

# Survival 9 of 14

## *Economic Survival*

#0433

Study Given by W. D. Frazee

“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish” Luke 21:17–18.

These are the survivors. Now, these two verses are very interesting, the way they're put together.

“Ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake.  
But there shall not an hair of your head perish” Luke 21:17–18.

We might wonder what that 18<sup>th</sup> verse means when we notice in the 16<sup>th</sup> verse the last part:

“...some of you shall they cause to be put to death”  
Luke 21: 16.

That would sound like perishing, wouldn't it?

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” John 3:16.

To the Christian death is but a little thing. It's just a sleep from the time a person closes his eyes until Jesus appears in the resurrection day and we are forever with the Lord. So to the Christian, death is not perishing. The death which means perishing is the death that the sinner dies, the death that the wicked of this world die; a death that means that they will never be with God in the glorious city. This is indeed perishing. So we want to survive, not merely this world, we want to survive the second death, don't we?

So, we're going to study this evening, some of the experiences that lie between us and the coming of our Lord, further experiences involving survival. You'll notice in these 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> verses Christ predicts a time of great persecution:

“Ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake. But there shall not a hair of your head perish”  
Luke 21:16–18.

These predictions were fulfilled during the early ages of Christianity as the followers of Jesus went out into the heathen world. Many of them met a martyr's

death. Then later in the Dark Ages, again multitudes of the true followers of Christ were betrayed, beaten, stoned, tortured in various ways and killed. But these prophecies are to be fulfilled just ahead of us in a very special way as we go into the greatest time of trouble the world has ever seen. You will remember in Daniel 12, the scripture says:

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which stands for the children of Thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time Thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” Daniel 12:1.

So we want our names written in the book of life that we may be among those that are delivered at this time.

What will it be to live in a world where everyone hates you? Everybody hates you, that's what this 17<sup>th</sup> verse says. “Ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.” The world is rapidly filling up with the spirit of hate. Nation against nation, race against race, one part of the world against the other part of the world, class against class, but the greatest hatred of all is religious hatred. Religious persecution has shed the blood of tens of millions down through the history of the world. And the wrath of Satan increases as his time grows short. He is determined to blot out the remnant from this earth, the remnant of those that keep the commandments of God.

Let's turn over to Revelation chapters 12 and 13. And here in this wonderful book, which shares God's program of survival, we shall note the prophecies. Revelation 12:17 shows us this time when all the world will hate the people of God. When Christ's prophecy will be literally fulfilled, “ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.” Will you read it with me?

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” Revelation 12:17.

Those who keep God's commandments then will be the object of the special hatred and wrath of the dragon. And in this, as we have already noted from other prophecies, the enemy will have the co-operation of the great powers of earth. “Ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.”

Why would an individual do what draws upon him, and brings upon him universal hatred, why would he do it? Jesus says in our opening verse, “for my name's sake.” It's a wonderful thing to love somebody so much that you'd rather be true to Him, even though all the world hates you, than disown Him and have all the world favor you. That's what the love of Jesus means, isn't it? And didn't He do that for us? Didn't He stand alone for us, with the howling mob all about Him, beaten, condemned, and then led out to be crucified? He bore that all alone for us, and He says to each of us: “If you love me, take up your cross and follow me.”

So the remnant of God's children in this world, as they come right down to the end of time, the whole world is making war against them. They are simply following in their Master's steps. To some, it may seem a strange thing to be walking a path that we know is going to lead to this sort of an experience. Many would say, "Well, if you think this is up the road, why do you keep going up that road? Why not avoid it?" If a man were going up one of these trails and somebody who knew would tell him that a grizzly bear was waiting around the corner of the mountain, what would he do? He'd probably turn back, wouldn't he? Yes, but here is a war with the dragon—a terrible war. He's angry and as we have seen, he's going to bring all this persecution. Why go ahead and get into all that trouble? For Jesus' sake.

There is a war that began in Heaven, as Revelation 12:7 says, war in Heaven between Christ and His angels on one side, and the dragon or Satan and his angels on the other. They've been at it ever since. The last battle in this age-long war will be the most fearful of all the battles, but it will end in complete victory for Jesus and His children. Oh friends, it's wonderful to be on the side of Jesus, isn't it? On the side of love, on the side of obedience. He says: "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments."

Now in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter, I want to call your attention to some of the methods that the enemy is going to use in this warfare:

"And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" Revelation 13:16–17.

Here is a plain prediction, in the Bible, that there will come a time when economic pressure will be exerted against those who keep the commandments of God. They will not be able to do what? Buy or sell. May I call your attention to something very interesting? There never was a time in the history of the world when things were so arranged and organized to carry out such a procedure as this, as they are tonight. There never was a time when people were so dependent on buying and selling just for the necessities of life.

Just a short time ago comparatively, say, 100 years ago, or even 50 years ago, most people got at least part of what they ate, and some of them got most of what they ate how? By growing it. Do they today? Oh, no. I have a friend that's a wheat farmer over here in Kansas. He raises hundreds and thousands of bushels of wheat. That's all he raises, just wheat. How much of it does he eat? Not a bushel. What does he do with it? He sells it. What he gets to eat, he gets out of the supermarket just as the way that people in New York or Chicago. Do you see what I mean, my friends?

There never was a time when so much of the world's food was raised by so few people and carried from the grower to the consumer by a vast network of trucks, freight cars, and other methods of commerce. It's a wonderful program. But note that it makes it easier than ever to put the squeeze on that this prophecy predicts.

He causes all, both small and great, free and bond, rich and poor, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads, and that no man might buy or sell save he that had the mark. Now how will the people of God get through this time? Let me say very simply friends that this persecution which we are studying tonight, is going to bring us into two special times of trouble. One is after the close of probation, during the time the plagues are falling, I studied that with you. That's the great time of trouble. But previous to that, during this time of the enforcement of this mark, there will be what sometimes we call a short time of trouble, or a little time of trouble. During this time, this economic squeeze will be on in a special way, continuing on into the great time of trouble, and finally resulting in a death decree. You'll find the death decree mentioned in the 15<sup>th</sup> verse. He is going to...

"...cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" Revelation 13:15.

That's what it says, there's going to be a death decree.

Now, I want to ask you something friends, which comes first, the economic boycott or the death decree? The economic boycott. You can see how that would be certainly. If economic measures were going to be used, they would be used before the people were killed that they were supposed to put the squeeze on. The squeeze begins with lesser measures. As these prove ineffectual, harder and more cruel measures will be invoked. So first comes this boycott, and later the death decree.

Now, how are we going to live through this time? Do you think the people of God will take this mark? Oh, no, they won't take the mark. Because the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation and the 19<sup>th</sup> verse shows us the warning of God:

"... the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God..." Revelation 14:9–10.

We would rather meet the wrath of men than the wrath of God. Do you agree? That's the point. We would rather have the favor of God than the favor of man. We love Jesus more than we fear the dragon.

Now, turn to the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation, and notice the wonderful song of victory that the remnant will sing:

"... I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten..."

What?

"...the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb..." Revelation 15:2–3.

So who's going to win, those who break God's law, or those who keep it? Those who keep it. Those who take the mark of the beast, or those who reject it? Those who reject it.

But now I come again to this practical question; How are we going to get through this time, how are we going to get through the time of the death decree? How are we going to get through this time of economic boycott that precedes it? Now I do not know, and nobody else knows just how long that boycott will last. It's going to last more than a day or two. It would take longer than a day or two for the squeeze to have any effect, wouldn't it? If you really believe that the time was coming when you couldn't buy or sell, I wonder what you would be thinking about.

I'm going to read you something interesting here in *Early Writings*:

"The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water shall be sure at that time, and that we shall not lack or suffer hunger; for God is able to spread a table for us in the wilderness. If necessary He would send ravens to feed us, as He did to feed Elijah, or rain manna from heaven, as He did for the Israelites" *Early Writings*, page 56.

Has God fed His people in special times of need before? Did He feed His people for 40 years when there were no stores to buy from, and no place to grow any food out there in the desert? Did they get along all right? Oh, yes. Did He feed Elijah out there by the brook? God fed him, but who did God send? Ravens. When the brook ran dry so there was no more water, where did the Lord send him? Over to that widow. Imagine having to go to a widow's home to get something to eat. When he got there, how much did she have? Just enough meal to make one little meal, for the woman and her son, that's all. But on that little bit multiplied by the miracle-working power of God, she and her family and the prophet lived for how long? Read the story there. More than a few days; look it up, that'll be good for you this Sabbath.

Because dear friends, we're going through the experience of Elijah before we go through the final act in Elijah's life. Do you remember the last thing that's recorded of Elijah? He was translated to where? Heaven without seeing death. Is that the experience of the remnant church? Won't that be wonderful? I want to ask you something, friends, would you be willing to go through a time of famine and stress as Elijah did, and be fed miraculously and not know where your next meal was coming from? Would you be willing to do that? Well, that's what's ahead of you during this time of boycott as the persecution gets greater and greater.

Now turn over to Isaiah the 33<sup>rd</sup> chapter. If you note the preceding verses, it's the time when the sinners in Zion are afraid, and the devouring fire is at work, the everlasting burnings are manifest. But the 15<sup>th</sup> verse says that the man who walks righteously turns from all sin, shuts his ears from hearing of sin, and shuts his eyes from seeing sin. The 16<sup>th</sup> verse, read it with me:

“He shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure” Isaiah 33:16.

Moffett translates it, “As in a stronghold on the cliff secure his bread provided and his water sure.” Has God promised us bread and water? Somebody says He hasn't promised us ice cream and cake through that time. But we won't need that, will we? He's promised us our needs.

“...my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:19.

You see then, we have a promise of miraculous feeding here. Bread shall be given him, his water shall be sure, and notice it's up in the mountains. He shall dwell on high his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks. This is the way the Waldenses went through the terrible persecutions of the Dark Ages. The remnant people of God, some of them, will be brought into that time.

Now reading on from *Early Writings*:

“Houses and lands will be of no use to the saints in the time of trouble, for they will then have to flee before infuriated mobs, and at that time their possessions cannot be disposed of to advance the cause of present truth. It was shown that it is the will of God that the saints should cut loose from every encumbrance before the time of trouble comes, and make a covenant with God through sacrifice” *Early Writings*, page 56.

I want to ask you something: looking at this time of trouble when the plagues are falling, will it be possible for us to hold onto our houses and lands through that time, and use them to solve our economic problems? Why, no, it won't. Some of you are thinking of other statements, we'll notice them later.

But just now I want you to fix your eyes on this great time of trouble, during the time when the plagues are falling, just before Jesus comes when the wrath of all the world is against the remnant church, and they're attempting to force God's people to take that mark. They've passed the death decree, and this economic pressure is increasing. Here is a very interesting message on this that I want to share with you. This is the letter that the Lord's messengers, Sister White wrote to Elder Butler and Elder Haskell on January 20, 1884—that's a long time ago, isn't it? Elder Butler was president of the General Conference at this time. Now listen carefully to these few lines as I read them:

“Friday night several heard my voice exclaiming, ‘Look, look, the time of trouble was upon us.’ I saw a people in great distress weeping and praying, pleading the sure promises of God while the wicked were all around us mocking us and threatening to destroy us. They ridiculed our feebleness. They mocked at the smallness of our numbers, and taunted with words calculated to cut deep. They charged us with taking an independent position from all the rest of the world, and they had cut off our resources so that we could not buy and sell, and they referred to our abject poverty and stricken condition.”

I want to ask you, something friends, do you think there’s an air-conditioned Pullman between here and the Holy City? What do you think? Are there going to be some troublous times? Notice those last words: “Abject poverty and stricken condition.” I wonder what it’s going to be to go from expensive homes, lavishly furnished homes that have cost tens of thousands of dollars into an experience like this. I wonder what it’s going to be? I wonder if we need a bit of a weaning period. I’m going to study that with you tomorrow night. But just now, I’m looking at the ultimate, during this great time of trouble when the plagues are falling.

“They charged us with taking an independent position from all the rest of the world, and they had cut off our resources so that we could not buy and sell, and they referred to our abject poverty and stricken condition.”

Well, I wonder if we want to go that road; if that’s what’s ahead? I wonder. Those who love Jesus enough to make any sacrifice will want to go with Him to the end. You remember when the Savior was here, He selected John and Peter and Andrew, Matthew and Thomas, and the rest. He asked them to leave what they were doing and come and follow Him. One of them finally betrayed the Lord, but the other 11 followed Him all their lives. All but one of those died a martyr’s death. Peter was crucified you remember. James was beheaded. Others were killed in other ways. They filled up their lives with service for Jesus, then crowned the life of service with a death of suffering. Would you be willing to follow Jesus if that’s what it means?

“He that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that takes not his cross, and follows after me, is not worthy of me” Matthew 10:37–38.

We may all sleep in comfortable beds tonight, but some of the last nights we spend in this world will be spent either on the cold floor of a dungeon or out in the caves of the mountains of the desert. Do you want to go that road, or would you rather take a detour? We shall probably all have a good breakfast in the morning with anywhere from a half dozen to 20 things to choose from. But at the last meals we take in this world, if we’re following the pathway of the remnant, all we’re promised is what? Bread and water.

I suppose most of us came here tonight in an automobile. Most everybody today owns a car. Some own 2 or 3. But I want to tell you something friend, the last trips we make in this world will not be in an automobile. They'll be like the early church took their trips. How did Jesus get from Galilee to Jerusalem? He walked. And how did the early apostles travel, as they went from city to city and nation to nation preaching the Gospel and healing the sick, how did they get there? They walked.

I ask again friends, I wonder if we need a period of preparation? To go from the soft, easy life—did I say easy? It's certainly soft; some things about it are very hard. Because this soft life that most people are living now has a lot of worry and tension in it, doesn't it? In the combination of the lack of physical exercise and the great increase of mental tension is causing ulcers, high blood pressure, coronary heart attacks, and many other conditions. And so, really, it isn't the sacrifice that it seems when the Lord calls us away from that life of luxury and ease and softness. And warns us that had better be getting ready for something more strenuous physically, and yet friends a life in which we trust God.

Don't you think we'll need some trust in God to leave comfortable homes and take the trail for the mountain or the desert? Why, it would scare some people to death, wouldn't it? Why would any sensible person leave a comfortable home and start for the wilderness? Ah, he would rather do that than take the mark of the beast. And you read there in Revelation 13 there is coming a time when the only people that will be allowed to buy or sell are those that what? Take that mark of the beast. And the message of God says, if you do that, then you turn your back on Jesus.

Oh friends, these are real things, these are practical things. I pray that every one of you will be among the survivors—those that win with Jesus, instead of going down in destruction with the enemy. For a short time, this world will seem to have things going their way. For a short time, the dragon and the beast, and the false prophet will seem to have everything cemented, and only a little remnant as a fly in the ointment. But that is but that dark hour that comes just before the dawn. Because, when the world thinks that it has settled the fate of God's people, and condemned them all to death, then Jesus will appear, and He put an end to all the plans of Satan.

Tomorrow night, I want to study with you, God's plan for the intermediate period. It is not the same plan as for the great time of trouble. I've shown you tonight that the angels are going to feed us. Bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure through that great time of trouble. But there is a preliminary time of preparation with a different method of provision from the Lord.

[Testimony service follows].

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