

“BE OF GOOD CHEER I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.”

We have seen extraordinary things unfolding in the world's stock-markets. Billions have been wiped off share values and it appears that the whole financial world is going through a massive upheaval. Crisis! Crash! Collapse! Meltdown! Commentators are running out of words to describe events that are moving so fast. What started in the USA as a housing crisis has toppled Banks and shaken Governments throughout the world, let alone ordinary people who sit and stare incredulously at the rapid turn of events. Not unsurprisingly, the suggestion that it is all a Jewish Plot is growing, especially on internet sites even though the Tel Aviv Stock market has suffered just like everyone else.

Added to all this is the threat of nuclear war from Iran, climate change, famines and incurable diseases, the rapid decline of Western Churches coupled with unparalleled persecution of Christians around the world. But what is God saying to Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus today? This is what Corrie Ten Boom said in 1974. It contains solid advice to Christians about preparing for extreme times of trouble before the return of Jesus. Corrie knew great tribulation firsthand, as she and her family were imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp for sheltering Jews during the Holocaust.

“The world is deathly ill. It is dying. The Great Physician has already signed the death certificate. Yet there is still a great work for Christians to do. They are to be streams of living water, channels of mercy to those who are still in the world. It is possible for them to do this because they are overcomers. Christians are ambassadors for Christ. They are representatives from Heaven to this dying world. And because of our presence here, things will change.

My sister, Betsy, and I were in the Nazi concentration camp at Ravensbruck because we committed the crime of loving Jews...We may have been the Lord's only representatives in that place of hatred, yet because of our presence there, things changed. Jesus said, *“In the world you shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”* We too, are to be overcomers—bringing the light of Jesus into a world filled with darkness and hate.

Sometimes I get frightened as I read the Bible, and as I look in this world and see all of the tribulation and persecution promised by the Bible coming true. Now I can tell you, though, if you too are afraid, that I have just read the last pages. I can now come to shouting “Hallelujah! Hallelujah!” for I have found where it is written that Jesus said, *“He that overcometh shall inherit all things: and I will be His God, and he shall be My son.”* This is the future and hope of this world. Not that the world will survive [as it is] but that we shall be ‘overcomers’ in the midst of a dying world.”

Derek Rous