

Sermon 10 - “The Time of Trouble: Escaping the Final Crisis”

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Opening Hymn #604 – “We Know Not the Hour”

Closing Hymn #600 – “Hold Fast Till I Come”

Scripture Reading: *“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.”* (Daniel 12:1)

“Harriet Tubman: Escaping to Freedom and Leading Others”

Imagine living in a world where you were **treated as property**, where freedom was just a distant dream. This was the reality for **Harriet Tubman**, a woman born into slavery in Maryland in the early 1800s. She endured **harsh treatment, brutal beatings, and the constant fear of being separated from her family**.

But Harriet refused to accept bondage as her destiny. **One night, she made a daring escape, traveling over 100 miles on foot to reach the North—where she was finally free.** However, her story didn’t end there. Rather than settling into safety, **she risked her life over and over again**, returning to the South to lead more than **300 enslaved people to freedom** through the Underground Railroad.

She became known as **“Moses”** because of how she guided her people through danger, always trusting in God. She later said:

“I always told God, ‘I’m going to hold steady on You, and You’ve got to see me through.’”

Despite bounty hunters, slave catchers, and armed patrols, **she was never caught**. She knew that freedom was worth every risk.

Lesson: Enduring Trouble with Faith and Courage

Harriet Tubman’s story is **a powerful parallel to the coming Time of Trouble** that the Bible warns about.

- Just as she had to escape slavery, God's people will have to flee from spiritual Babylon in the last days.
- Just as she had to navigate dangers, we will face persecution, trials, and hardship.
- Just as she trusted God for protection, we must trust in Him when the final crisis comes.

Jesus said in **Matthew 24:21**:

"For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again."

The final crisis will be unlike anything we've ever seen. But if we hold onto God, just like Harriet Tubman did, He will see us through!

The question is: **Are you ready to escape spiritual captivity? Are you prepared to endure through the final crisis?**

Jesus warned in **Daniel 12:1**:

"At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation."

- Will you **have the faith to endure when trouble comes?**
- Will you **trust that Jesus is preparing a way of escape?**

Daniel 12:1 warns us of this unparalleled time of distress. Yet it also offers hope: Michael, representing Christ, will arise to protect and deliver His people. Ellen White's vision of the Time of Trouble underscores the severity of this period but also highlights God's sustaining power for those who remain faithful. Today, we will explore what the Time of Trouble means, how God will sustain His people, and how we can prepare to stand firm.

I. Understanding the Time of Trouble

A. The Prophecy of Daniel 12

- Daniel 12:1 describes a time of unparalleled distress that coincides with Michael "arising."
- Michael represents Christ, who intervenes to protect His faithful people during this crisis.
- This time of trouble occurs just before Christ's return, marking the climax of earth's history.

B. Ellen White's Vision of the Time of Trouble

- Ellen White writes: *"The time of trouble, such as never was, is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess and which many are too indolent to obtain."* (The Great Controversy, p. 621)
- This period will test the faith and endurance of God's people, separating the true followers of Christ from those who are unprepared.

C. Key Features of the Time of Trouble

1. Global Crisis:

- Natural disasters, economic collapse, persecution, and spiritual deception will intensify.
- The enforcement of the mark of the beast will place God's people in direct opposition to worldly powers.

2. God's Judgment:

- The seven last plagues (Revelation 16) will fall on those who reject God's truth.
- Yet, God's faithful will be protected, just as the Israelites were shielded during the plagues of Egypt.

3. Deliverance of the Faithful:

- Despite the trials, Daniel 12:1 promises deliverance for those whose names are written in the Book of Life.
- This is not a time to fear but a time to trust in God's faithfulness.

II. God Sustains His People During the Time of Trouble

A. Divine Protection

- Just as God protected Noah in the flood, Daniel in the lion's den, and the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace, He will protect His people during the Time of Trouble.
- *"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge."* (Psalm 91:4)

B. Provision in the Wilderness

- Ellen White assures us: *"Bread and water will be given us in that day."* (The Great Controversy, p. 629)
- God's faithfulness in providing for Elijah and the Israelites is a reminder of His ability to sustain His people physically and spiritually.

C. Strength Through Faith

- The trials of the Time of Trouble will not overwhelm God's faithful because their faith will be anchored in Him.
- *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* (2 Corinthians 12:9)

III. Preparing to Stand During the Time of Trouble

A. Memorize Scripture

- The Bible will be our source of strength and guidance when external resources are unavailable.
- Ellen White emphasizes: *"None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict."* (The Great Controversy, p. 593)
- Start with key promises like Psalm 91, Matthew 24, and Revelation 14.

B. Practice Trusting God in Small Trials

- Faith is strengthened through daily challenges. If we can trust God in small difficulties now, we will be prepared to trust Him during the final crisis.
- Reflect on how God has led you in the past and claim His promises for the future.

C. Live a Life of Obedience and Surrender

- The Time of Trouble will reveal the hearts of all people.
- Surrender fully to God today so that you are spiritually prepared when the crisis comes.
- Ellen White writes: *"We are to strive earnestly, with strong faith, to enter into that state of purity which will bring us into harmony with Christ."* (The Great Controversy, p. 623)

IV. Practical Application

1. Memorize Scripture:

- Commit to memorizing one passage each week that strengthens your faith.
- Start with Psalm 91, which promises God's protection during trials.

2. Practice Trusting God in Small Trials:

- Reflect on a current challenge and surrender it to God.
- Write down how God has been faithful in past difficulties.

3. Live in Daily Surrender:

- Examine your life for areas that need surrender to God's will.
- Commit to living each day in obedience and trust.

V. One Takeaway: God's Power Is Sufficient to Carry Us Through Any Crisis

The Time of Trouble will be the most challenging period in history, but it is not a time to fear. It is a time to trust in God's promises, power, and protection. Ellen White reassures us: *"The eye of God, looking down the ages, was fixed upon the crisis which His people are to meet, when earthly powers shall be arrayed against them. Like the captive exile, they will be in fear of death by starvation or by violence. But the Holy One who divided the Red Sea for Israel will manifest His mighty power and turn their captivity."* (The Great Controversy, p. 634)

"The Tuskegee Airmen: Fighting Through Opposition to Victory"

During **World War II**, a group of African American pilots known as the **Tuskegee Airmen** faced overwhelming obstacles before they even reached the battlefield. They lived in a time of **deep racial segregation**, where many believed Black men were **incapable of flying combat aircraft**.

But these brave men refused to accept defeat. **They trained harder, flew with precision, and proved their worth in battle.** Even when military leaders tried to shut them down, they **held onto their faith and determination**.

When the war intensified, the Tuskegee Airmen were assigned one of the most dangerous missions: **escort duty for bombers flying over enemy territory**. Other fighter squadrons lost many bombers, but the **Tuskegee Airmen had an unmatched record—they never lost a single bomber under their protection**.

Despite the discrimination, the opposition, and the struggles they faced, **they became one of the most respected fighter groups in the war**. Years later, one of the pilots, General Benjamin O. Davis Jr., said:

"The privilege of fighting for our country was worth every struggle we faced."

Lesson: Holding Fast in the Time of Trouble

The Tuskegee Airmen's story is a powerful lesson for us as we prepare for the coming crisis.

- Just as **they had to fight through opposition**, we will face **persecution and trials in the final days**.
- Just as **they had to be trained and prepared**, we must **spiritually prepare for the coming storm**.
- Just as **they endured through danger to see victory**, we must **hold onto God through the time of trouble—because victory is ahead!**

Revelation 3:10 reminds us:

"Because you have kept my command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."

Final Appeal: Will You Hold Fast?

The Tuskegee Airmen **could have given up in the face of discrimination and opposition, but they persevered**. In the same way, **God is calling His people to stand firm in the face of persecution, trials, and the final crisis**.

- **Will you be trained and ready for the spiritual battles ahead?**
- **Will you endure the trials with faith, knowing that victory is near?**
- **Will you stand strong, holding onto Jesus, until the final moment?**

Just as the **Tuskegee Airmen's faith led them to victory**, **God promises that those who endure the coming storm will stand victorious with Him**.

 **Hold fast, because Jesus is coming soon!**

Let us pray.