

**THE WEEK OF
April 26th, 2010**



**Jesus
Vs.
The Giant Despair
Part 2
John 16:33**

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

Tribulation. It's not something we ever get excited about. Especially when it comes in a form that shakes the foundation of everything that we thought was unshakable. Recently, a close friend of mine experienced betrayal by a brother in Christ who he had trusted with everything that he had. And as I was thinking about the pain he is experiencing and the waves of emotion that were crashing over him, a thought came to mind. Extreme tribulation is like an earthquake. What makes an earthquake so devastating is the same thing that makes betrayal, or any other kind of severe tribulation, so devastating. The one thing we can count on in the physical world is that the ground below us doesn't move. That's why people who get car sick or motion sickness from riding on an airplane long to plant their feet on the ground. Then the motion stops because the ground is firm. That is, until an earthquake strikes. Suddenly all that a person experienced as solid begins to move. And all the buildings that were built under the assumption that the ground doesn't move begin to crumble. It's just like this with tribulation. Especially in the case of betrayal. All that my friend thought was secure and unchanging; all that he had put his trust in, regarding this person, began to move. And just like an earthquake, there are aftershocks of the recognition of the betrayal. But, unlike the earthquake, we as believers, should not be destroyed by tribulation. Why? Because our feet should be planted on the rock, that is the truth of Jesus Christ. And there is no tribulation, trial or betrayal that can shake that foundation. Have you been shaken by tribulation? Have the troubles of our current economic crisis made you feel like all that you thought was secure is crumbling? Refresh the reality for your life that Jesus Christ is the ground that will never, ever be shaken.

Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day *example:*
If it's the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)

Mon: John 16:33 - Tribulation need not steal our peace.

Tue: Romans 8:35 - Tribulation does not separate us from the love of Christ.

Wed: Romans 12:12 - Tribulation requires patience.

Thu: II Corinthians 1:4 - Tribulation teaches us how to comfort others in tribulation

Fri: Revelation 2:9 - Tribulation is a part of being a faithful body.

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. What type of severe tribulation have you experienced recently or the last time you did? What did that tribulation shake that you thought was unshakable?

2. How does planting our feet in the truth and relationship of Christ help in time of severe tribulation?

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):