

# Earth Dwellers

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## **For Discussion: Rebellion Against God: The Eternal Error Of The ‘Earth Dweller’**

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### **Rebellion Against God: The Eternal Error Of The ‘Earth Dweller’**

Throughout the nations today, we see the rage and rebellion of a core group of people. They go by many names and belong to many different groups, but they all exhibit the same hatred for God, His Word and His people (both Christian and Jewish). Whatever name they claim for themselves, the Bible also has a name for them: earth dwellers. We read of them in Revelation 3:10: “*Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*” But this is not the only reference. We also read of them in Revelation 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8; 13:12; 13:14; 14:6; 17:8... (9x) <https://harbingersdaily.com/rebellion-against-god-the-eternal-error-of-the-earth-dweller/>

### **What do we learn about earth dwellers from the first reference to them?**

Revelation 3:10 – *Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*

The hour of trial is the Tribulation and it will “test” those who dwell on the earth.

### **What does the term “earth dweller” tell us about them?**

The first clue as to their character and belief system is found in the word “dwell”. It is the Greek word *katoikeo* which refers to their desire to settle down and feel at home. In other words, their focus and ambition is solely connected to the earth and the pleasures of it.

1 John 2:15 – *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

### **What do unbelieving earth dwellers love?**

We have earth dwellers today... they are those who love the world and the things in the world.

John 3:19-20 – *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*

They also love darkness, the absence of the knowledge of God... this gives them license to ruminate on their own thoughts and brilliant ideas independent of God.

### **If Christians are not earth dwellers, what are we?**

Philippians 3:20 – *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*

As Jesus said in John 17, His disciples are in the world but not of the world. We are better described as *citizens of heaven*.

### **What do the earth dwellers think of those who dwell in heaven?**

Revelation 13:6 – *Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven*

This hatred of the light is on full display during the Tribulation when the Antichrist and no doubt all of his “*earth dwellers*” speak blasphemously against God and His “*heaven dwellers*.”

- The world systems today are largely facilitating a constant supply of vices which appeal to mankind’s debauchery and his hunger for darkness.

### **What do the other references to earth dwellers in Revelation tell us about them?**

- 6:10; those in heaven ask, “how long before you judge the *earth dwellers*?”
- 8:13; an angel in heaven says, “woe, woe, woe to the *earth dwellers*”
- 11:10; *earth dwellers* rejoice over the death of the two prophets.
- 13:8; all *earth dwellers* will worship the Antichrist
- 13:12; the False Prophet causes to *earth dwellers* to worship the Antichrist
- 13:14; the False Prophet deceives the *earth dwellers*
- 14:6; a heavenly angel preaches the gospel to *earth dwellers*
- 17:8; *earth dwellers* marvel at the Beast

## Back to Revelation 3:10, how does this passage support the pre-Trib rapture doctrine?

*Keep you from the hour of trial:* Does this imply an escape before the Tribulation, or does it promise protection in it?

- Note that protection is promised from the **very hour of trial**, not just the trial itself.
- **Persevere** is in the past tense, showing it is something that the Christians had already done before the **hour of trial**, which has not yet come upon the world.
- The promise is a **reward** for past perseverance, not the **equipping** to persevere in the future.
- In addition, the ones tested by this **hour of trial** are not primarily believers, but **those who dwell on the earth** — whose home is this earth, who are not citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20).

## What did the prophet Isaiah have to say about *earth dwellers*?

Isaiah 24:5-6 – *The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.*

The term *inhabitants of the earth* is essentially the same as *earth dwellers*. Here it talks about them being burned so that few men are left. Thus, this has to be referring to the Tribulation...

Isaiah 13:12 – *I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold*

## What does Isaiah 26:21 have to add?

Isaiah 26:21 – *For behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; The earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.*

There will be so many dead during the Tribulation that they cannot even bury the dead.

Isaiah refers to the *punishment* of the inhabitants of the earth and Revelation 3:10 refers to them being *tested*...

## So, which is it – punishment or testing?

## If *earth dwellers* are to be tested, does it mean that they may pass and escape God's wrath?

No – there is no evidence of any earth dweller being saved because the term represents those who remain in rebellion against God in the Tribulation period.

- The Greek word for “test” is *peirazo* and it refers to testing or trying people to determine, demonstrate or expose the kind of people they are.

- God's salvation is available to all people but since they chose to rebel against Him, His decision to punish them is vindicated.

## Are there any *earth dwellers* that will be saved?

Revelation 17:8 – *those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*

An *earth dweller* represents each unsaved person during the Tribulation who steadfastly continues in their rejection of God.

- Even though the target of the preaching of the gospel by an angelic messenger is the *earth dweller* (Revelation 14:6), not a single one will follow the Lamb.

## So, who will be saved during the Tribulation?

Everyone who recognizes Jesus as the Savior who paid our sin penalty and trusts in Him will be saved. These will be those who reject taking the Mark of the Beast.

- Most will be martyred for their faith but will spend eternity with the Lord (and us).
- Some will survive the Tribulation and go on to repopulate the earth during the Millennial Kingdom.

## Does the Greek word for dwelling “*katoikeo*” always have negative connotations?

Ephesians 3:17 – *that Christ may dwell [may settle down and feel at home in] in your hearts through faith*

Even though the use of the word “*katoikeo*” in reference to the *earth dwellers* is in a negative sense, it is also a term of comfort to believers.

John 14:23 – *If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*

Isn't that amazing? The heart that was once deceitfully wicked above all things, the heart that was at enmity with God, is the very same heart that, through a saving faith in Christ, is now open to Him in order to settle down and feel at home in.

## What applications do we see from this discussion?

- *Earth dwellers* love the world and the things in the world; be a citizen of heaven instead.
- You don't want to be an earth dweller either now or especially during the Tribulation.
- Revelation 3:10 powerfully reinforces the pre-Trib rapture doctrine... imminence... live ready!