THE WORLD IS HEADED FOR DISASTER: WHY DOES GOD ALLOW ALL THE PAIN?  
(CNC Faith Defenders SS: 7/10/05)

--Rev 15:1 → 16:1-4, 8, 10, 12, 16-18, 21. 15:1
--The Scripture teaches here that the WRATH of God is GREAT and MARVELOUS.

--Matt 24:15-22.
--It’s gonna get so bad that not even true BELIEVERS will be able to ENDURE unless the Tribulation is CUT SHORT!!!

--The tenderness of God:
--James 1:27: Pure and undefiled religion: To visit ORPHANS and WIDOWS in their DISTRESS.
--Deut 14:28-29.
--Matt 9:35-36:

--The God of these passages is a God of DELIVERANCE and SALVATION.
--Rev 16:9, 11, 21: The response to God’s actions is blasphemy.
--V. 15: The blessing is that some are AWAKENED by the WRATH!!!

--If God is so tender, why?
--Because our God is such a SAVING God that He will even use PAIN and DISASTER and PESTILENCE and TERROR and SUFFERING and PLAGUES to bring about salvation.

--HANDOUT 467C:
--Rev 13:7:
--There is no doubt that there will be SAINTS present DURING the Tribulation.
--What is controversial is whether these saints will be the CHURCH or people who are saved AFTER the Church is RAPTURED.
--Rev 14:6-7: The Gospel will be more active around the ENTIRE world than it has been at any time in HISTORY.

--APPLICATION: “Why does God allow so much pain and suffering in the world?”

1. God can use the THREAT of pain to bring lost people to SALVATION.
--Jonah 3:1-10:

2. God can use pain to return His CHILDREN to HIMSELF.
--JUDGES 10:6-16:
--Pain is not only good for LOST people, it can be good for GOD’S people.
3. Some will only be saved through EXTREME pain.
   --A medical analogy:
   --Our God is such a SAVING God that not even the PAIN of His own children makes Him forget those who are LOST.

--Phil 1:12-14:
   --KEY CONCEPT: Many people will never believe in the cross of CHRIST until they have seen a BELIEVER bear the cross.

--II Cor 4:10-11: LOOK WHAT THIS TEACHES US:
   --We carry in OUR bodies the DYING of Jesus.
   --We are constantly being DELIVERED over to DEATH for Jesus’ sake.
   --The RESULT of this is LIFE!!!

--THE REAL GOSPEL IS THIS: For every BELIEVER there is a CROSS to be borne.

--God’s promises in the midst of pain:
1. **II Cor 4:7-9**: Look at the promise:
   --We’re afflicted but not CRUSHED.
   --Perplexed but not DESPAIRING.
   --Persecuted but not FORSAKEN.
   --Struck down but not DESTROYED.

2. **Matt 24:21-22**: When we come to the very brink…GOD WILL SHORTEN THE TIME.

--A QUESTION: