

Visit Tyndale's exciting Web site at www.tyndale.com

Discover the latest Left Behind news at www.leftbehind.com

Copyright © 2004 by Jerry B. Jenkins and Tim LaHaye. All rights reserved.

Cover photo copyright © 1995 by Mark Green. All rights reserved.

Cover photo copyright © 1987 by Robert Fleisher. All rights reserved.

Left Behind is a registered trademark of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Published in association with the literary agency of Alive Communications, Inc., 7680 Goddard Street, Suite 200, Colorado Springs, CO 80920.

Scripture quotations are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982, 1991 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Edited by Lorie Popp

ISBN 0-8423-8347-6, mass paper

Printed in the United States of America

08 07 06 05 04

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	What's Gone On Before	xi
1.	The Fourth Bowl	1
2.	Missing	13
3.	The Search	25
4.	The Chase.	35
5.	Mark's New Friend	47
6.	Clemson's Decision	59
7.	Last Leg of the Trip	71
8.	Reunion.	83
9.	First Steps	93
10.	Working for the Co-op	105
11.	Library Mission	117
12.	Rescue	131
13.	The Longest Night	143
14.	Night Moves	157
15.	Westin's Idea	171
	About the Authors	

The Fourth Bowl

JUDD Thompson Jr. pressed the phone to his ear and walked to a private place in the Ohio hideout. Chang had called from New Babylon to tell Judd about something weird, what he called the “fourth Bowl Judgment.” Chang seemed excited about what this might mean for believers.

“Has Dr. Ben-Judah said anything about this?” Judd said.

“I haven’t heard anything, but you know he’ll come out with something soon.”

Judd flipped on the television as he talked, but the only local station was off the air.

“Back up and tell me exactly what happened.”

Chang took a breath. “I had been listening to Carpathia when his secretary said there were strange reports about a heat wave. Then

HEAT WAVE

I heard shouts near my office. Everyone ran to the front window, and my boss warned them to get back. That's when the glass exploded and Rasha . . ." Chang stopped for a moment.

"Who's Rasha?"

"She worked near me. We had several conversations about Judah-ites and all the miraculous things going on. She was a Carpathia follower, but she was really scared that something bad was going to happen to her. I wanted to tell her the truth so many times, but there was no way. She had Carpathia's mark."

"What happened to her?"

"She was at the window when it shattered. Shards of glass flew everywhere. Rasha and another man were cut and fell to the floor as the hot air blew into the room. People went crazy, screaming and running over each other. One woman tried to help Rasha, but her hair burst into flames."

"If that was going on inside, I can't imagine what happened outside."

"It was awful," Chang said. "A woman was walking her dog below us. She let go of the animal and tried to get inside a car, but she burned her hands on the door handles. The dog ran in a circle, trying to find some shade

The Fourth Bowl

or relief from the heat, but it finally turned into a dog torch."

Judd shuddered. "And the same thing happened to people?"

"They fell out of their cars. Tires exploded. I saw windshields melt. My boss ordered everyone into the basement."

"Could you feel the heat?"

"It was a bit warmer, but I wasn't burned. I pretended it was hurting though."

"What happened to Rasha and the other guy?"

"They turned into human fire. It was awful. The others ran for the elevator, but I said I would catch the next one. I wanted to run to my quarters and alert the Tribulation Force and you."

As soon as he was off the phone, Judd logged on to Tsion Ben-Judah's Web site. Judd couldn't imagine what the last five years would have been like without the spiritual direction of this man. His Web site alone had helped millions come to know God, and the 144,000 evangelists God had raised up had reached more. Judd noticed a new posting from Tsion and downloaded the file so Lionel and the others could read it. Tsion wrote:

My dear friends in Christ, I want you to know that we have reached another terrible

HEAT WAVE

milestone. For those of you in the former USA and other places where the sun is yet to rise, the deadly fourth Bowl Judgment has struck, as prophesied in the Bible, and every time zone in the world will be affected.

Here in Petra, by ten in the morning, people out in the sun without the seal of God were burned alive. This may seem an unparalleled opportunity to plead once again for the souls of men and women, because millions will lose loved ones. But the Scriptures also indicate that this may come so late in the hearts of the undecided that they will have already been hardened.

Burned alive. Judd couldn't imagine such horror. He had seen scary movies where people had been burned, and the images had stuck in his mind.

Tsion included the Scripture that mentioned the judgment:

Revelation 16:8-9 says, "Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory."

The Fourth Bowl

Tsion's message continued, explaining as much as he could, but the man admitted he did not know how long the heat would last. Judd read the brief message again. He had so many questions. Was Chang right about being able to move around during daylight? If cars had exploded in New Babylon, would the Humvee they had hidden near the hide-out also explode, or would God somehow spare believers' vehicles?

Judd wished he could talk with Tsion himself, but he knew that wasn't possible. He recalled a conversation with Rayford Steele, who gave his secure phone number and offered to help in making decisions. Judd glanced at his watch. Before he called Vicki with the news, he had to talk with Captain Steele.



Vicki Byrne hadn't slept well the past few nights. Cheryl's moods swung like playground equipment, but the truth was, the situation with the Fogartys had eased a little. Cheryl had said she didn't need to see Ryan much anymore, and Marshall and Zeke were trying to find her another place to live.

But Vicki had to admit that Cheryl wasn't the only reason she was losing sleep.

Members of the Young Tribulation Force had grown frustrated. Some wanted to take more chances to find people without the mark of Carpathia. Mark had talked about leaving the group and traveling, but Zeke had convinced him to stay.

The newest members of the group, Ty and Tanya Spivey, along with the others who had broken away from Tanya's father's group, had thought the camp in Wisconsin was the next best thing to heaven when they arrived. Now they felt disappointed at the conflict.

"I know we're all human," Tanya had said to Vicki when they were alone one morning, "but the stuff with Cheryl and the fighting between Conrad and Shelly upset me."

"I'm just as disappointed as you," Vicki said, "but when we become believers we're not promised that everything's going to be easy. In a lot of ways, things got worse when I became a believer."

"That doesn't seem fair. If God loves us, wouldn't he help us solve our problems?"

Vicki couldn't think of a Bible passage that addressed the subject, and she had to admit she felt the same way. She wanted God to fix things. The world's troubles had united the kids for a time, but each day brought new struggles.

Something moved outside the cabin, and

The Fourth Bowl

Vicki sat up. The moon shone through the curtains, casting an eerie glow. She strained to hear, but all was quiet.

Vicki closed her eyes and prayed for her friends, especially Judd. If God would bring him back, she could put up with any problem.



Judd dialed the number to the hideout in San Diego and took a deep breath.

"Steele," Rayford answered.

"I hope I'm not bothering you, Captain. This is Judd Thompson."

"Not a problem. What's up?"

Judd explained what Chang Wong had told him, and Rayford said he had just gotten off the phone with Dr. Ben-Judah. "I wanted to ask him if those with the seal of God would be immune to the heat."

"My question exactly," Judd said. "What did Tsion say?"

"He said they feel some extra warmth there in Petra and some people are a little tired, but like Chang, they're not feeling the effects like unbelievers."

"Then it's true. I could go out tomorrow morning without the GC knowing about it."

"It's likely. I told Tsion this could mean

a lot to the Trib Force. As long as we hide before GC officers come out, we're okay."

"Which means you can move supplies around the country."

"Exactly. And with the way the groups are begging for food, this comes at a great time."

"I'm trying to get to the Wisconsin hide-out. Do you think it would be safe to drive there tomorrow?"

"You're talking about Avery, right?"

"Yes."

"And what's your location now?"

Judd told him.

"I don't know if I'd chance it unless you have some place to ditch for the night. Wait and see what happens tomorrow. I'll be talking with our people about flights to various groups. Maybe you could tag along."

"Great. But will planes be able to fly in the heat?"

"I hope so. You have to understand we have no idea how long this will last. It could be a few hours, a few days, or weeks. Tsion cautioned that God has never been predictable with these plagues. We know the order they come in, and we used to think that when one ended the next one began. Now we know they can overlap. Tsion just doesn't want to see us caught in the open when the thing ends."

The Fourth Bowl

"Me either. But you know the Global Community has to look at something like this as another nail in their coffin."

"The world's in bad shape. People are scrounging for food and the bare necessities. There's no law except survival. Everybody who's smart goes out with a gun."

"Sort of like the Old West."

"Right, except the good guys are the evangelists. Yesterday I got a report about two who preached to a small town in Germany. There were still a few holdouts to Carpathia's mark, and these evangelists found them, but before they could finish speaking, a group of armed men broke into the meeting. They took all the valuables and Nicks the people had and then separated the men from the women."

"I don't like the sound of this."

"Neither did I, until I heard what happened next. It was clear this gang of thieves was up to no good. But as they were leading the women outside, an angel appeared at the door, and with a couple of words the robbers all fell dead."

"What happened to the others?"

"All of them believed the message and received the mark of God."

Judd shook his head. "I'd almost given up

about any undecided. It seems like everybody's chosen Carpathia or God."

"This is the greatest rescue mission the earth has ever known. On the video reports about the wrath of the Lamb earthquake, people dug through collapsed buildings for days, even weeks, looking for just one survivor. In one hospital, they found a baby alive fifteen days after the earthquake. I like to think our mission is the same. We have to keep digging, keep praying, keep hoping that we'll find someone who's ready to hear the message."

"I hadn't thought about it that way," Judd said.

"People have lost faith in the GC and its leaders. If there's anyone out there without Carpathia's mark, and we can get to them, I have to believe they'll choose the light instead of darkness. They're going to be suffering as the sun rises every day."

Judd paused. "But hasn't Dr. Ben-Judah said God is actually showing mercy with these judgments?"

"I asked him about that, and he still thinks the fact that more plagues are coming means God still wants people to repent. Most won't and will curse God, but Tsion supports our efforts to find the remaining undecided."

"Then I want to be part of it. And I'll bet

The Fourth Bowl

there's a bunch of people in Wisconsin who would too and some here in Ohio."

"Let's see what the morning brings," Rayford said. "In the meantime, call Vicki and tell her the good news."

"You know about us?"

"Chloe told me. My guess is you two will be back together within a couple of days."

Judd couldn't help but smile as he hung up. He had tried to stay reserved with Captain Steele, but he was sure some of his excitement had come through on the phone. He quickly dialed Vicki's number.



Vicki awoke with a start. She couldn't tell how long she had been sleeping. Was it an hour? two? The moon had moved little in the window, so she guessed she hadn't been asleep long.

Something outside had startled her. Or had it been a dream? It sounded like Marshall's van, but who could be taking it this time of night?

For the first time in a long while, Vicki worried about the Global Community. What if they had discovered the remote camp? She wrapped a blanket around her shoulders, grabbed a flashlight, and tiptoed outside.

HEAT WAVE

The ground was wet with dew, and the crisp temperature raised goose bumps on her arms. She headed for the main cabin where the others usually gathered and saw footsteps heading toward Josey and Tom Fogarty's cabin. When she pointed the flashlight at their front door, she noticed it was open a few inches.

Someone stirred inside, and a light came on.

"Mrs. Fogarty?" Vicki whispered.

A shriek pierced the night.

Vicki rushed toward the cabin as Tom Fogarty swung the door open. "Where is he?"

"Where's who?" Vicki said.

Josey bounded to the door behind him.

"He's gone! Ryan's gone!"