the shaking and squeezing exponentially.

The birth pains metaphor indicates that the “pain” beginning with this phase will increase in frequency and intensity (i.e. escalate) until the birth event itself, which is the return of our Lord.

This beginning of birth pains is characterized by nation rising up against nation, kingdom (groups of nations) against kingdom, famines and earthquakes.

World War I is not the first time “kingdoms” or groups of allied nations have fought against other “kingdoms,” but it is certainly a remarkable escalation of that characteristic. Likewise, because of massive population increases in third world countries, we have seen famines and pestilence of unprecedented proportions, and, only recently we have noticed an alarming increase in earthquakes and other natural disasters.

With the re-establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, a prophetic oracle itself (Ezekiel 37), only an ostrich would deny that we are already in this escalating period of shaking and squeezing identified by the Lord as “the beginning of birth pains.”

Thus our hope for a constantly improving economy, better government, improved education, science and technology is a false hope. Like birth pains, there will be periods of quiescence between the painful contractions, but also like birth pains, the contractions will become more frequent and more painful as we near the birth event itself, the glorious appearance of Jesus Christ and His gathering unto Himself of the saints of all time, living and dead

What this means in practical terms is that the natural world and our world systems are not getting better. Instead, they are increasingly being shaken by God until everything that can be shaken will be shaken.

The pop culture that we and our children have so easily and willingly conformed to is basically in denial of this fact, but we will eventually be shaken out of our spiritual stupor and faced with the undeniable truth of the times in which we live.

The final event of this period and the opening event of the period our Lord identified specifically as **“tribulation”** is the Gog-Magog war (Ezekiel 38 and 39). This third and final jihad against Israel and all infidels will result in a third world war, a nuclear war set primarily in the Middle East and in Europe but not without serious consequences for America who, for one reason or another, fails to intervene on behalf of Israel.

This absence of real deterrence by America, NATO, and Saudi Arabia when the impending invasion of Israel by an Islamic Coalition becomes apparent, spells trouble for America, whether in the form of a terrorist strike to cripple America’s ability to respond or some other form of shaking that brings the nation to its knees.

This Gog-Magog war and its aftermath is also the likely source of the groomsmen’s announcement that awakens the sleeping virgins (the entire believing church) in the parable of the ten virgins, which is a part of the Olivet prophecy.

Therefore, the next absolutely identifiable prophetic event of God’s end times shaking and squeezing is World War III, not the rapture of the church.

This event will shake the church in America and the western world to the core, shaking everything that can be shaken in the church, which, in our current condition is a LOT. But, on the positive side, it will awaken us so that we can begin to trim our wicks (cutting away false doctrine and compromise to sin) in

order for the remnant church to fulfill our function in this phase and in the final phase of the end times shaking and squeezing.

The Lord identified persecution and martyrdom as the primary characteristics that will be faced by the church during the “tribulation” phase of escalation. Being hated by all nations, indicates a time when Christians have become identified as “terrorists” who oppose the new, world government, and the world’s treatment of us will mirror our own present attitude toward Islamic terrorists.

The persecution of the church at this time will be so intense, including betrayal by fellow believers and family members, that the “falling away” or apostasy of many born again, regenerated believers in Christ (the “foolish virgins”) will be a remarkable and shocking characteristic of this phase, second only to the revealing of the Antichrist, which will usher in the final phase of shaking and squeezing.

The apostasy of the “tribulation” phase will also be accompanied and deliberately empowered by the presence of numerous false prophets and false christs who will deceive many.

Thus the Lord’s warning, **“See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.”**

An event identified as “the abomination that causes desolation,” which is the same event that “reveals” the Antichrist, initiates the final phase of **“great tribulation,”** and the church will continue to be present during that phase right up to the seventh trumpet of the seventh seal.

At that time the Lord will come visibly for the whole world to see, like lightning that comes from the east and shines all the way to the west (visible everywhere) as His angels gather His living saints from the four winds and those who are dead in Christ from one end of heaven to the other.

The church, then, will experience great tribulation accompanied by the glory of Christ, but we will not experience the wrath of God to follow.

Even in our lifetime the world systems of government, economy and finances, education, science, and technology will fail us, and we will be left only with faith (that which cannot be shaken). But those who fail to respond in repentance to the shaking and squeezing will believe the lie and place their hope in the manifestation of the Great Deceiver and Father of Lies called the “Antichrist”

who will, for a time, restore the world systems of government, economy, science, education, technology, and religion.

We will, therefore, all ultimately face the reality of the times that we and our children are living in, and it would be infinitely better for us to face that truth now, rather than later, so that we can begin to prepare ourselves and our children for the shaking and squeezing to come.

The groomsman's wake up call to the sleeping virgins, "**Behold! The bridegroom is coming,**" will soon be heard by all, but that great demonic deception of Dispensational theology called the "pre-tribulation rapture" has put many believers and their children in extreme spiritual danger.

The foolish, non-scriptural expectation that Christians will be raptured away before the BIG SQUEEZE is Satan's most effective tool for keeping the body of Christ divided, immature, and in a state of spiritual stupor, totally unprepared for what the Lord clearly revealed DIRECTLY and emphatically to the church in the Olivet prophecy (Matthew 24 and 25, Mark 13, Luke 21) and in His letter to the church (The Revelation of Jesus Christ).

No matter what you may currently believe, it cannot be denied that the end times plan of God is to SHAKE and SQUEEZE the natural world and the world systems (most of which are under Satan's control and influence) to expose evil completely.

And this same shaking and squeezing will reveal the glory of Christ through the body of Christ, the church, as the great end times harvest of souls is completed.

The "blindness" of national, ethnic Jews will also be removed during this time, and there will be revival in Israel, but contrary to the heretical teaching of dispensational theology, the Jews will be "saved" by coming to Christ after the Gog-Magog war, not by some separate fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. (See "**The Promise**")

It has been repeatedly demonstrated throughout the history of the church that persecution ("squeezing") produces the manifestation of the glory of Christ in those who are determined to follow Him no matter what the cost. And James metaphorically reveals that the latter rains glory of Christ will fall on those "wise" Christian believers who endure the BIG SQUEEZE to bring in the final

harvest of an uncountable number of tribulation saints from every nation, tribe, and tongue.

“Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer... (the Lord of the harvest)... waits for the precious fruit of the earth... (those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life)..., being patient about it, until it receives early... (seed germinating)... and late... (fruit ripening)... rains... (the outpouring of the Holy Spirit). You also be patient. Establish ... (strengthen)... your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.” James 5:7-8 ESV (explanatory inserts are the author’s)

The early, seed germinating rains were poured out on the church on the day of Pentecost, and, though much of the church has experienced drought for various reasons and has fallen asleep, the seed germinating rains continue to fall in various places and at various times. But the harvest producing rains of the BIG SQUEEZE on a remnant church of “wise virgins” are yet to come.

Thus the destiny that awaits the wise virgins is not to be dreaded but to be eagerly anticipated.

Have you not read, have you not heard, that the Lord is returning for a victorious church, cleansed and matured by tribulation, as we bring in the great end times harvest in the power and anointing of the Spirit?

Would you trade that experience for your present worldly ambitions and hopes?

And they have conquered him ... (Satan)... by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Revelation 12:11 ESV (insert is the author’s)

Our individual and corporate response to His warning in the Olivet prophecy and in the Revelation of Jesus Christ during this present phase of God’s SHAKING and SQUEEZING will influence our experience and the experience of our children, our family at large, our friends, and our church fellowship as we anticipate both the tribulation and the glorious destiny awaiting this generation of the church.

It is up to us, then, to pray, to repent individually and corporately, to encourage one another and spur one another on, and to choose wisely, because the time is short.

“See, I have warned you beforehand.” Matthew 24:25 Amplified

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness will cover the earth
And deep darkness the peoples;
But the LORD will rise upon you
And His glory will appear upon you. Isaiah 60:1,2 NASB*

(See **“The Lord’s Letter to the Church in America”** and **“The Time of Shaking” – A Prophecy by Lance Lambert**)