



## [Zephaniah 2:1-3](#)

(1) Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together,  
O undesirable nation,  
(2) Before the decree is issued,  
*Or* the day passes like chaff,  
Before the LORD's fierce anger comes upon you,  
Before the day of the LORD's anger comes upon you!  
(3) Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth,  
Who have upheld His justice.  
Seek righteousness, seek humility.  
It may be that you will be hidden  
In the day of the LORD's anger.

*New King James Version*

Some in the church of [God](#) today teach that just because a person is part of a certain group, he will escape this wrath. However, the mention of fleeing implies a generality rather than a promise given as an absolute certainty. According to traditions retained from history, all of the apostles except for John suffered violent deaths from persecution.

Are we more deserving of safety than they were? Paul writes in [Romans 14:12](#), "So then, each of us shall give account of himself to God." [Revelation 2:23](#) confirms individual judgment during Christ's evaluation of the Thyatira church, without a doubt part of His church: "I will kill her children with death, and all the church shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works."

We must not allow ourselves to think presumptuously that we deserve to be hidden. God is the Master, and we are slaves bought at a price with Christ's

blood. He is the Master Potter, forming and shaping us into the character image of [Jesus Christ](#). If He determines that we need the shaping that Tribulation will bring, then He will not hesitate to set that path before us. If He believes we need to glorify Him before men, He will do the same.

Notice also [Daniel 11:32](#): "Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." Not only does this show that [Christians](#) will undergo intense persecution, but it also shows that they will be doing things to glorify God during that period of testing. God specifically chooses those who know Him to carry out these exploits before men.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

**To learn more, see:**

**[Fully Accepting God's Sovereignty, Part Three: The Fruits](#)**

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