

I Will Keep You From the
Hour of Testing

Rev 3: 10

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- Every Christian denomination believes the Jesus Christ is coming again
 - John 14: 2-3...“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.”
 - I Cor 15: 51-54; I Thess 4: 13-18
- Rev 3: 10....First of all we must take notice of the definite article “the” hour of testing. This denotes a specific event that is coming to the earth

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- “The” hour of testing is what is described in Rev 6-19.
 - Notice Jesus did not say “I will keep you from testing” rather He is referring to a time of testing for those who dwell on the earth.
 - Also, in our text we see the word “from”
 - Derived from the Greek word “ek”
 - Implying an idea of separation
 - Also, the promise of being “kept from the hour”
 - Only applies to the Christian believer
 - To none other does this apply

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- Which brings us to the question as to whether people will be saved during the Tribulation?
 - Rev 6: 9-11; 11:7; 12: 11; 13: 5, 15; 14: 13; 17: 6; 18: 24...all indicate that a massive number of people will come to faith in Christ during this time of Tribulation
 - These are Tribulation saints....distinct from Church saints
 - If they are the same, then our text today is meaningless (Rev 3:10)

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- Question....(Jn 14: 1-3; I Cor 15; I Thess 4)
 - Are there any other references as to whether the Church will be rescued from the “wrath to come?”
 - First....there is not one O.T. passage on the Tribulation period where the Church is mentioned
 - Deut 4: 29-30; Jer 30: 4-11; Dan 8: 24-27; 12:1-2; Zeph 1: 14-18
 - Likewise, there is not one reference in any N.T. passage on the Tribulation where the Church is mentioned
 - Matt 13: 30, 39-44; 48-50; 24: 15-31; I Thess 1: 9-10; 5: 4-9; II Thess 2: 1-11

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- Furthermore....
 - II Thess 2: 3-7.....
 - The pre-tribulation rapture of the Church
 - Explains the removal of the “restrainer”
 - Rom 5: 9..... Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath *of God* through Him.
 - I Thess 1: 9...and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.
 - “deliver” in the Greek....means “to take to one’s self”
(Word Studies of the New Testament?)

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- Still furthermore.....
 - Throughout the O.T. God delivered His people before disaster occurred
 - Enoch....taken before the flood
 - Noah and his family....in the ark before it rained
 - Lot....taken from Sodom before destruction
 - Hebrew firstborn....safe while Egyptian firstborn died
 - Spies fled Jericho and Rahab secured before disaster
 - Compare the following...

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- John 14: 1-3 and I Thess 4: 13-18
 - John 14: 3.....
 - Jesus comes from heaven.... I Thess 4: 16
 - John 14: 3...I will receive you I Thess 4: 17
 - John 14: 3...Where I am you may be also I Thess 4: 17
 - John 14: 1...let not your hearts....I Thess 4: 18
 - I Thess 4: 17...taken to meet Him
 - Rev 19: 14....armies were following Him
 - Clothed in white linen (Rev 19: 7-9)
 - Question....How can they follow Him if they are not with Him?

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- Finally, the Jewish marriage ceremony
 - There were three phases of the marriage
 - First....the parents of the Bride and Groom
 - This was legal affair when a price paid for the bride
 - The price that was paid was with His blood
 - His church, His bride comes to Him in faith believing
 - Second... the Groom leaves to prepare a home in father's house
 - Once completed the father tells the son to get his bride

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- John 14: 3..."Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also."
- The Groom then take his bride home, the marriage is completed
- Finally, there is a great feast at the Father's house lasting several days.....
 - Rev 19: 7-9.....the marriage supper of the Lamb

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- This my friends the “blessed hope.”
 - Titus 2: 11-14
 - Phil 3: 20-21..... For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
 - I John 3: 2.... Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

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- You see the “rapture” of the church is much more than sudden removal from earth
- It is the celebration that death has no hold over the believer
 - I Cor 15: 55-58
 - Be steadfast.....
- Christ is the first-born from the dead
 - I Cor 15: 20-23.....
 - At His coming
 - It may just be today!!!!