



“I heard [God’s approaching judgment] and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet **I will wait patiently** for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us” (Habakkuk 3:16).

Though evil was everywhere within his homeland and outside, a lamenting Habakkuk heard God’s words and came to understand His plan, concluding that he will wait and endure patiently. God’s two-fold plan works to bring people to repentance or to their destruction because of their refusal to repent.

God wants all of mankind to live forever with Him in His kingdom. “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead **he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance**” (II Peter 3:9).

God’s goodness brings shame on sinful behaviour and in turn sincere repentance. “Therefore, **the Lord longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; how blessed are all those who wait for Him**” (Isaiah 30:18).

Those who embrace wickedness and rebellion are building up God’s wrath against them. Their dirty deeds are recorded filling up the books in heaven where judgement will be made and their destruction sentenced.

“But because of **your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath**, when his righteous judgment will be revealed” (Romans 2:5).

Our Creator God is not only our ALL-POWERFUL King who rules, but He is also our High Priest, the LORD who lives righteously and perfectly. The ancient Israelites as they were exiting Egypt came to learn about the Almighty God of all creation first as their King as God fought against Egypt and her gods, then as they travelled into the desert, He taught them about himself as their High Priest—their perfect theologian full of rightness: kindness, compassion, long suffering, temperance, goodness and love.

“Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him [Moses] and proclaimed his name, the LORD. And he passed before him [Moses] and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a **God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin**” (Exodus 34:6).

Knowing the Great Creator is all goodness, a quick self-reflection brings those with a conscience to shame and moves them to walk on the righteous path set before them by God.

“Or do you disregard the riches of His kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that **God’s kindness leads you to repentance?**” (Romans 2:4)

But, to those who cast off God’s way and consider it as weakness and a liability, they will be brought to judgement, sentenced and destroyed.

Before that day of Judgement, wickedness will continue and lamentations will increase triggering fervent prayer and supplications to Almighty God for a rescue as this evil age erupts spewing lies and deceit throughout the world like a poisonous gas.

From out of the shadows, Wickedness will face off against God-fearing, God-serving believers as we enter into a time of great distress like never before or be again. God has already warned believers to prepare and He commanded them to wait for Him and endure patiently.

“The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months... **He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them...** If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. **This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints**” (Revelation 13:5, 7, 9-10).

The body of people named by Jesus Christ as **PHILADELPHIA**, keep Christ’s command to **endure patiently**, hence, they will be kept from the hour of trial to come upon the whole world (Revelation 3:10).

Another body of people grouped by Jesus Christ under the name of **EPHESUS**, too, endure patiently. “**I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up** for my name’s sake, **and you have not grown weary**” (Revelation 2:3).

Throughout history, persecution, attacks, torture and death have been inflicted on people who stand against Wickedness. A body of people under the name of **SMYRNA** have suffered in the past even to death; they continue to suffer in our present day and this same group of people will suffer as prophesied in the near future. During their suffering, all believers will feel the Smyrna’s distress and patiently endure in prayer for them and for those causing the harm praying for their repentance so that they pull away from Satan’s cruelty and turn to their loving God.

In ancient times, Wickedness infiltrated the two houses of the kingdom of Israel. Isaiah, the prophet, lamented the state of his people who were applying a 21st century tactic of labelling the truth-speaking people as “conspiracy theorists.” **“Do not call conspiracy everything that these people call conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it”** (Isaiah 8:11-12).

The God of Israel urged His people to fear Him and He would be a safe place for them, as well as a testing stone and an unmoveable force that can bring them to their knees. To the ancient priests and 21st century ministry who preach falsehood, God Almighty will bring them to nothing (Isaiah 8:13-16).

ISAIAH, like Habakkuk was comforted that judgement will come and he replied, **“I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob. I will put my trust in Him”** (Isaiah 8:17).

MICAH lamented during a time when wickedness had filled the hearts and minds of his people and godlessness overtook the land. He recorded, **“The godly have been swept from the land; not one upright man remains. All men lie in wait to shed blood; each hunts his brother with a net. Both hands are skilled in doing evil; the ruler demands gifts, the judge accepts bribes, the powerful dictate what they desire—they all conspire together”** (Micah 7:2-3). Micah pushed away to affirm his allegiance to the God of Israel, **“But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD. I wait for God my Saviour; my God will hear me”** (Micah 7:7).

JEREMIAH recorded his deep sadness for the wickedness of his people. While they revelled in rebellion, he wrote, **“Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, ‘The LORD is my inheritance [my King]; therefore, I will wait for him’”** (Lamentations 3:22-24).

This evil age has dragged on for 6,000 long years and has given grief to those who obey and serve God. During this age, believers waited and endured patiently knowing that God is working to bring all of mankind into repentance. Jeremiah recorded, **“The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him”** (Lamentations 3:25).

KING DAVID pledged his allegiance to the God of Israel and remained faithful his whole life. During adversarial times, David called to God for rescue and He heard him. David knew, without question that the God of Israel is the Supreme God, while the nations of the world worshipped rogue angels—fallen sons of God from God’s heavenly Holy Council who were given rulership over the nations. However, after they began their rule one by one they turned against God to grapple with Satan for supreme dominance. No fault of their own, the nations of the world were taken captive, deceived and tricked and forced to remain loyal to Wickedness. **“In the day of my distress I call on You, because You answer me. O Lord, there is none like You among the gods, nor any works like Yours”** (Psalm 86:7-8); **“For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods”** (Psalm 95:3).

King David declared, “**I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait**, and in His word do I hope” (Psalm 130:5). He encouraged everyone to do the same. “**Wait for the Lord and keep His way**, and He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it” (Psalm 37:34). The Psalmist added, “Rest in the Lord and **wait patiently for Him**; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes” (Psalm 37:7).

During this final chapter of this evil age, the people on earth who serve Wickedness are being forced out into the open. These people hold high positions. They are wealthy and they have a collective agenda. While waiting and enduring patiently for God’s orders for Christ to return, believers are urged by Jesus to **overcome**. To the seven churches of Revelation, of which, each group seem to specialize in a core function within this kingdom, all are urged to overcome—to stand strong in living righteously and in total allegiance to Almighty God.



Ephesus is commended for not tolerating wicked people, yet during their early years they had unfailing love and unrelenting strength taking a global message out to the world, but today, they have fallen working powerlessly and achieving little. As they overcome to see their state in the final latter days, they rise up again full of power as God pours out His Holy Spirit and the gospel of the Kingdom of God will be heard in full measure.

Smyrna are the spiritual warriors going ahead of the rest proclaiming truth and justice, yet feeling inadequate and oppressed by the many wolves in sheep clothing. They will prevail and their perceived weaknesses will prove to be their strength as they trust in God and lean on Him.

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Both the towns of Ephesus and Smyrna are located on the coastline. The sea is often used to image the homeland of Wickedness. Spiritual warriors guard the arrival of Wickedness and those who take the gospel worldwide will always tackle the enemy first as they go into foreign homelands.

Pergamum is located where Satan has his throne—the centre of false teaching. His headquarters is a vascular web comprised of schools, universities, theological centres, scientific researchers, news media, social media and all platforms that provide and promote thoughts, ideas and beliefs that reject God. Pergamum is not standing up to the compromised teachers and those spreading lies, instead they cower, stepping back slowly into the shadows giving full power to those spreading disinformation, misinformation and misconceptions. Those who overcome will find strength in God and reveal the twisting of truth, the covering of lies and the blatant and malicious efforts to spread disinformation in order to enslave the people.

Thyatira, it appears, are the people holding all of the nation's leadership positions. This group of people have a long history of dysfunctional leadership. However, overtime, they are doing more of the right ways than previously. Jesus is urging these people today, to remove and not tolerate those who behave like Jezebel, the wicked queen and wife of King Ahab. She killed Israel's prophets and replaced them with her vile prophets leading the people astray into sinning against God. Jezebel images a group of people holding national leadership positions who have "learned Satan's so-called deep secrets" (Revelation 2:24) and they practice them, corrupting every level of every function within national leadership. Jesus Christ is urging Thyatira to rid themselves of this body of people. As the national leaders overcome, the swamp will be drained and law and order will be enforced.

Sardis is a group of people whose work is likely involving charities and similar organizations. Originally, their works were good, but today, it has become a money-making enterprise barely reaching people in need. Many charities have become an empty shell and some have entered into the shadows working for Wickedness preying on children, women and the vulnerable spawning an industry that is detestable and filled with crimes against humanity. Jesus describes these people as "having a reputation of being alive, but you are dead" (Revelation 3:1). Corruption has destroyed the work these people have been given; they need to overcome and sanitize their organizations.

Philadelphia is the name given to a group of people dedicated to obeying God and following Christ wherever he goes. So narrow is the way and yet, they found it. They will not be swayed, their love for God and Christ is unbreakable. Jesus will open the door for them—a door that no man can shut. The wicked will try, but they will fail. The truth will go out unhindered during a time of great distress by people with unconditional devotion to serving Almighty God.

Laodiceans are a very large, confident, out-spoken group of people trumpeting their conviction to Jesus and God but their theology is not pure—it is tainted to the point that Jesus spews them out. Christ will not accept them as they are. Laodiceans mirror the churches claiming to know the scriptures, yet all teaching different theologies, while shaking their finger at each other. Christ is not among any of them. He urges them to humble themselves, recognize their shameful arrogance and come to him to exchange their misunderstandings, misinformation and misconceptions with pure truth—gold refined in the fire. He loves them that is why he urges them to overcome—to self-reflect and repent.

Jacob's trouble is brewing before us. God will correct his people and bring them to their knees. This painful correction will expose their sins, their wayward lifestyles, their godlessness and urge them to return to God and find the narrow path of righteousness. In their suffering, they will learn to wait and endure patiently for God who is bringing His people and the whole world into repentance.

"But you must return to your God, maintaining love and justice, and always waiting on your God" (Hosea 12:6).

“Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. **As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful”** (James 5:7-11).

The one tribe, Dan, excluded from the 144,000 people in Revelation will also say, **“I await Your salvation, O LORD”** (Genesis 49:18).

A time is coming, after Jacob’s trouble when the people on earth will say, **“Surely this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He has saved us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited.** Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation” (Isaiah 25:9).

God Almighty and our LORD is showing **all of mankind** that Satan’s theology leads to suffering, chaos and destruction. No one will be without excuse; God’s word will go out to all the world.

Micah recorded God’s declaration to mankind, **“He has shown you, O MANKIND, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you but to ACT JUSTLY, to LOVE MERCY, and to WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD?”** (Micah 6:8).



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