

Prophecy devo #16 – Why the church will not go through the Tribulation (Part 4)

Reason #3: God does not judge the righteous with the wicked.

The righteous and the wicked are two distinct categories of people. The Book of Proverbs makes a clear distinction between the two. The wicked are mentioned 89 times in Proverbs, and they are in strong contrast to the righteous. The most common Hebrew word for wicked means morally “wrong,” a “bad” person. The righteous are mentioned 54 times. The word used means “just.” “The wicked will be cut off from the earth” (2:22). The wicked can expect “wrath” (11:23). “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life” (11:30). “The righteous has hope in his death” (14:32). It would be unjust for God to judge just people the way He judges those who are morally wrong. When God was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham asked, “Would you also destroy the righteous with the wicked” (Genesis 18:23)? Then he asked, “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right” (18:26)? God promised He would not destroy the city if there were only 10 righteous people there. As it turned out, there were only four righteous people in Sodom, so God destroyed the city, but not before Lot and his family left. Lot is a type of the church that will be delivered from destruction before the Tribulation. God didn’t deliver Lot because he was Abraham’s nephew but because he was righteous. There is nothing in the Old Testament that gives a clue that Lot was saved; we have to come to the New Testament for that. “And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, (God) condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (II Peter 2:6-7). “On the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all” (Luke 17:29). Just as Lot was delivered from Sodom before the destruction, so the church will be delivered from the judgments Tribulation. “The Lord knows how deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment” (II Peter 2:9).