

TRUTH MATTERS

On Matthew 24:9, 10 – Simple and to the Point

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. (Mt. 24:9, 10 ; NKJV)

There is a time coming – if we're not in it already! – when global persecution (tribulation and martyrdom) against God's people in Jesus Christ will unfold. Actually, we are clearly seeing various forms of tribulation, persecution and martyrdom around the world today.

The English Standard Version translates these two verses in this way:

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. (Mt. 24:9, 10 ; ESV)

Simple observations of the text:

1. Noting the first word of verse 9 ("then"), it is important to affirm *tribulation* and *death* come to (that is, especially escalate toward) faithful followers of Jesus Christ – *for My name's sake* (vs. 13 calls for this faithfulness) – after the period of time called *the time of sorrows/birth pains* begins;
2. During this time of martyrolic tribulation, many will:
 - a) be offended / fall away
 - b) betray one another
 - c) hate one another

The New Living Translation puts these verses this way:

Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. (Mt. 24:9, 10 ; NLT)

In this setting – because the global rapture gathering event does not take place until the *final trumpet* (I Cor. 15:51,52 ; Matthew 24:31) – we, His people in Jesus Christ, are called by God to endure to the end.

We cannot:

- a) take offense ; fall away
- b) betray one another
- c) or hate one another

even when the world is plagued with darkness of many forms – deceit and lawlessness are highlighted in this Mt. 24:9-14 text.

We must be about Gospel proclamation and obedient Discipleship.

We must discern the many deceptions which are taking place today. The text below explicitly states great deception, martyrdom, apostasy, betrayal, hate and lawlessness unfold prior to the sign of the Son of Man (vs. 30).

So we simply ask: How are we doing in following our Lord's Counsel: "The one who endures to the end will be saved." ?

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended (i.e., "fall away" ; ESV), will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And 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." (Matthew 24:9-14; NKJV)