

THE COMING GREAT PURGE

Israel has long been a stiff-necked people (Ex. 32:9). Right now they are back in the land of promise in blindness (Rom. 11:25). Most are secular Jews and they think they are a “self-made” people. But in the coming Tribulation Period God is going to BREAK them (Dan. 9:27; 12:7).

At the midpoint of the Tribulation Period Satan will be confined to the earth and no longer have any access to heaven (Rev. 12:7-9). With great wrath the devil will then go after Israel (Rev. 12:12-13). But God will intervene and make a place of refuge for Israel in the wilderness (Rev. 12:14).

God’s deliverance and provision for Israel at this point is very reminiscent of the Exodus and His provision of manna for Israel in the wilderness (cf. Ex. 12-16, 19:4). There is a particular place where God is going to care for Israel during this time.

Many believe this is the place called “**Bozrah**” (meaning “sheepfold”) in the Bible, but today is called **PETRA** (cf. Isa. 63:1-6, Jer. 49:13-14). Petra is located in Jordan, about 125 miles south of Jerusalem (cf. Isa. 33:13-16, 41:17-20, Mic. 2:12). Dan. 11:41 indicates that the areas of **Edom, Moab, and Ammon**, corresponding to modern-day Jordan, will escape out of Antichrist’s hand. Petra is in this area. From Petra, the threatened remnant will plead in faith for Messiah to deliver them and He will (cf. Isa. 63:1-6, Hos. 6:1-3).

Revelation 13:5–7 (NKJV)

5 And he was **given** a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was **given** authority to continue for **forty-two months**.

6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

7 It was **granted** to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was **given** him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Four times in Rev. 13:5-7, Antichrist is said to be “**given**” this authority. He can only do this because God ALLOWS him to do so. He operates on a permissive basis from God and on an empowered basis from Satan. He will come in his own name (cf. Jn. 5:43) and claim he is a self-made man; but in fact, all this is GIVEN TO him, but only for 3 and ½ years.

The GREAT issue in the Day of the Lord will be the LORDSHIP of the God of Israel (cf. Isa. 40-48, Ezek.). It will be the Lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ versus the lordship of Antichrist. It will be the TRUE Christ versus the Antichrist. True believers will be those who call upon the Name of the

Lord and be saved, as seen in Joel 2:32. The rebel unbelievers of the world will accept Antichrist as their god and show their allegiance by taking the mark of the beast (cf. Rev. 13:11-18).

There are several purposes that God has for the Tribulation Period, but a key one is to bring Israel to the point of repentance. When that happens, He will then deliver and restore them in the kingdom.

After saying that Jacob will be saved out of his time trouble in Jer. 30:7, the LORD in Jer. 30:11 further assures them that He will not make a complete end of them (cf. 4:27, 5:10, 18, 30:11, 46:28). In wrath, He remembers mercy (cf. Lev. 26:44, Neh. 9:31, Hab. 3:2).

Sadly, only a remnant will be saved. This will involve a GREAT PURGE! Ezekiel 20:33-38 says that God will purge out the Jewish rebels. Zech. 13:8-9 says that two-thirds in the land shall die. Only one-third will come through the fire. This one third will call on His Name and be saved. Each one will say, ***“The LORD is my God”***, and God will say to them, ***“This is My people.”***

It is of this remnant that Rom. 11:26-27 says, ***“And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I will take away their sins.”***

In Ezekiel 36, God says that He will restore Israel, not for Israel’s sake, but He says, ***“for My holy name’s sake”*** (cf. v. 22).

God ultimately will do this for His own glory. God is glorified in the preservation, and in the ultimate restoration of His people Israel (cf. Ezek. 36:16-28). In Isa. 46:13, God refers to Israel as ***“Israel My glory”*** (cf. Isa. 60:21).

Who are we to argue? To God be the glory! May He be glorified in the Church (cf. Eph. 3:21) and in His people Israel. And praise His Name, He will be!