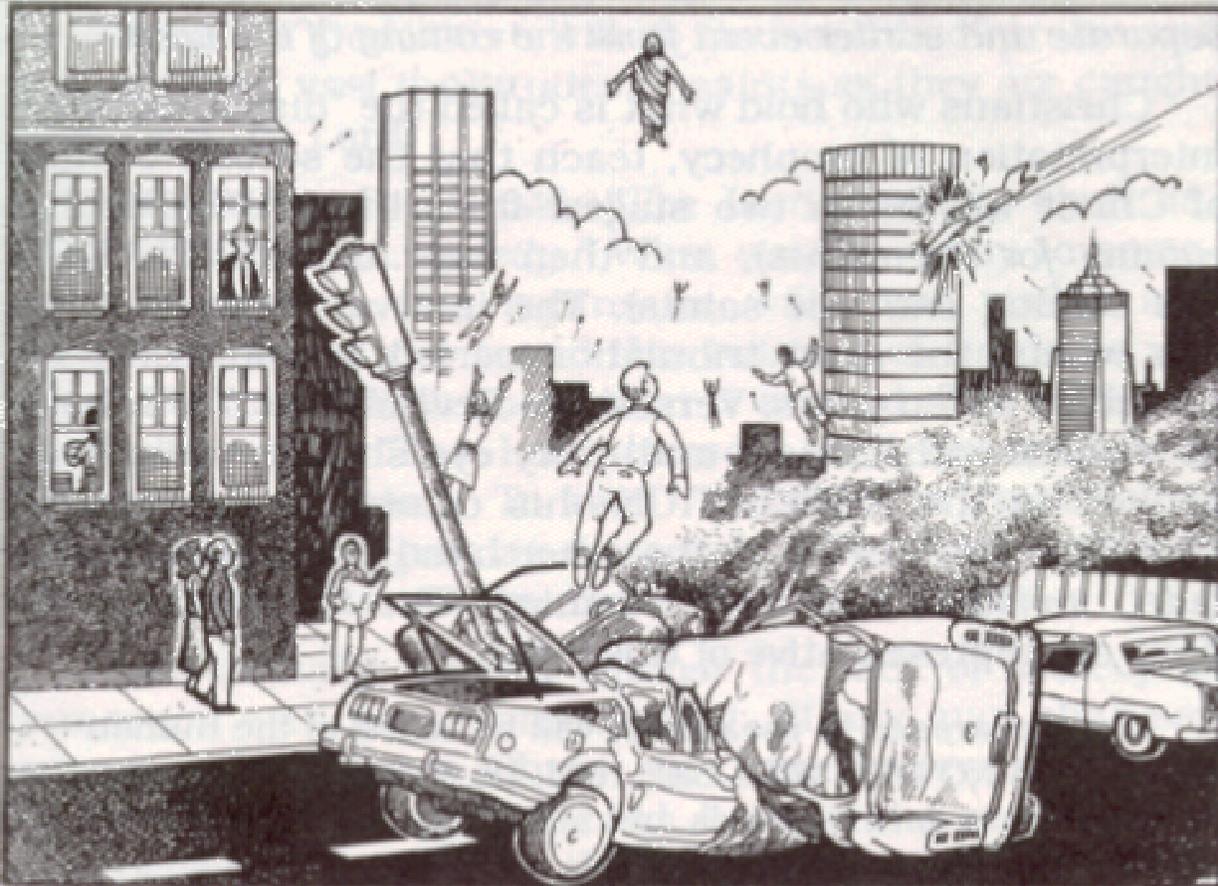


# *The Secret Rapture Of the Church*



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*An Inspiration for Endtime Events*

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## **Margaret MacDonald's Vision**

*“It was first the awful state of the land that was pressed upon me. I saw the blindness and infatuation of the people to be very great. I felt the cry of Liberty just to be the hiss of the serpent, to drown them in perdition. It was just “no God”. I repeated the words, Now there is distress of nations, with perplexity, the seas and the waves roaring, men 's hearts failing them for fear – now look out for the sign of the Son of man.*

*Here I was made to stop and cry out, O it is not known what the sign of the Son of Man is; the people of God think they are waiting, but they know not what it is. I felt this needed to be revealed, and that there was great darkness and error about it; but suddenly what it was burst upon me with glorious light. I saw it was just the Lord himself descending from Heaven with a shout, just the glorified man, even Jesus; but that all must, as Stephen was, be filled with the Holy Ghost, that they might look up and see the brightness of the Father's glory.*

*I saw the error to be, that men think that it will be something seen by the natural eye; but 'tis spiritual discernment that is needed, the eye of God in his people. Many passages were revealed, in a light in which I had not before seen them. I repeated, "Now is the kingdom of Heaven like unto ten virgins, who went forth to meet the Bridegroom, five wise and five foolish; they that were foolish took their lamps, but took no oil with them; but they that were wise took oil in their vessels with the lamps. But be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is; and be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit; This was the oil the wise virgins took in their vessels – this is the light to be kept burning – the light of God – that we may discern that which cometh not with observation to the natural eye.*

*Only those who have the light of God within them will see the sign of his appearance. No need to follow them who say, see here, or see there, for his day shall be as the lightning to those in whom the living Christ is. 'Tis Christ in us that will lift us up – he is the light – "tis only those that are alive in him that will be caught up to meet him in the air. I saw that we must be in the Spirit, that we might see spiritual things.*

*John was in the spirit, when he saw a throne set in Heaven. –But I saw the glory of the ministration of the Spirit had not been known. I repeated frequently, but the spiritual temple must and shall be reared, and the fulness of Christ be poured into his body, and then shall we be caught up to meet him. Oh none will be counted worthy of this calling but his body, which is the church, and which must be a candlestick all of gold.*

*I often said, Oh the glorious in-breaking of God which is Now about to burst on this earth; Oh the glorious temple which is now about to be reared, the bride adorned for her husband; and Oh what a holy, holy bride she must be, to be prepared for such a glorious bridegroom. I said, Now shall the people of God have to do with realities – now shall the glorious mystery of God in our nature be known – now shall it be known what it is for man to be glorified.*

*It felt that the revelation of Jesus Christ had yet to be opened up – it is not knowledge about God that it contains, but it is an entering into God. I saw that there was a glorious breaking in of God to be. I felt as Elijah, surrounded with chariots of fire. I saw as it were, the spiritual temple reared, and the Head Stone brought forth with shoutings of grace, grace, unto it.*

*It was a glorious light above the brightness of the sun, that shone round about me. I felt that those who were filled with the Spirit could see spiritual things, and feel walking in the midst of them, while those who had not the Spirit could see nothing – so that two shall be in one bed, the one taken and the other left, because the one has the light of God within while the other cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven.*

*I saw the people of God in an awfully dangerous situation, surrounded by nets and entanglements, about to be tried, and many about to be deceived and fall. Now will the wicked be revealed, with all power and signs and lying wonders, so that if it were possible the very elect will be deceived. This is this fiery trial which is to try us. It will be for the purging and purifying of the real members of the body of Jesus; but Oh it will be a fiery trial.*

*Every soul shall be shaken to the very centre. The enemy will try to shake in every thing we have believed – but the trial of real faith will be found to honour and praise and glory. Nothing but what is of God will stand. The stony-ground hearers will be manifest – the love of many will wax cold. I frequently said that night, and often since, now shall the awful sight of a false Christ be seen on this earth, and nothing but the living Christ in us can detect this awful attempt of the enemy to deceive — for it is with all deceivableness of unrighteousness he will work — he will have a counterpart for every part of God’s truth, and an imitation for every work of the Spirit.”*

You have just read a portion of Margaret MacDonald’s handwritten account of her 1830 vision and revelation. This was published in Robert Norton’s *Memoirs of Jame & George Macdonald of Port-Glasgow* (1840) pp.171-176 A shorter version appeared in Norton’s *The Restoration of Apostles and Prophets; In the Catholic Apostolic Church* (1861) pp. 15-18.

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## MacDonald ~ Darby ~ Scofield

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Revival swept 1830 Scotland which brought about many charismatic manifestations, gifts, visions, healings, and glossolalia (speaking in tongues). Margaret received her revelation experience in the spring of 1830 and her prophetic views spread across Britain. John Darby, a leader of the Plymouth Brethren of England, visited Margaret. Later Darby incorporated Margaret's prophetic views into his endtime theology which became popularized as a two-stage 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ. Darby wrote volumes on Biblical subjects, translated the Bible (which is probably part of your Computer Bible) and became known by some as the *"father of modern dispensationalism."*

Darby's two --stage, secret rapture views began to spread and be published by other Bible teachers of the 1800's such as Charles Henry Mackintosh (CHM), William Blackstone, and Cyrus Ingerson Scofield. The printing of Scofield's 1909 *Scofield Reference Bible* may have had the greatest influence upon the spreading of the secret rapture dispensationalist teaching. The teaching is in my Scofield Bible that I presently read.

George Muller, William Booth, and Charles Spurgeon are several ministers of the 1800's who opposed Darby's secret rapture views which later became popularized in Scofield's Bible. Many prominent Christian ministers prior to Darby and Scofield, knew nothing of a 2 stage coming of Christ or secret rapture for the church prior to the AntiChrist. These ministers include : John Wyclif, Martin Luther, William Tyndale, John Foxe, John Calvin, Isaac Newton, John Wesley, and others.

***"RAPTURE" has now taken on a meaning that describes*** the present popular 2 stage secret rapture view of Christ's coming. Today's popular modern "rapture" Bible teaching has been known of only to those of the last two centuries. It was not part of the original faith of the church.

The term "rapture" is a word which is derived from the Latin word *raptus*, which means ...*caught away or caught up*, and is equivalent to the Greek word "harpazo" which is used and translated "caught up" in 1 Thess. 4:17.

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***The “Popular” Rapture View of Christ’s Coming includes...***

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Three Phases .

**Phase 1 : is A “Secret”, Invisible RAPTURE Coming of Jesus Christ**

Which they say is...

- **Imminent** : at any moment
- **Invisible** : no one will see what is happening
- **Secret & Quiet** : Except for car & plane crashes and screams over disappearing babies
- the **Resurrection** of both dead & buried saints

**They say...Phase 2 : is the “caught up” spending next “7” years in Heaven**

They say ...

- Dead & Living Saints are “secretly” gone to Heaven**
- these Saints in Heaven are at a **Marriage Supper**
- while 7 years of **great Tribulation impacts those “left behind” on earth**
- the Beast / False Prophet / Antichrist** increases power & persecution
- while 144,000 Jewish Evangelists travel the globe preaching
- Salvation comes by Martyrdom during these 7 years

**They say...Phase 3 : will be *Jesus Christ’s LITERAL & visible RETURN***

They say it will come ....

- 7 yrs after the Invisible Rapture
- will be a Literal & Visible 2<sup>nd</sup> Return of Jesus Christ
- which will be Heralded Openly – in the Clouds this time
- This visible phase is followed by global earth Judgement
- with Rewards for good folks & the evil.

This is the typical layout of Christ’s Return by Dispensational teachers.

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## Some Inconsistencies that are Seen with the Secret Rapture Idea

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*the phrase...* **“even unto the end of the world / age”** of Matthew 28:20 does not mention anything about shortening the Church’s Commission to 7 years **before the End of the Age.**

*the statement ...* **“that believers will be raptured or gathered First - 1<sup>st</sup>”** not only contradicts the parable of the wheat and tares (Mat 13:30) but also conflicts with the parable of the **net** (Mat 13:48) where good(righteous) & bad (unrighteous) exist together until the END.???

*the statement ...* **“no one knows the day or the hour”**; is inconsistent with a secret rapture because once millions turn up **secretly missing**, **then people will know** that in exactly 7 years (or 3 ½), that Jesus will return. Thus, people **will definitely know.**???

*the statement...* **“144,000 (Rev 7) Jewish evangelists will bring the greatest evangelistic effort of the world”** during the 7 years of tribulation. But, these 144,000 are the sealed servants of God, ... but no evangelism is even implied.???

*the statement...* **“dead are raised at the last day, at the last trump and the last enemy death will be destroyed”** according to 1Cor 15:51-56. IF it is so that death is destroyed at the secret rapture, last day, last trump ...then how is there still **7 more years of death**, even after the last enemy death is destroyed.???

*the statement...* **“cometh at an hour when ye think not.”** (Luke 12:40) Why does Jesus warn us of his coming, ...when the church, according they say the church has already been raptured???

*the statement...* **“shall he appear the second time”** in Heb 9:28 does not imply a third time ....nor a 1<sup>st</sup> stage of a 2<sup>nd</sup> time.

*the statement...* **“a second chance for immortality”** ...they say those missing the rapture are given a second chance during the 7 year tribulation. There no mention of **a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance** for the foolish virgins of Matt. 25.???

*the statement... **“the first resurrection”** of Rev. 20:4 ...they say is not the first resurrection of 1Thess 4:16-20. But the Scriptures mention “the first resurrection” in Revelation coming ....**after the mark of the beast** and **the tribulation.???***

....the first resurrection or rapture of 1Thess 4:16 says “ ***the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a SHOUT, with the VOICE of the archangel, and with the TRUMP of God*** ...; but the rapture teachers say, No, the resurrection of believers is QUIET, NOISE-LESS, SECRETIVE, WITHOUT NOTICE ...MULTITUDES DISAPPEARING.???

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**Some Problematic Scriptures with what Rapture Teachers Say:**

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*They say... **Matthew 24 & 25 are passages to the Jews only, ...not to the church.** IF that is so, then John 14 -17 is only for the Jews ... and THEN “Let not your heart be troubled ...” is not for the church, ...but just for the Jews????*

*They say... **“Come up hither” of Rev. 4:1 is the resurrection of the church.** IF that is true, ...THEN is Rev 20:4-6 “This is the first resurrection” is really the second resurrection and not the first.???*

*They say... **“in what watch the thief would come” of Matt 24:43 means a secret withdrawal of all believers worldwide.** ...That seems to be reading a lot into those few words.*

*They say... **The rapture takes the saints off the planet,** yet Jesus prayed to **not remove** us from the earth, ... but to keep us in the earth. John 17:15.*

*They say... **“the wheat (believers) are gathered (raptured) “first” while the tares (sinners) will come “last”.** That is just the opposite of Matt 13:30 where the tares are **gathered first**, and then the wheat. Scofield reverses the tares and wheat completely in his notes on verse 30, saying that God will gather 1<sup>st</sup> the wheat.???*

*They say... **“one shall be taken and the other left”** of Luke 17:26-37 means ...believers will be taken and sinner left. But, in Noah’s day & Lot’s day ...it is clear that the wicked were taken and the righteous were left.???*

*They say... **“people will be saved after the rapture during the reign of the Antichrist ...if they will suffer martyrdom.”** ... that means **before** the Church leaves, “salvation” is by the blood of Jesus, ....but **during the tribulation** “salvation” is by the blood of martyrs. Seems like 2 plans.???*

*They say... **the word “Church” does not appear in Rev. chapters 4-18** **THUS church is gone!** IF so, THEN the church is also absent in chapters 19, 20, and 21. The word “church” is not there either.???*

*They say... **“that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things”** (Luke 21:36) that “escape” means ...rapture or resurrection...a literal removal from the planet for protection. Escape means resurrection.???*  
*the **“way to escape from temptation”** in 1Co 10:13 means that we “may be able to bear it”, and endure it while on the planet, ...not by leaving the planet.*

*They say... **“the elect”** of Matthew 24:22, 24, 31 are Jews and does not represent the church. IF that is so, THEN who are the elect of Romans 8:33, 1Thess 1:4, Col 3:12, Titus 1:1 and Mark 13:22....only Jews???*

*They say... **“I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world”** (Rev 3:10) ....they say ... the phrase **“keep thee”** means rapture or resurrection. That reads much into the words that was never implied or even hinted at.???*

*They say... **the word “saints”** in Revelation refers to different types of saints. **Tribulation saints** in Rev. 13:7,10, 16:6, 17:6 and 18:24. What type of saints in Rev 19:7,8 .... Real Church or Bride saints...Jewish saints???*

*They say... **“as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west”** (Matthew 24:27) refers to the rapture or resurrection of the church. But they say ...that the elect are Jews? So now they are Gentiles? Since the rapture is a secret, then the lightning is SECRET. Secret Lightning???*

*They say... **“Noah and Enoch are examples or indirect proof of a 2 stage coming”** They say... Enoch represents the raptured saints and that Noah represents the tribulation saints. There’s a 600 + year difference between them.*

Quite a few inconsistencies occur when men apply their minds too much to scripture.

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**Consider these Clear Unmovable Scriptural Anchors**

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**Anchor # 1** > Shows that.. **“Not one Biblical Character was ever Delivered from calamity, persecution, tribulation, affliction or torture by their Literal Evacuation from the Planet. ....Not even ONE!”**

**Anchor # 2** > Shows that... **“the Last Day is the Time of the Resurrection” ... NOT 7 YEARS EARLIER than the last day !.**

- ***Jesus’ triple confirmation in*** John 6:40,44,54 shows that “the last day” is resurrection .....not 7 years earlier.
- Martha knew this in John 11:24.
- John 6:40, 44, 54 .... “I will raise him up at the last day”
- John 11:24 .... “I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day”

**Anchor # 3** > Shows that... **“the trump of God, the last trump, the sound of a trumpet, the sounding of the seventh trumpet”** in Revelation are all linked together by common “trump” events”.....but (may not be trumping the identical same event?)

- 1 Thess 4:16 .....with the Trump of God
- 1 Cor 15:52 .....at the Last trump
- Matt 24:31 .....with a great sound of a trumpet
- Rev 8:6, 10:7, 11:15-18 ...sounding of the Seventh Trumpet

**Anchor # 4** > Shows that... **“tribulation”** in every scripture passage COMES BEFORE the Coming of Jesus Christ for His Church, **...NEVER AFTER !**

**Anchor # 5 >** Shows that... “The Book of Revelation is not Chronological in Sequence”

- 1> the 7th Trumpet is in the ... “middle” of Revelation ....not at the end!
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- 2> Those with washed robes came out of **Tribulation** in Rev 7:9-14 which is in the **middle** of the Book, ...thus the tribulation is over in the “middle” of the Book ...using their logic ..??
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- 3> **Babylon falls 3 times** in the book of Revelation using their technique:  
1<sup>st</sup> in Rev 14:8 : ...2<sup>nd</sup> in Rev 16:19 : ....3<sup>rd</sup> in Rev 18:21
- 
- 4> **Battle of Armageddon** is fought twice using their technique:  
1<sup>st</sup> -Rev 16:14-16, ... 2<sup>nd</sup> -Rev 9:13-20

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**The Usual Assumptions made by Rapture Teachers :**  
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1> **They assume** ... 2 Thess. 2:1-10 “**restrainer**” must be the Holy Spirit. It is based upon merely guess or conjecture. Too vague.

2> **They assume** ... Rev 3:10 “**kept from the hour of temptation**” refers to the physical, bodily removal of the believer from the planet. Again it is too vague.

3> **They assume** ... Rev. 4:1 “**come up hither**” means that all believers alive and dead are to physically to leave the planet. The Spirit was not speaking to the body of Christ, He was speaking to Apostle John during a vision. Grasping. If they do leave, that is the first resurrection, ... thus Rev. 20:4 becomes a twisted understanding.

4> **They assume** ...Rev 19: “**armies in heaven**” which accompanied Jesus in the vision are saints who were resurrected 7 years earlier and have been in heaven with Jesus all that time. Too much assumption. Some saints are in heaven. 24 elders are in heaven. Angels are in heaven.

5>**They assume** ... Matt 24:42 “**coming as a thief**” means the believers will not be expecting His return. 1Thess 5:4 says that his return will not come as a thief upon the believers who dwell in the Day.

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**Worries about “Escaping & Being Kept” :**

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Rapture teachers say that God means to physically remove the church from the planet, so that believers can **“escape those things coming on the earth”** which will **“keep them from the hour of temptation”**.

**Look at some “ESCAPE” examples of the PAST ...in scripture :**

**1<sup>st</sup>** > Noah & family were saved **from the flood, during the flood**, ...while it consumed their world

**2<sup>nd</sup>** > Israel **protected from most of the plagues** upon Egypt, ..without leaving Egypt

**3<sup>rd</sup>** > Death **passed thru Egypt** ....yet Israel’s 1<sup>st</sup> born escaped, & were delivered; yet remaining in Egypt.

**4<sup>th</sup>** > Daniel was **preserved within the Lion’s Den**, ...while in the midst of hungry lions

**5<sup>th</sup>** > Three Hebrew children were **preserved “within” the Fiery furnace**, ...not without the furnace.

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You may be able to see why many today in the Kingdom of God, ...within the Church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of the truth, ...do not teach a secret rapture, invisible escape idea. The advantage for the body of Christ, is not **literal escape**. Our edge or advantage is walking in fellowship with our God, by the Spirit.

Naturally speaking it was poor judgment to go off with over a million people into a wilderness where GOD is their only resource or advantage. But, that is our edge! God is our edge! Listen to His Spirit as He speaks direction into your life. Don’t listen to the bookstore or media prophets; “He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit is saying unto the church.”

He may be asking you to build something for your future security as He did Noah. He may be asking you to live in a different life-style as He did Abraham. He may be asking you to stay put as He did Isaac. Situations may be driving you into a completely foreign place to bless you as He did Jacob. Trust him,

He may even be sending a aheadas Joseph, to provide for you and others in a day when all will have great need. God may be even directing your life in such a way that you will provide for others with that he has put you over during a time of great deprivation.

He maybe preparing ravens to feed you by a brook or a widow woman with only one remaining meal to sustain you. Maybe God has an Obadiah who will provide for you when you can't. Maybe, God will send you a word from God that will sustain your meal barrel day after day miraculously. Maybe you are to face a dangerous den of lions, so to speak, but they can't touch you. Maybe you are to be thrown bound into a fiery furnace that others might see that the fire does not consume you as they see that God is with you.

David said, ...I have never seen the righteous forsaken...Jesus said, I will never leave you nor forsake you...I will go with unto the end ...If any two or three of you gather, there will I be in your midst.

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Great crowding pressures are affecting each of us in our daily lives. The New Testament scriptures spoke of this using terms such as : anguish, trouble, burden, affliction, persecution, and tribulation. Many different English words are used to describe this same ...*"crowding pressure"* which comes upon the children of God. It is denoted by the use of the Greek word ...*"thlipsis"* which means.. *to crowd,.. literally or figuratively...a pressing, a pressing together.*

Remember...the darkness which crowds and pressures us is meant for evil, ... yet watch as God turns it to good and even uses it for His own purposes and ends. This same "crowding pressure" is the same as that "anguish" when a woman travails in birth (Joh 16:21) and is that "persecution" that scattered people around Stephen's death (Act 11:19). It is the same "crowding pressure" the fatherless and widows experience in their "affliction" (Jas 1:27) and is the same "pressure" believers experience when "persecution" arises because of the word (Mat 13:21). In the face of this "crowding pressure" "tribulation" which we must go through to enter the kingdom of God, God gives us peace. Yet, none of this "tribulation : crowding pressure" believers experience separates us from the love of Christ (Rom 8:35)

The prevailing New Testament attitude concerning "crowding pressure" –

*anguish, affliction, or tribulation* reveals a much different one than preached today. Notice these verses ... (all “**crowding pressure : thlip’-sis**” **G#2347**)  
...I mean not that other men eased and you **burdened**...2Co 8:13  
...nevertheless such ..that marry ..shall have **trouble** in the flesh..1Co 7:28  
...(God) who comforts us in all our **tribulation** ...2Co 1:4  
...and delivered him (Joseph) out of all of his **afflictions** ...Act 7:10  
...I John your brother & companion in **tribulation** ...Rev 1:9  
...I know your works and **tribulation** and poverty ...Rev 2:9  
...the Holy Ghost witnesses ...bonds & **afflictions** await me ...Act 20:23  
...no man ..be moved by these **afflictions** ... are appointed to ...1Th 3:3  
...In the world you shall have **tribulation**...Joh 16:33

And there are accounts of even “great crowding pressure” ...  
...the dearth over all Egypt & Canaan and “**great affliction**” ...Act 7:11  
...I will cast her (Thyatira church) into “**great tribulation**”...Rev 2:22  
...for then shall be “**great tribulation**”, not since the beginning...Mat 24:21  
...these are they which came out of “**great tribulation**”...Rev 7:14  
See...Mat 24:9,29 – Mar 13:9,24 – Rom 2:9,5:3,12:12 – 2Co 1:8,2:4,4:17,6:4  
2Co 7:4,8:2 – Eph 3:13 – Php 1:16,4:14, - Col 1:24 – 1Th 1:6,3:7 – 2Th 1:6

Pressure from crowding does seem to a normal life experience for the New Testament brothers and sisters whether we call it ...anguish, burden, trouble, persecution, affliction or tribulation.

Daniel saw an increase of Pressure at the Endtime...”And he shall speak great words against the most high and shall wear out (afflict mentally, constantly harrass, consume, waste, decay) the saints of the most high...7:25

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You may not see the crowding pressures upon the family of God, nor may you see what Christ Jesus is doing right NOW. But soon, evrey eye will see Him and every knee will bow. There is No escape in your geographical location. Your GPS coordinates is not the issue. It is your dwelling place in the Spirit of Christ.! Watch & Pray. If you miss the morning train, ...there is no evening train.

You are having your one chance for preparation NOW. No second chances.

May the Lord bless you and keep you from the hour of temptation which tries all men upon the earth!

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*~ Even So Come Quickly Lord Jesus ! ~*  
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