

ENDURING LOVE

The Translation Generation ~Part Five

Thesis: The selfless, other-centered love of Christ revealed in His death on The Cross is the key to victory for those who face the final crisis of human history. All who live in that final generation, just prior to the second coming of Jesus, will face forces the same in character to those endured by Jesus at The Cross. The truth of God's love manifested in Christ will empower them to endure the persecution-machine that will be set into motion by the image-beast system. They will endure to the "end," in love for their persecutors, as did their Savior. Some will die for their faith, and others will be alive and remain to meet Jesus at His appearing, but all will bear final and full testimony to the love of God.

Hebrews 11:39-40—39And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Hebrews 12:1-4, 15—1Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin... 15looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.

Romans 8:35-39—35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... 37Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Revelation 15:2—I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass.

Revelation 14:1, 4—I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads... These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

Revelation 12:11—They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Revelation 13:10, ASV—If any man is for captivity, into captivity he goeth: if any man shall kill with the sword, with the sword must he be killed. Here is the patience (endurance, NIV) and the faith of the saints.

Matthew 24:9-14—9Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

NOTE: "It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy and truth. . . . The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is the revelation of His character of love" *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 415.

NOTE: "Through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to "the principalities and powers in heavenly places," the final and full display of the love of God" *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9.

NOTE: Anyone in the end-time scenario whose picture of God allows for forced worship, whose belief system includes theologies of self-preservation, doctrines with coercive elements, that teach fear based response to God for salvation, will naturally align themselves with that final one-world system of persecution in the name of God.

NOTE: The gospel is here defined as the testimony of an enduring love that keeps on loving even in the face of hated, betrayal and death.

John 16:2-3—2They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. 3And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.

John 10:15—I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

John 13:1—Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

Hebrews 2:14—Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

Philippians 2:5-8—5Christ Jesus...6being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Hebrews 9:26—He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Matthew 26:38-39—38Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.” 39He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

Luke 22:43—Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.

Matthew 26:53, TEV—Don’t you know that I could call on my Father for help, and at once He would send Me more than twelve armies of angels? (see also John 10:18).

Matthew 27:46—My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

Isaiah 53:6, 12—6All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all . . . 12He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of (the) many.

Psalms 88:3-11—3My soul is full of troubles . . . 4I am counted with those who go down to the pit . . . 5like the slain who lie in the grave, whom You remember no more . . . 6You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the depths. 7Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and You have afflicted *me* with all Your waves. Selah. . . 8I am shut up, and I cannot get out . . . 10Shall the dead arise *and* praise You? Selah. 11Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? *Or* Your faithfulness in the place of destruction?

Matthew 27:39-43—39Those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads 40and saying, “...save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” 41Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, 42“He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. 43He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

John 13:1—Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

NOTE: Because Jesus sees self-sacrificing love in the Father He lays down His own life in reflection of that love.

NOTE: The Philips translation says, He laid aside His divine “privileges” and “advantages.” What divine privileges? When Christ became a man, He laid aside omniscience (Luke 2:40; Mark 13:32; John 10:18), omnipresence (John 20:17) and omnipotence (John 5:30; Acts 2:22), thus rendering His life of faith in the Father and His sufferings at Gethsemane and Calvary authentic.

NOTE: “Soul”=*psyche* in the Greek.

NOTE: On the meaning of “this cup” see Revelation 14:10.

NOTE: “Forsaken” is the Greek word *Egkateleipo*, which is a stronger concept than the English “forsaken” carries. It literally means to “totally abandon” or “desert,” with no sense that the deserting party will ever return.

NOTE: In this Messianic prophecy we have a window into the thoughts and feelings of the Savior on the Cross. The cry, “I am shut up (in the lowest pit, in darkness, in death) and cannot get out,” followed by the desperate question, “Shall the dead arise?” indicates that Jesus faced the bleak prospect of eternal death, and yet followed through to save us.

“Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9

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All Scripture References are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.