

# FAQ

**FROM THE MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS ARCHIVES (2000-2018)**

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**MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS**  
messianicapologetics.net

# Frequently Asked Questions

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Cover Image: nullplus via Istockphoto

ISBN 979-8317009786 (paperback)

ASIN B09F1MWGB7 (eBook)

Published by Messianic Apologetics, a division of Outreach Israel Ministries

P.O. Box 516

McKinney, Texas 75070

(407) 933-2002

[outreachisrael.net](http://outreachisrael.net) / [outreachisrael.blog](http://outreachisrael.blog)

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# Abbreviations and Special Terms

The following is a list of abbreviations for reference works and special terms which are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as TWOT for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

- ABD: *Anchor Bible Dictionary*  
AMG: *Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament*  
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)  
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament  
Ara: Aramaic  
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)  
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)  
b. Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)  
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.  
BDAG: *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)  
BDB: *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*  
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.  
CGEDNT: *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Barclay M. Newman)  
CGL: *Cambridge Greek Lexicon* (2021)  
CHALOT: *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Holladay)  
CJB: *Complete Jewish Bible* (1998)  
CJSB: *Complete Jewish Study Bible* (2016)  
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition  
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls  
EDB: *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*  
EJ: *Encyclopaedia Judaica*  
ESV: *English Standard Version* (2001)  
Ger: German  
GNT: *Greek New Testament*  
Grk: Greek  
HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)  
HCSB: *Holman Christian Standard Bible* (2004)  
Heb: Hebrew  
HNV: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible  
IDB: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*  
IDBSup: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement*  
ISBE: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*  
IVPBBC: *IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)*  
Jastrow: *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* (Marcus Jastrow)  
JBK: *New Jerusalem Bible-Koren* (2000)  
JETS: *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*  
KJV: *King James Version*  
Lattimore: *The New Testament by Richmond Lattimore* (1996)  
LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible* by Jay P. Green (1986)  
LES: *Lexham English Septuagint* (2019)  
LS: *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott)  
LSJM: *Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)  
LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)  
LXX: *Septuagint*  
m. Mishnah  
MT: *Masoretic Text*  
NASB: *New American Standard Bible* (1977)  
NASU: *New American Standard Update* (1995)  
NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*  
NEB: *New English Bible* (1970)  
Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*  
NETS: *New English Translation of the Septuagint* (2007)  
NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*  
NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*  
NIV: *New International Version* (1984)  
NJB: *New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic* (1985)  
NJSB: *Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures* (1999)  
NKJV: *New King James Version* (1982)  
NRSV: *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)  
NLT: *New Living Translation* (1996)  
NT: *New Testament*  
OT: *Old Testament*  
REB: *Revised English Bible* (1989)  
RSV: *Revised Standard Version* (1952)  
t. Tosefta  
Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament  
Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*  
TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*  
TLV: *Messianic Jewish Family Bible—Tree of Life Version* (2014)  
TNIV: *Today's New International Version* (2005)  
TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*  
UBSHNT: *United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New Testament revised edition*  
v(s). *verse(s)*  
Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*  
Vul: *Latin Vulgate*  
YLT: *Young's Literal Translation* (1862/1898)  
WMB: *World Messianic Bible* (2020)

# Hour of Testing

## How do you, as post-tribulationists, respond to the fact that Believers are spared from “the hour of testing,” i.e., the Tribulation period?

A popular reference used to support the premise that Believers are to be removed from Earth before the Tribulation period, comes from Revelation 3:10. Yeshua the Messiah promises to spare those of the congregation or assembly of Philadelphia from the hour of testing:

**“Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth”** (Revelation 3:10, ESV).

What is automatically assumed by most pre-tribulationists, is that the congregation of Philadelphia comprises all Believers and that the “hour of testing” (NASU) is the Tribulation period. This is a major interpretational problem. It is not appropriate to assume that all Believers in Yeshua classify as being “Philadelphian,” and furthermore that the “hour of testing” or “hour of trial” necessarily has to be the Tribulation period.

If we look at only a surface examination of who the Philadelphian Believers are, the Greek *Philadelphēia*—the name of a city in First Century Asia Minor—means “*brotherly love*” (LS),<sup>1</sup> a key indicator of one of the characteristics which these people doubtlessly have. Revelation 3:10 says that the Philadelphians “have kept the word of My perseverance” (NASU). *Hupomonē* is “*a holding out, patient endurance*” (LS).<sup>2</sup> Yeshua issued a “command to endure” (HCSB) to the Philadelphians. Persevering in one’s faith is not only remaining true to the teachings and commands of Scripture, but also regards how one *patiently waits* for the arrival of the Messiah.

Many people are *overanxious* in regard to the return of Yeshua and are not following the admonition of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, which admonishes Believers not to be disturbed in regard to the coming of the Lord. Through the advent of prophecy fiction books such as *Left Behind* and with pre-tribulationism *indeed having been promoted to an extreme*, many people are not *patiently waiting* for the Messiah’s return. Many are literally sitting on the edge of their seats *waiting for an any-moment escape*. Equally so, there are post-tribulationists preparing for the worst, storing up food, guns and ammunition, literally *chomping at the bit for the Great Tribulation to begin*. Are such people—in both categories—*waiting patiently* for the Messiah’s return?

Those who belong to the true Philadelphian assembly should be regarded as having both *brotherly love* and are patient in regard to Yeshua’s coming. They are patient because they are secure in the work of God’s Kingdom on Planet Earth. *Not all who claim to have faith in the Messiah would classify as being “Philadelphian.”* This is only a specific category of people.

The Greek term translated “testing” or “trial” in Revelation 3:10 is *peirasmos*, which can be indicative of “the temptation by which the devil sought to divert Jesus the Messiah from his divine errand” (*Thayer*).<sup>3</sup> TDNT adds to this, “Rev. 3:10 promises deliverance in the final hour of trial.”<sup>4</sup> The Messiah further told those of the Philadelphian assembly,

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<sup>1</sup> H.G. Liddell and R. Scott, *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994), 861.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 845.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph H. Thayer, *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2003), 498.

<sup>4</sup> H. Sesseemann, “test, attempt,” in Geoffrey W. Bromiley, ed., *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, abridged (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985), 823.

“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name” (Revelation 3:12, NASU).

The testing which those of Philadelphia will preserved from, is what will deter them from their calling: **to persevere**. In Matthew 4:1-11, Satan tempted Yeshua three times and the Lord responded to him with Holy Scripture. Had Yeshua worshipped the Devil, He would have been made king of the world, *but would not have fulfilled His destiny as the Divine Redeemer*. In a similar manner, we must prevail and have faith in Him—*patiently waiting for His return*. Many in the Tribulation period will be forced to either worship Satan or be martyred, and it is this form of “testing” which we should believe the Philadelphian Believers will be spared from. They will be preserved from the testing to fall away and give up. And, we would eagerly point out that *this does not include everyone*. Only a certain segment, who God knows and specially calls out, will be spared from this temptation.