

The Final Survivors Part 1 (Sermon)

By Leslie Hardinge PHD

How many of you have got Bibles? I mean, not at home, here. Good. Lets find **Matthew 24:38**, “**For as in the days that were before the flood, eating, drinking, marrying, giving in marriage, until Noah entered into the ark and knew not until the flood came and took them all away.**” Now a question, were the good taken or the bad taken? The bad were taken. Good, I can give you an “A” for that. The next verse. **Verse 40.** “**Then shall two be in the field, one shall be taken, the other left.**” Were the good take or the bad taken? Come on, what does the Bible say? Were the good taken or the bad taken?

Okay, lets go back to Noah. “**As in the days,**” he illustrates; “**As in the days of Noah, he entered into the ark;**

the flood came and took them all away.” Were the good taken or were the bad taken? Did I say I’d give you an “A”? Let me change it to an, “F”. While you’re thinking about that, let’s turn to **Luke**. This is just the Gospel. This is nothing complicated. **Luke 17:26**, “**As it was in the days of Noah.**” **Verse 28**, “**Likewise in the days of Lot.**” **Verse 30**, “**Even so shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.**” In the days of Noah, the flood took some and left some. In the days of Lot, the fire took some and left some.

“**In the days of the Son of Man**”, **verse 34**, “**Two will be in a bed, one will be ‘took’ and the other left.**” “**Two women will be grinding**”, **verse 35**, “**one shall be ‘took’**”, (I’m deliberately taking the ‘took’ of Noah) “**taken and one left.**” “**Two shall be in the field, the one shall be taken and the other left.**” Now let me ask that question

again. In all these cases, the ones that were taken; were they good or were they the bad? **Careful! Careful!** Were the good taken or the bad taken? The bad were taken. **Do you agree?** No. Shall I go over it again? I want you to understand what Jesus is saying.

There was a time when the flood was going to come, in the days of Noah. **“They entered into the ark and they knew not until the flood came and took them all away.”** **“Likewise in the days of Lot, some were ‘took’ and others left.”** **“Even so shall it be when the Son of Man comes.”** **“Two in a bed, two in a field, two working and they’re grinding, one taken, the other left”.** Were the good taken or the bad taken?

Now, let's read the last verse. **Verse 37**, and while we are reading the last verse, let me remind you what Jesus had said. There were eight in the ark, there were four in

Sodom, and there were two in bed, two at the mill and two in the field. **Do you know where they were?** Sure you know where they were, they were in the ark, they were in Sodom, they were in the field, they were in bed, they were grinding. **You know exactly where they were.**

Some are going to be left, exactly where they were. Some are going to be taken. Now in **verse 37 of Luke 17**, **“They answered and said to him, Where Lord?”** Did that, **“Where Lord?”** apply to the ones that were taken or the ones that were left? **You knew exactly where the ones that were left were, they were in the ark, they were in Sodom, they were in bed, they were in the field, they were grinding.** Now they may have been foolish, but I don't think they were *that* foolish. They knew exactly where they were, so they wouldn't ask, **“Where Lord?”** But they had no idea where they would be taken. And so

they said, **“Where, Lord?”** Do you agree with me so far?
Do you agree with me? These two people do, and I can see some silent heads nodding. Now notice His answer, **“And He said to them, wheresoever the body is, thither will eagles be gathered together.”** What does that mean?
Don’t know.

All right, let’s find the text, the 19th chapter of Revelation. Rev 19: tells us exactly where the eagles will be gathered together and where the bodies will be found. **“And I saw,” in verse 17 of Rev 19, “an angel cried with a loud voice to the fowls of heaven, saying, Come gather yourselves together”** Verse 18, **“That you may eat the flesh.”** The flesh of whom; the good or the bad? The ones that are taken or the ones that are left?

Now let me read you another verse about those who are left. Now, please think. As old Doc Loseby used to

say, **“It’s neither painful nor fatal to Think”!** Those who are left are where? **I Thess 4:17. “We, which are alive and are left,” (or remain).** Are the good alive and remain, or the bad? All right, now lets start all over again. The world was full of people in the days of Noah. And the flood came and took them all away except eight that remained. The days of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the cities were full till the fire came and took them all way, and Lot and his family remained. Now with **those two illustrations,** Jesus says, **”Even so shall the days of the Son of Man be.”** **“Two will be in bed, one will be taken.”** And the disciples say to him, **”Where, Lord?”** And He says, **“At the time where the buzzards are gathered to eat the bodies.”** **“Two will be in the field, one will be taken.”** Where? Where the bodies are gathered together. The ones that are left in the days of Noah, in the

days of Lot, in the days of two people in bed, two people working in the field, two people grinding. **The ones that are left are the survivors. And we, which are alive and are left, will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air.**

Now there are so **many people being bamboozled by the idea that the good are taken.** There is not a shred of truth in it. Jesus teaches, **“The wicked are destroyed by the brightness of His coming. The dead in Christ rise and we which are alive and remain”** (That have not been destroyed by the brightness of His coming) **,”are caught up together with the dead in Christ that have been raised to meet the Lord in the air.”** Now I have not made up a smidgen of what I’ve told you this morning. This is what Jesus said, **the survivors at the flood, the survivors at Lot and Sodom, that episode, are illustra-**

tive, even so in the days when the Son of Man comes.

But in the closest knit relationships; a couple in bed, two ladies working at the mill, two men driving on their tractors, associated close together, **one will be taken,** to where the bodies are gathered together and the eagles eat them. **One will be left,** to be caught up together with the dead in Christ who rise to meet the Lord in the air.

The Bible is full of an emphasis on survivors.

“He that endures to the end, to the end, shall be saved.”

Now, such an idea, you accept Jesus Christ and you’re saved. You’re **BORN again.** But you’ve **got to live;** you’ve got to live till He comes. **“He that endures to the end, the same shall be saved.”** The Bible stresses **Survival.** There’s a group of people with a seal, at the end. The sealing is the settling into the truth intellectually and spiritually. **Settling in, thinking through, studying**

through, praying through. Today there's all kinds of **cheap** Gospel. Cheap, easy, it's for free. It's for free all right, but it's not cheap. Look at that little chart that was handed to you, so kindly, by the Deacons. On it are five epochs. **(An epoch is a crisis).** The word crisis comes from the word krinein, from which the word critic comes. Or criticism. Crisis is an exact English transliteration of the Greek krisis. All words ending in "is" describe processes. Krino is to judge. It's the process; the krisis that brings you up to the watershed that makes for the time of decision, after which the rivers flow in a direction that they can never revoke.

I've always been thrilled every time I have flown over the Great Divide, Rocky Mountains. Waters go east. Waters go west. Where it begins are small waters, you can put your hand right across them. You can even dam them

with two fingers, but wait a little while; they'll roll you into the Pacific. These are crises, epochs.

As we approach the Bible there are certain preconceptions that we must keep in our heads. They are so simple when I tell them, they're almost truisms, but how many people really believe them? "God never changes". How many texts do you want? **"I AM THAT I AM" (Exodus 3:14)** **"I the Lord change not. (Malachi 3:6)** **With Him there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. (James 1:17)** **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)**" If God **changed**, we'd be all in the **loony bin.** **What would happen if gravity didn't function now?** Right now. If gravity disappeared and you started to float weightlessly through this room, **what would you do?** If you are always wondering whether the piano would stay down there or whether it would go up some-

where and gravity would stop and it would scrunch you. Life would be interesting, wouldn't it? We'd be insane. Sun rises, sun sets. Gravity hold us chained to -----.

God has made it so. **“Seedtime and harvest, day and night, summer and winter shall not cease”**. Since God does not change, the way He acts through the centuries doesn't change. Doesn't change. You can challenge that statement, but give me two texts to prove your point.

That's what Jesus says, **“In the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word will stand. Matthew 18:16** You need at least two texts for every idea you get. He works the same in every age. **“And the Lord God will do nothing but He'll revealeth His secret to His servants and prophets.”**

Now with these in our minds as presuppositions, let's look at these charts. God was going to destroy the

world by a flood. **Point #1.** If He revealed His secret to His servants or prophets, **find the prophet.** Then when the period is ending, **He applies prophetic truth as present truth by another prophet. And that second prophet forms the nucleus of a believing, remnant that survives.**

Noah preached prophetic truth that Enoch had given, for 120 years. He built an ark in the process. God did His part and filled the ark with the species of the animals He wanted. He told Noah and all the believers, **“Get on board.”** And **eight people climbed aboard.** It has been suggested that there were about **6 billion people** on the planet in the days of Noah. You don't have to believe that statement, go calculate. If you come to **5 billion**, maybe I'll agree, too. If you come to **4**, it's a lot. If you come to **one billion**, it's a lot. If you come to **100,000 and only eight got on board, it's still a lot. So the figure is incon-**

sequential. A trickle of humanity decided to climb a board. How many people do you think Noah had on his last Sabbath morning sermon in church? As it was so, there was a surviving remnant that believed prophetic truth when it was made present truth on the tongue of a prophet. **That has been so in every case in history. The Lord God will do nothing, but He will reveal His secret to His servants the prophets.** The next step is known as the **Exodus**. Moses took the prophetic truth and applied it. Time has come Pharaoh; **“Let my people go”**, God is saying. And a great number of people set out, and the journey was not the way they expected. It took them longer than they thought. See they had built up in their minds a myth, a scenario. It’s going to be this way. It’s going to be this quick. It should have been this quick. It must be this quick. And two people got to the Promised Land. Their

names; Joshua and Caleb. **Prophetic truth applied by Moses.**

Solomon is said to have had the greatest smarts in history. **Is that right?** He had tremendous knowledge. **But his wisdom, you could have gotten in your trouser pocket.** When it came to applying that knowledge, he was way off in the desert. **Moses** is the one that is smart, in **knowledge** and **wisdom** and **organization**. And with him there, with the ten plagues there, with the signs there.

You know since the turn of the century, the world has seen the greatest war that was ever fought, **50 million causalities**. It’s seen the greatest famine that was ever contrived. **Did you know most of the famines are contrived? Thirty million people starved to death in China**, (59-61) compared with **nine million people that Stalin starved to death**. Mao Tse Tung beaten by 3 ½

times. The **greatest earthquake that the world** has ever seen, **400,000 causalities**. The **greatest single epidemic**.

Since the turn of the Century we have seen these signs. **What signs do we want to see more?** There will be war, there will be pestilences, and there will be earthquakes. **Staggering! Seventy weeks-coming of the Messiah**. Scores and scores of prophecies **finding the Christ; His birth, His time, His lineage**. Everything to do with Him. He raised up; “There has not been a greater prophet than John the Baptist.” Jesus said. **“To proclaim, the time is fulfilled.”** **Prophetic truth is becoming present truth.** Prophets raised up. **Scores and scores of predictions fulfilled**. And people chose not to believe. Let me emphasize that. **Belief is a choice. Belief is a choice**. I’ve had people come to me sometimes, I haven’t done it too many times, but I’ve sort of enjoyed doing it. **Somebody came**

to me and said I couldn’t see anything wrong with that.

I said, **“May I compliment you on your honesty, that you admit you can’t see.”** **Shook them up, which I wanted to do.** **Think again, why can’t you see? You’re choosing not to, from the evidence given in the Bible.** **They chose not to accept Christ, and a remnant survived.**

After Christ’s ascension, how large was the biggest congregation that he addressed, according to the apostle Paul? “Five hundred persons at one time”, Paul tells us. **“Five hundred.”** **How many of those were in the Upper Room? “One hundred and twenty.”** **What happened to the three hundred and eighty?** Ten days He was away before His gift of the Spirit on Pentecost, and 380 had to go skiing. Or whatever else they did in those days to occupy their time. But there were survivors, there

were survivors. Let's look at the [last one](#). This is where, **“so also shall be when the Son of Man comes.”**

Daniel made a prediction that was fulfilled on October 22, 1844. If you can't establish that, [please](#) learn to do so. During the Second World War, Leslie Hardinge was pastor of a church in Edinburgh, Scotland. And he and his wife would offer a Rest and Recreation area in their home, so every Sabbath, they would have 4 or 6 or so GI's. New Zealander's, Canadians, Australians, American's, wherever they came from, they'd come. And his wife would invite them to have lunch with us, and he would mingle with them and he wanted to see how they had got on, during the conditions of the war. Not to embarrass anyone. They were of age, but he wanted to find out how they managed. How they managed about the Sabbath.

You know some of them told Leslie some wonderful stories. One guy had said to him, “The first Friday, Sergeant was a little tough. He wouldn't give him the Sabbath. He should've, but he was a little tough. So he said, “I want to see the Captain.” So he took him to the Captain. The Captain was sitting at his desk and he explained to him what he wanted, and the captain says, **“You're a Seventh-day Adventist.”** He said, **“Yes, Sir.”** He said, “Sit down here.” So he sat him down at the corner of the desk, pulled out a sheet of paper, stuck it in front of him and gave him a pencil and said, “Draw me a chart of the 2300 days with all the trimmings.” Leslie never forgot that phrase. “2300 days with all the trimmings”. **Could you draw a chart of the 2300 days with all the trimmings?** Seven weeks, 62 weeks, last week, all unto the end. And he sat down there and with a prayer, he said, **“Lord help me!”** and he re-

membered, his Academy **Bible teacher**. You see, he was drafted before he went to College. And the Lord helped him to put it down and he got all the dates down and all the bits and pieces and he handed it to the Captain and the **Captain had a grin all over his face**. He said, **“You know, I went to an Evangelistic Meeting run by a Seventh-day Adventist some years ago and he had a chart like this and I’ve always wanted one. Thanks!” He had no trouble getting the Sabbath off. That’s what a Seventh-day Adventist was supposed to do, in this Captain’s mind. He’s supposed to know the 2300 days with all the trimmings.**

Now since Jesus Christ never changes, since the Bible tells us, **“He is the same yesterday, today and forever.”** Since He has walked this way in every crisis, and every epoch in Salvation history, **the prophetic truth of**

the 2300 days must be applied by a Prophet. Look down there and you will see Prophet question marks. **Who is the prophet?** You’ve got to find one. **That is the center of the believing nucleus that takes Prophetic Truth and makes it Present Truth. That organized a believing remnant.** Step by step by step. **Millerite Movement, down through the years, he that endures to the end, the same shall be saved.** Many will be taken, few will remain and we, which are alive and remain, shall be caught up. **Twice**, Jesus made a very interesting statement. **“Many are called, but few are chosen.”** Now may I say with very great respect, that’s not quite what the Greek says. That’s a meaning of the Greek, but not the way it says it. Let me tell you the way it says it, and if you don’t believe me, check up in the Testaments. Your Pastor’s got one. You can look it up and see. **Christ’s statements are**

verbals. They are **gerunds**. A little word many, many, simple term. The next one, *the-being-called-out-ones*, it's one word. Many, *the-being-called-out-ones*. It's a process. But *few*, another word, *the-choosing-for-themselves-ones*. You couldn't translate it like that in English. So many are called but few are chosen. The end gerund, *choosing-for-themselves*, is a middle voice. It's **not passive**, it's not that they are chosen, but **they are choosing for themselves**. You go look that up.

You ought do what the Bereans did when Paul preached. They went home and they checked whether those things were so or not. **(Acts 17:11)** Many, *the-being-called-out-ones*. **Ekkalein from which you get Ekklesia.** They are the ones in process of being called out. Few, *the-ones-who-choose-for-themselves*, there is no doubt whatever, that one of the **main emphases of scrip-**

ture is that the surviving remnants are saved. Jesus works this way. Jesus is the one that made the prophecies. **Did you know that? Did you know that Jesus inspired the prophets? I Peter 1:10, “The prophets searched diligently who prophesied.” Verse 11, “Searching or what manner of time the spirit of Christ in them did signify.” I Peter 1:10,11.**

The same Jesus who was going to save the believing remnant, made the prediction. And He sent the prophet to take prophetic truth and apply it as present truth. That's why the Spirit of Prophecy is the Testimony of Jesus. He is the one that testifies. **“The Spirit of Prophecy is the Testimony of Jesus.”** Got that one from **Revelation 19:10.** Jesus was in the prophets, testifying beforehand. **Jesus was in the prophet who took that prophetic truth and made it present truth, to apply to us,**

who live in the present. And present truth today, in the emphasis that I am giving this today, is to accept the teachings of Jesus that will enable us to survive.

Believe, what He has taught. Believe, the prophets, so shalt though prosper. Believe His Word. **Many are the ones being called out, but few choose for themselves, and what we are choosing is the Word of Jesus. And since Jesus is the Word, we are choosing Him.** He is the Alphabet from which the Word was written. He's the Alpha and the Omega. He's all the words. He is the Word, but the words teach us about Him. He is all the articulated segments of speech, the **Logos** is the meaning. Jesus starts with the alphabet, Jesus goes through the words of the Bible, Jesus focuses on the message of the Bible. Jesus is the center of everything.

Those who believed in His message in Noah's time, the time of the Exodus, at the time of the exile, at the time He came and today. **Those are the survivors; those are the ones that hold to their hearts, the Testimony of Jesus.**

Brothers and sisters very soon, it will be all over. Many will be taken, and a few will be left. May the good Lord hold us to His side, keep us close. That when He comes in the clouds of heaven, we, who are alive and remain, will be caught up.