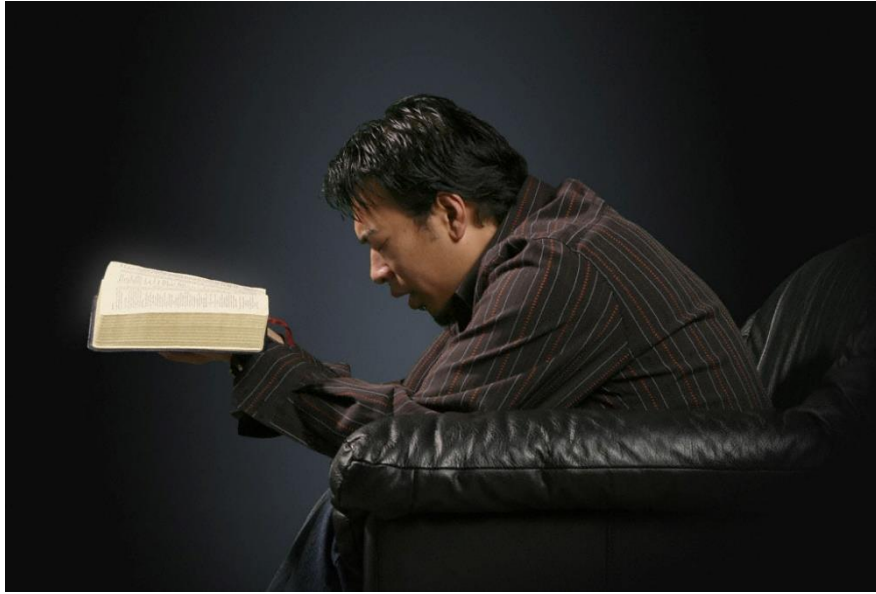




# MANAGING IN TOUGH TIMES

Lesson 11 for March 18, 2023








“Offer to God thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me” (Psalm 50:14-15)

The book for Revelation foretold a global crisis that will specially affect those who want to remain faithful to God (Rev. 13:15-17).

Those who will obey God's laws won't be able to buy or sell in that moment. What will happen then? Or what can we do if we face a similar crisis today because of other disasters?

Can we prepare today to face this type of crisis?



-  Who will defend us in tough times?
-  Who could we trust?
-  What could we keep?
-  What will be our priorities?
-  How can we prepare for tough times?



# WHO WILL DEFEND US IN TOUGH TIMES?

**"[...] Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." (2 Chronicles 20:20)**

**King Jehoshaphat was ready for war (2Chr. 17:2, 12-13). However, he was aware of his limitations. He couldn't deal with the coalition that were threatening him (2Chr. 20:1-2).**

**He didn't seek help from other people to face this crisis, but he turned to the only One who could actually help him: God (2Chr. 20:3-12).**



**This was not a decision driven by fear or defenselessness. Josaphat was used to serve God (2Chr. 17:3-4; 19:4). He knew that he could trust Him. Do you have such a daily experience with God that will help you trust Him in moments of crisis?**



# WHO COULD WE TRUST?

**"Don't put your trust in human leaders; no human being can save you."**

**(Psalm 146:3 GNT)**



**David knew that no human could save him (Ps. 146:3). He learnt from Jonathan's experience that God doesn't need a powerful army to overcome His enemies (1S. 14:6, 13, 23).**

**However, he was tempted by Satan and wanted to know how many soldiers he had (1Chr. 21:1-2). It was not prohibited, but David was showing that he was trusting his military strength more than God.**



**God is above all things. We must come to Him first before resorting to human resources.**





# WHAT COULD WE KEEP?

**"All these things will be destroyed in this way. So think of the kind of holy and godly lives you must live." (2 Peter 3:11 GW)**

**What will we keep when Jesus comes back?**

**During the final tribulation we won't be able to buy or sell. If we have anything left after that, it will be destroyed by fire (2P. 3:10-11).**

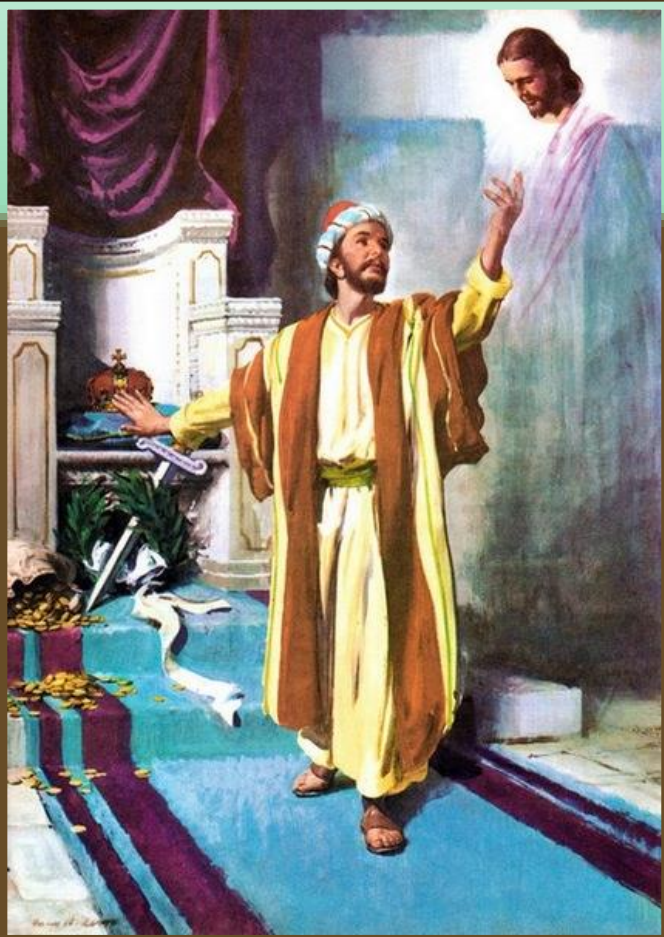
**So should we get rid of everything we have now since we won't be able to keep it?**

**No, unless the Holy Spirit clearly tells us to do so. We're stewards of everything God has given us until Jesus comes back. We must manage it wisely and faithfully.**



**Yet, we must always remember that whatever we accumulate here is transitory; fleeting; and, if we are not careful, has the potential to be spiritually corrupting.**

# WHAT WILL BE OUR PRIORITIES?



**"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Matthew 6:24 NIV)**

**We will have to decide in some moment: either to serve God and lose our possessions, or to keep them and serve someone who's not worthy to be served.**

**Our decision in that moment will depend on the decisions we make today (Mt. 6:24).**

**The apostle John said, "Do not love the world or the things in the world" (1Jn. 2:15). What's bad in the "world" that moves us away from God (1Jn. 2:16)?**

**Philippians 2:12 is a good piece of advice to set the right priorities: "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Our eternal future depends on it.**



# HOW CAN WE PREPARE FOR TOUGH TIMES?

**“so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.” (Revelation 13:17 NIV)**

**A time of distress will come for everyone (Dn. 12:1). Those who will remain faithful to God and keep His commandments will face greater troubles.**

**If we don't subject to the powers governing the world in that moment but remain faithful to God, we will lose our jobs and our possessions (Rev. 13:14-17). However, we can be sure that God will take care of us (2Ths. 3:3; Ps. 34:19).**

**How can we prepare for those moments?**



**Learning to trust God and to live relying on Him today. A good test is to be faithful with our tithes. If we fail in something so small, how could we remain faithful in the forthcoming crisis (Jer. 12:5)?**



**“Often the follower of Christ is brought where he cannot serve God and carry forward his worldly enterprises. Perhaps it appears that obedience to some plain requirement of God will cut off his means of support [...] When we learn the power of His word, we shall not follow the suggestions of Satan in order to obtain food or to save our lives. Our only questions will be, What is God's command? and what His promise? Knowing these, we shall obey the one, and trust the other.”**

**E. G. W. (The Desire of Ages, cp. 12, p. 121)**