

Jesus Walks Among the Lampstands

Philadelphia: Perseverance of the Persecuted

Part C

Lesson #19

Revelation 3:10

“¹⁰ Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

Dispensationalists interpret this phrase as “remove from” and so see here support for the idea that the church will be raptured out of the earth to heaven prior to the seven-year long tribulation.

However, “keep from”
can also mean “protect
from.”

Revelation 6:9-11

“⁹ When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; ¹⁰ and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’
¹¹ And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.”

John 17:15

“¹⁵ I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.”

Furthermore, note “hour of trial” is not a reference of physical deliverance, but of those who live on the earth.

“The hour of trial is directed toward the entire non-Christian world, but the believers will be kept from it, not by some previous appearance of Christ to remove the church bodily from the world, but by the spiritual protection he provides against the forces of evil,” Wiema.

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D. **Ephesus**: Grave danger

C. **Smyrna**: No Complaint.

■ Danger from synagogue of Satan.

■ B. **Pergamum**: Mixed situation.

■ A. **Thyatira**: Mixed situation,
longest sermon by far.

■ B. **Sardis**: Mixed situation.

C. **Philadelphia**: No Complaint.

■ Danger from synagogue of Satan.

D. **Laodicea**: Grave danger.

Revelation 3:11

“Hold on to what you have.”

1. Entrance into the kingdom of God
(an “open door that no one can shut”),
2. Vindication before their Jewish
oppressors (“I will make them come
and fall down at your feet”),
3. And spiritual protection from the devil
 (“keep you from the hour of trial”).

“So that no one will take your crown.”

The crown is not a royal diadem, but an athletic/military wreath. (*stephanos*).



I Corinthians 9:25

“²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”

I Peter 5:4

“⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown (wreath) of glory.”

I Thessalonians 2:19

“¹⁹ For who is our hope or joy or crown (wreath) of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?”





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Christ will cause him to become
a pillar in God's temple from
where believers will never leave.



Galatians 2:9

“⁹ And recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.”

I Timothy 3:15

“¹⁵ But in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”

“Outside he will certainly not
go out again!”

The Christian life is a persecuted life.