**R885\_Rumination for January 09, 2022**

The **T**heme: **In the world ye shall have tribulation:** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *In the world ye shall have* ***tribulation****: but be of good cheer;*

 *I have overcome the world* Jn. 16:33b

The **T**hots:

Intro.: **P**eople living in the **W**orld are to expect **T**rials and **T**ribulations.

Note: This is not **The Great Tribulation** of the last days mentioned in Mt. 24:21

*For then shall be* ***great tribulation****, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time,*

*no, nor ever shall be.*

*These are they which came out of* ***great tribulation****, and have washed their robes…* Rev. 7:14

**A. All Creation are** **to Expect Trials and Tribulations.**

1. The **P**enalty of the Fall: Gen. 3:16-19
	1. For the Woman: *I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception…*
	2. For the Man: …*in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life*
	3. For all Creation: *the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now*. Rom. 8:22
2. The **P**ath of All: Acts 14:22
3. *“that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”*
4. *“In the world we have tribulation."* Jn. 16:33
5. **Christians** **are to Expect Trials and Tribulations.**
 The Scriptures tell us these **T**rials and **T**ribulations may be due to…
6. **P**revailing **P**laguing calamities. Acts 11:27-28

*And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them*

*named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.*

1. **P**ersecution of and **P**rison for the godly – II Tim. 3:12
	1. *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer* ***P****ersecution.*
	2. *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into* ***P****rison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days:*

*be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.* Rev. 2:10

**3.** **P**ersonal Suffering **P**ermitted by God to fulfil His **P**urpose:

1. **Heb. 12:10** - *For they verily for a few days* ***chastened*** *us after their own pleasure…*
* The **P**urpose: *but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness*

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1. **II Cor. 12:7** -…*through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me* ***a thorn in the flesh****,*

*the messenger of Satan to buffet me…*

* The **P**urpose: *lest I should be exalted above measure*.
1. **Jn. 15:2** - *Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh away:*

 *and every branch that beareth fruit,* ***He purgeth it****…*

* The **P**urpose: *that it may bring forth more fruit.*
* *No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful,*

*and He will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing*

*He will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.* I Cor. 10:13, NRSV

1. **Sinful Citizens of The World are to Expect Trials and Tribulations.**
2. **P**unishment for **S**inful **R**ebellion. Rev. 2:22-23
*Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into* ***great tribulation****,*

*except they repent of their deeds.*

*And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am He which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.*

1. **God’s Constant Purpose On The Whole –**

The **G**eneral **P**urpose of **G**od's sovereign will is to **G**lorify Himself thereby. Jn. 9:1-3

*And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from his birth.*

*And His disciples asked Him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents,*

*that he was born blind?*

*Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents:*

*but* ***that the works of God should be made manifest*** *in him.* Cf. Jn. 11:4

*God is still on the throne, And He will remember His own;*

*Tho’ trials may press us and burdens distress us,*

*He never will leave us alone;*

*God is still on the throne, He never forsaketh His own;*

 *His promise is true, He will not forget you, God is still on the throne.* Kittie L. Suffield

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 885**

1. Thousands of people in Malaysia ended last year still experiencing the trials and tribulations (including destructive natural and unnatural disasters, dreaded diseases, depressing distresses and even the untimely deaths of their loved ones) in connection with the epidemic Covid-19 and its variants as Delta, Omicron, etc.

Compared to the rest of the world where the numbers affected by the pandemic are in their millions, what is happening here is decimal in nature and numbers. Even then, the people here experience economic hardships, material loss and mental anguish that come with such destructive proportions that some have resorted to suicides while certain Christians mistakenly point all these sufferings to be those of the predicted coming Great Tribulation of the last days prophesied in the Book of Revelation. Of course, this is by far off the mark and it will only give a glimpse of the possibility of such happenings when they materialise ultimately. Indeed, their possibility is so highly plausible that the need to take heed to the many warnings given in scripture that we should beware, be alert and be ready lest the day overtakes us and catches us unprepared should be given very serious thought.

In Malaysia, this very dark outlook was further aggravated when the anticipated joy and merriment associated with Christmas and welcoming in of the New Year, was ominously darkened by the heavens pouring down their wrath in a downpour that was unprecedented for nearly ten decades in torrential rains that flooded the ground so fast, that roofs of houses soon sunk below the level of the fast riverine waters and drowned anything and everything in their path. It was a terrible scene to behold that would last at least four to five days in certain states bringing complete disaster to property and animal life (nearly 50 human lives were lost) and yet to continue to this very day.

While the machinery of the government of the day was exposed to its hilt in its unpreparedness and its chaotic helplessness to bring relief, something good came out of it. Citizens and non-citizens of the country with their neighbours of various ilk, social levels and cultural and religious backgrounds came together in unprecedented cooperation to help each other in time of need. It was a picture worthy of humane understanding to witness fellowmen and women coming together to help each other in distress in whatever way each could.

During these very critical times of trials and tribulations, what has been your role and responsibility as a citizen of the country and as a Christian towards your fellowmen and women? What have you done or contributed? **REFLECT**

1. Sicknesses, diseases, age-related illnesses and infirmities as well as plagues, epidemics, personal and external calamities have been with us since time immoral. The reasons for their onslaught on man were given in the main body of this rumination. While some may be attributed to demon activity, generally most of them are not. One therefore has to be careful not to misjudge such conditions and their causes, as some may be from the Lord Himself for various reasons as discussed earlier.

Are you in such a state of despair and despondency? Wait on the Lord and do not jump to conclusions. As with Paul, ask God for more of His sufficient grace to endure that which has pleased Him to permit them into your life. Trust Him and hear Him say unto you: II Cor. 12:9 – *My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.*

And be able to respond like Paul: *Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Or can you be like the widow who lost her son and yet be able to say when asked:

II Kgs. 4:26 – *Is it well with thee?... And she answered,* ***It is well.* REFLECT**

*When peace, like a river, Attendeth my way,*

*When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot,*

 *Thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

 Horatio G. Spafford

**Points To Ponder:**

*Only the Alpha and Omega can deal with the Delta and Omicron of Covid-19!*