

Rev. Dr. Alfonso O. Espinosa for Orange Lutheran High School

April 18th, 2013: “Our Shepherd Through Tribulation!”

Revelation 7:14

- *"These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*

Tribulation

- Greek *thlipsis*
- *Trial*
- *Affliction*
- *Distress*
- *Tribulation*

Acts 14:22 teaches that this is normal for Christians...

- *"through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."*



John 16:33 Jesus taught us to expect it, but comforts us too!

- *"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I have overcome the world."*

What kinds of tribulations do we go through in 2013?

- Tribulation within ourselves...depression



Tribulations within ourselves...addiction



Not trying to be dramatic...

- Satan...
- Seeks...to make you a...
- Slave...to
- Sin...in order to...
- DESTROY you.

Tribulations in Relationships



Tribulations man-made



Tribulations in Nature



The Bible teaches that just before Jesus comes again...

- Things don't get better...
- Things get harder...
- That's why your generation is the greatest hope for the Christian Church!
- The Church needs your faithfulness!

**Another tribulation which is the
worst...the faith is attacked**

**BEWARE
of FALSE
PROPHETS.**

Matthew 7:15

Why does this stuff happen?

- Man's rebellion against God.
- We have to take responsibility!
- People love to blame God...but let's be honest.

**But thank God that He didn't leave
us to ourselves...we are in white...**



You are pictured in Revelation 7!



**White Robes = Symbolize being
made CLEAN**



How? Because you and I are so good? No! Rev. 7: The blood of...



Important note: the verb is ACTIVE

- So Revelation 7:14 is teaching that you saints have [actively] washed your robes...
- Now Scripture teaches that faith is a gift...and also – in other contexts – you are (passively) washed by God...
- At the same time, once you receive the power of Christ's Word...you get ACTIVE! You actively, daily return to Jesus in FAITH!

**It sounds crazy...but this blood
makes you clean! Isaiah 1:18**

- ***"though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."***

Revelation 7:17: All through Jesus!

- *"For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*

The Lamb of God is our Shepherd!



He deals with our tribulations!



Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters;
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.
Even though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil; for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

**All because of Jesus who put all of
our tribulations on HIMSELF**

