

The Day of the Lord
Understanding the Book of Revelation

A Message from Jesus Ministry

Joseph M. Smith

The Day of the Lord
Understanding the Book of Revelation
© 2009 *A Message from Jesus Ministry*
All rights reserved
Printed in U.S.A.

Scripture from the King James Version of the Bible.

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the
New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982,
Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) 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.

Holy Bible, New Living Translation, Second Edition
Copyright © 1996, 2004, Tyndale Charitable Trust. All rights reserved.
Electronic Edition STEP Files Copyright © 2005, QuickVerse.
All rights reserved.

Emphases not found in original text are ours.
(2010 Printing)

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Chart: The Complete Gospel Outlined by God's Feasts or Holy Convocations Reveals His Plan for Mankind	6
Understanding Given to the Church	6
First Four Seals	12
Fifth Seal	14
Sixth Seal	21
Seventh Seal	26
Day of the Lord (Seven Trumpet Plagues)	26
First, Four Trumpet Plagues	29
First Woe (Fifth Trumpet Plague)	34
Second Woe (Sixth Trumpet Plague)	40
Abomination of Desolation	46
The Two Witnesses	54
Heavenly Signs	55
Seventh Trumpet	55
Second Coming of Jesus Christ	57
Third Woe (Seven Last Plagues)	60
Atonement (Wedding of the Lamb)	69
Feast of Tabernacles (1000-Year Reign of Christ)	73
Last Great Day (The Great White Throne Judgment)	77
What Shall We Do?	82
Chart: 1000-Year Day of the Lord	85

Introduction

So often when we begin to read new material, we come with our own ideas and set of glasses from which we view everything. Many of us have never honestly taken the time to PROVE to ourselves whether what we believe is actually true!

It is important to remember, in searching the scriptures, that the Word of God has been designed to hide the meaning so few will discover the Truth. “Whom shall He teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine? *Them that are* weaned from the milk, *and* drawn from the breasts. For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little” (Isa. 28:9-10). God’s secret plan is realized a little here and a little there throughout the pages of the Bible. It is revealed to those who are, “...poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word” (Isa. 66:2).

We strongly suggest, before you begin to read this book, that you ask God to guide you into all truth through the mighty power of His Holy Spirit. Be like the Bereans who, “...received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

If you find information that is different from what you have previously understood, take the time to prove it from the pages of your own Bible. Humble yourself before God and His Word and ask Him for eyes to see the knowledge and Truth He has for you.

Some fear to study the Book of Revelation. They misunderstand the words of John, “...If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book” (Rev. 22:18-19). These words were written by John and do not appear in red lettered editions of the Bible as words spoken by Jesus.

The Book of Revelation, like all the other books of the Bible, was written before the days of Copyright laws. Similar warnings were included by other writers of the Bible to assure their writings would remain protected without being changed. Such warnings appear in Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32, and Proverbs 30:6.

In the writing of this book, we did not take a word away from, nor did we add a word to, the Book of Revelation. We have left the Book of Revelation exactly as we found it. We encourage you to read it often. If you, as a Christian, will ask for understanding with the attitude of humility, Jesus will give you the knowledge contained in the Book of Revelation that is reserved for His Church.

The Day of the Lord

Understanding the Book of Revelation

To understand God and His Word better, we must think in terms of thousands of years because God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). A promise made to Noah, Abraham, Moses, or King David is not forgotten by God. He will still fulfill His words today. God has a plan and He is right on track as He guides it to completion.

God gave an outline of His plan for humanity thousands of years ago to the people of Israel as they came out of their bondage in Egypt. This plan spelled out for Israel God's secret and mysterious timetable of events that would result in the climactic, endtime fulfillment of all that had been foretold by the prophets down through the ages.

Now God, in His mercy, has revealed these events to His Church.

In Leviticus 23 God made known to the people of Israel an outline of His plan for all mankind. It began with the Sabbath, which was given to them as a blessing and a gift, so they would have a chance to get to know God better. This was like a prearranged date with God each week. It was to be special time set aside to have quality time with God; a time to bask in His presence and enjoy His company. The more they took advantage of this offer, the more God revealed Himself in personal and intimate ways. Of course Israel, and humanity as a whole, never accepted this benevolence. Therefore, they never received the blessing of understanding God's plans for them.

The outline of God's plan is hidden in a set of formal Holy Convocations. God said, "These *are* the feasts of the LORD, *even* holy convocations." The purpose for these times to assemble was to reveal God's deepest secrets and to explain why we and the earth exist. They weren't just something to keep the people of Israel busy.

The first three of these Holy Convocations, the Passover (Jesus, our Passover Lamb), the Days of Unleavened Bread (the coming out of sin), and Pentecost (the Holy Spirit given to the Church) are understood by most of Christianity. However, the last four are a total enigma to many Christians. To understand more about these days, please go to our website www.thelittlebook.com and study our chart showing [*The Complete Gospel of the Kingdom of God*](#).

If you grasp the meaning of each of the Holy Convocations God gave to Israel, you will have a clear understanding of His plan for His people and for all mankind.

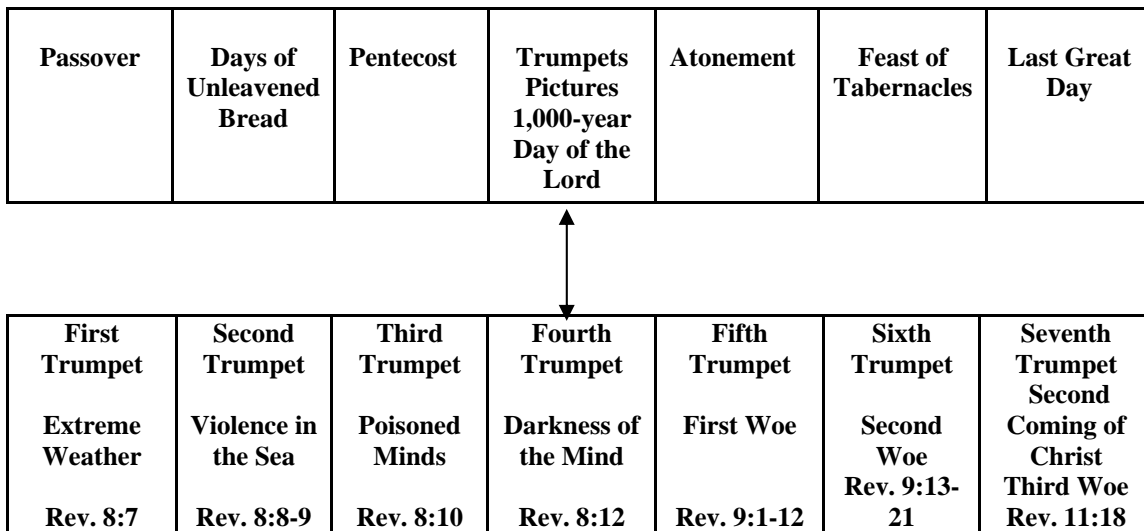
This book begins with the part of God's plan shown in Leviticus 23:23-24—a memorial of the blowing of trumpets. This Holy Convocation is known as the Feast of Trumpets. It has everything to do with the Day of the Lord and our understanding of the Book of Revelation! This will become abundantly clear as we continue.

The key word to understand is "memorial." The word means "to serve to

remember.” All of God’s Holy Convocations given to Israel were meant to assist them in remembering events that would occur in the future. Therefore, these trumpets were blown to help them, and us, keep in mind some events (plagues) that were to come in the future; some have been released, others are yet to come.

The Day of the Lord is the theme of the entire book of Revelation. John was brought by a vision into the Day of the Lord. Jesus revealed to John events that would take place during the entire 1,000 years of the Day of the Lord.

**The Complete Gospel Outlined by
God’s Feasts or Holy Convocations
Reveals His Plan for Mankind
(Leviticus 23)**



Understanding Given to the Church

Jesus said, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches...” (Rev. 2:11). It is the Spirit of Jesus and the Father—the Holy Spirit that is a key to understanding the whole Word of God; this includes the book of Revelation! It is the Holy Spirit that is instructing the Church.

The Word of God is spiritually perceived not intellectually discerned. Jesus said in John 6:63, “It is the spirit that quickeneth [gives life or understanding to]; the flesh profiteth nothing [spiritually speaking]: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit and *they* are life.”

You must be willing to listen to the Spirit of God if you truly want to comprehend the Word of God. Humility is a key to understanding, “...To this *man* will I look, *even* to *him that is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word” (Isa. 66:2). You don’t

have to figure out the book of Revelation or the other prophecies from Jesus Christ. Let Him reveal them to you!

“Then Jesus prayed this prayer: ‘O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank You for hiding the truth from those who think themselves so wise and clever, and for revealing it to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased You to do it this way!’” (Matt. 11:25-26 NLT).

The book of **Revelation is a book of revealing**. Many try to use the rest of the Bible to explain this book, when actually, it is the book of Revelation that explains the rest of the Bible. It ties together many of the prophecies of the Bible and gives the Church a time window from which to view the events as they begin to unfold.

Why the Symbolism?

The book of Revelation is clouded in mystery and symbolism. Therefore, some churches dismiss the entire book. They feel safer speaking about Jesus as He lived His life in the flesh rather than declaring His words from beyond the grave, that is, from heaven.

Jesus prophesied in the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man exactly how people would treat His statements from heaven. If you would like to learn more fully the reason Jesus spoke in “stories,” go to our website www.thelittlebook.com and download our free booklet [Why Jesus Spoke in Parables](#).

These symbols serve the same purpose as the parables of Jesus that are recorded in the Gospels. Just as the parables were given to hide the meaning from people when Jesus walked the roads of Palestine (Matt. 13:10-17), so the symbolism shown in the book of Revelation was purposefully used to hide the truth from all who are not led by the Spirit of God. **Symbols and metaphors were implemented to conceal the understanding from the masses and to preserve it for the true Body of Christ—the Spirit-led Church of God!**

The book of Revelation will give enlightenment to Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21. It will help to clarify and to explain Christ’s parables throughout the Gospels. Many of Daniel’s prophecies and that of Isaiah, Ezekiel, and the Minor Prophets will be brought into focus through the pages of the book of Revelation.

A main point to understanding prophecy is that much of it is dual; there is often a former and latter fulfillment. This is a key to our comprehending because, if this is not understood, we may consider a prophecy to be fulfilled when that incident in history was only a precursor to the main event to come.

The purpose of the book of Revelation is, “...to show unto His [Jesus Christ’s] servants things which must shortly come to pass...” (Rev. 1:1). Many become confused when Jesus says, “To show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass.” They say, “Give me a break. It has been more than nineteen hundred years since John

wrote down these words. How can Jesus say, ‘Must shortly come to pass,’ or in verse 3, ‘For the time *is* at hand,’ or in chapter 3:11, ‘I come quickly’”? The time period for which Jesus spoke these words is important!

Can we know for certain the events that will lead up to the Second Coming of Christ? These events have been clouded in mystery and their understanding sealed until now. Daniel was told, “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end...” (Dan. 12:4 NKJV). However, God, in His mercy, has opened the meaning of these happenings to our understanding today.

Jesus told His disciples, “I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but they didn’t see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn’t hear it” (Matt. 13:17 NLT).

God has a time frame in which to reveal the prophecies of His Word. In Revelation 1:10 John said, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.” The time setting for the content of this book is “The Lord’s Day.” The word “on” used in this verse by the translators of the King James Version of the Bible is the same Greek word used for “in” or “into” in other places throughout the New Testament. John was not referring to any particular day of the week, but was speaking of “a time” mentioned in many other prophecies throughout the Bible—“the day of the Lord.”

This is a major key to comprehending the entire book of Revelation! To think John had this vision on Saturday, Sunday, or any particular day of the week destroys the possibility of grasping the meaning of this book. The statement, “Show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass” was made from a time window of “the Day of the Lord” not from John’s date of recording the message.

This book was given by God the Father to Jesus Christ. It was written down by John to provide God’s Church a look into the events leading up to, and going through, “the day of the Lord” which will result in establishing God’s Government on the earth.

This is where it helps to understand Bible history and the memorial of the blowing of trumpets. We see that, as John was carried forward in vision into the Day of the Lord, he was actually brought into the time of the Seven Trumpet plagues from God!

Messages from Jesus to the Churches

The Second and Third Chapters of the book of Revelation contain separate messages to each of the Seven Churches. In John’s day, these seven churches were located along a mail route in Asia Minor—the area of present-day Turkey. The directives given by Christ were significant to the Churches and pointed out qualities of strong character and flaws in their attitudes and actions.

These prophecies not only explained the Churches of Asia Minor, but also portrayed

a sequence of events and the shortcomings of the seven, successive eras of the Church from the day of Pentecost A.D. 31 up to the Second Coming of Christ.

These messages come directly from Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, and explain the difficulties the Church would have down through the ages in accomplishing the task of carrying out the great commission. Each one of these seven instructions is important in our own lives and that of our local churches. Jesus said, “God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and He blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near” (Rev. 1:3 NLT).

These two chapters are like an inset to the main story flow of Revelation. These messages, however, are important for the Church today. Self-examination and repentance are paramount in the lives of Christians. These instructions to the Churches should be read often as we ask God to create His character within us. “For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world” (1 Cor. 11:31-32). “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32).

The theme of Revelation includes all the major events surrounding “the day of the Lord.”

Some may ask, “Isn’t the Day of the Lord and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ the same?” They would be partly right, except, there is much more to understand. Let the Holy Spirit explain (John 16:13).

The Story Begins

The main story flow of the book of Revelation starts with the **Fourth Chapter**. It sets the stage for the account which follows. John is shown a door that is open in heaven. A scene comes into view of the Throne of God where events begin to unfold.

As we are allowed to observe the Throne of God, John describes in detail what he saw. The expanse before the throne was as “a sea of glass like unto crystal.” Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne; these were the seven spirits of God. There were four beasts with eyes before and behind.

It is interesting that around the throne there were also twenty-four elders. Now these elders: (1) wore white raiment (white linen is pictured as the righteousness of the saints—Rev. 3:5; 3:18; 4:4); (2) had on their heads crowns of gold (they had been crowned); (3) worshiped God and cast their crowns before the throne (Rev. 4:10); (4) worshiped the Lamb by falling down before the Lamb with harps and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints (Rev. 5:8); and (5) “...they sung a new song saying, ‘Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed **us [the twenty-four elders]** to God by Thy blood [Jesus Christ’s blood] out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made **us [the twenty-four elders]** unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth” (Rev. 5:9-10).

These twenty-four elders were humans during their physical lifetime. Now they are shown, in vision, in their spirit bodies around the throne of God and are to reign with Christ on the earth. They were redeemed by the blood of Jesus and are, at the point of this prophecy, in “the day of the Lord.” They had already been crowned and were ready to take their places as kings and priests in the new government of God on the earth.

Now that is a true vision and revelation!

This is a look at events around the throne. These happenings are outside our time and space. John was viewing into a different dimension. He was observing events before they were to unfold here on the earth.

Who Can Help Us Understand?

Chapter Five reveals who can open this book to our understanding. Listen to Jesus because He is the only one worthy to open what God has sealed and to reveal the events soon to come.

The book of Revelation came from the Father all sealed up with seven seals. The Lamb of God—Jesus Christ begins to strip away the seals of this book in Chapter Six. The first four of these seals are some of the most misunderstood parts of scripture.

It is amazing to realize we don’t have to interpret the Bible. There is no need to try to decipher this book in any way. Jesus is the one able to explain its contents. He will give us the Truth. If we want to understand what is in these seals, we must look into the words of Jesus. He has already given us the answers!

Six of the seven seals are opened in this **Sixth Chapter**. Little space is given to them. However, the remaining sixteen chapters are devoted primarily to the seventh seal alone. The foundational focus of this prophecy is on the last seal, with a few inset thoughts referring to other points in time. Remember the timing of this prophecy in Revelation 1:10? John was taken, in vision, into the events of “The Lord’s Day.”

These seals are recorded with great symbolism. They are all purposely clouded in mystery so only the true worshipers of God will understand. People have, for generations, placed their own interpretations on these symbols and seals. They ought to have realized by now that **only Jesus was found worthy to give meaning to the mysteries of Revelation!**

Jesus is the revelator!

No one can understand Revelation until Jesus breaks the seals for him. The mind is closed to this book until Jesus opens one’s eyes to see. “Then Jesus prayed this prayer: ‘O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank You for hiding the truth from those who think themselves so wise and clever, and for revealing it to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased You to do it this way!’” (Matt. 11:25-26 NLT).

It is an important key to understand that John recorded opening these seals, but Jesus didn't reveal their meaning right then. So where has Jesus already given us the meaning of these seals?

There are at least three reasons so few have been able to comprehend this book. **First**, many do not have the Spirit of God, therefore, they can't see what is there. The **second** point, most haven't been looking to the revelator (Jesus Christ) for the understanding of this book. The **third** reason, it wasn't the time to have the meaning opened, as was the case with Daniel (Dan. 12:4, 9).

The time setting for the opening to our understanding is "the time of the end" and "the Day of the Lord." Unless we are viewing this prophecy from "the Day of the Lord," we will not be able to see. Our vision will be out of focus. Jesus said, "For verily I say unto you, that many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*" (Matt. 13:17).

Jesus Worthy to Open the Seals

Jesus Christ is the greatest prophet that has ever lived. Not only did He inspire the prophets of old through the Holy Spirit, but He also made many prophecies recorded in the New Testament. The parables are examples of Christ's hidden instructions and are prophecies for the Church.

Christ's famous Olivet Prophecy documented in Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21 unlocks the mysterious symbolism of the Seals in Chapter Six.

We begin with the first four Seals, which are explained in Matthew 24. As Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives, His disciples came to Him privately and asked, "...**Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal Your return and the end of the world?**" (Matt. 24:3 NLT). Then Jesus begins His astounding prophecy. He starts by mentioning four events and sums them up by saying, "**All these are the beginning of sorrows.**"

These first four Seals are four conditions in world events. The Seals are often called by many as "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse." The word apocalypse is not an original English word but rather a Greek one. This Greek word simply means "reveal" or "revelation." Today the meaning of the word apocalypse has changed. People now consider it to mean "the end of the world."

The first four Seals are the beginning of sorrows (Matt. 24:8). These events are the result of mankind's rejection of the Laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Because man has dismissed God, these calamities have come upon him. Once these trials begin to be evident on the earth, they remain as an active part and condition of human existence until Jesus Christ comes again.

Let's look into how Jesus, the revelator, explains the Seals in the book of Revelation.

THE FIRST SEAL: "...A WHITE HORSE: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer" (Rev. 6:2). Many have mistakenly referred to this white horse as Christ's Second Coming, but what does Jesus say?

Christ's answer to this First Seal: "...Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matt. 24:4-5).

This **First Seal reveals a counterfeit or corrupt gospel**—a replacement of the message brought by Jesus Christ. Shortly after Christ's return to heaven, Satan began a fake gospel. During the time the Apostle Paul was preaching, this spiritual apostasy had already begun (II Thess. 2:7 NLT).

One of the signs of Christ's Second Coming is recorded in Matthew 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Did you catch the importance of that statement from Jesus? Did you notice **THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD was to be preached around the world and then the end would come?**

Today there is a message about Jesus being preached, saying Jesus is the Christ and many are being deceived! There are very few preaching about **THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**—the gospel of the government of God coming to this earth! Jesus brought that good news, yet only an extremely small number are teaching that message today!

This is why Jesus, on opening the First Seal said, "...Take heed that no man deceive you. [Have you been deluded; fooled so completely that you have accepted a part of the gospel as being the whole gospel Jesus brought?] For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matt. 24:4-5). He reveals in these verses that **man would be busy preaching about Him as a person—preaching Christ, instead of preaching THE KINGDOM OF GOD—THE MESSAGE JESUS BROUGHT!**

What is the GOSPEL? IT IS THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

Are you part of a group preaching the TRUE GOSPEL? Are you announcing the Kingdom of God as Christ did? Or, are you one of a multitude that is preaching a counterfeit gospel; another gospel other than the one Jesus delivered?

If you are looking for a group with whom to worship, then look for those diligently proclaiming the Kingdom of God and announcing the Second Coming of Christ!

Satan has spread teachings about Jesus Christ and has made substitutions for the true

Gospel brought by Jesus. Since Christ left this earth, there have been many (not just a few—numerous) busily preaching about Jesus Christ, yet **they are not preaching what Jesus taught!**

In some cases, this upsurge or rise of misguided teachings has demonstrated the wrong use of “Christian authority” to subdue people. There is a religious group that is recognized as a government and their spiritual leader is crowned. It uses church governmental power and coercion to dictate and to manipulate believers as would a dictator that forces, constrains, and imprisons his subjects.

Satan doesn't want the good news of the demise of his government being preached! Jesus Christ has already won the battle (Matt. 4:1-11) and is now in the position to take over the reigns of government on this earth!

THE SECOND SEAL: “And when He had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, ‘Come and see.’ And there went out another HORSE *THAT WAS RED*: and *power* was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword” (Rev. 6:3-4).

Christ's answer to the Second Seal: “And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...” (Matt. 24:6-7).

When human beings reject the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ, war and strife are the result. Down through the ages men have had nothing but wars and more wars. “The way of peace they know not; and *there is* no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace” (Isa. 59:8). “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12).

THE THIRD SEAL: “And when He had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, ‘Come and see.’ And I beheld, and lo A BLACK HORSE; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, ‘A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and *see* thou hurt not the oil and the wine” (Rev. 6:5-6).

Christ's answer to the Third Seal: “Famines” (Matt. 24:7). Famine follows war and destruction.

THE FOURTH SEAL: “And when He had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold A PALE HORSE: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell [‘Hades’ or the place (state) of departed souls: the grave] followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth” (Rev. 6:7-8).

Christ's answer to the Fourth Seal: "Pestilences" (Matt. 24:7). The results of the lack of food and drinkable water are sickness, disease, and death.

And, on top of all these problems, there will be earthquakes occurring in different places around the world.

Jesus said, "...**all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.**" And, "**All these are the beginning of sorrows**" (Matt. 24:6, 8). These first, four events were to be on-going from the time Christ returned to heaven until He comes again to the earth.

Persecution and Suffering For the People of God

THE FIFTH SEAL: "And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: and they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?' And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled" (Rev. 6:9-11).

Christ's explanation of the Fifth Seal: "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:9-14).

Throughout history God's people have been a small, scattered flock persecuted and afflicted, as we see in Hebrews 11:36-40, "And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

Further trials and persecution are ahead for the worshipers of God. The final fulfillment of this seal will take place during the fifth and sixth trumpet plagues.

Sometimes believers are blessed as was Daniel in the lion's den, or as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in the fiery furnace. However, God has not always promised safety and protection for His people. "Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all" (Psa. 34:19).

Down through the ages, the Church, God's little flock, has had much difficulty bringing the good news of the kingdom of God to a sick and dying world. We also must suffer and thereby be refined in our character. "Beloved, **think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:** but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified" (I Pet. 4:12-14).

A Time of Judgment

Peter continues his statement and makes a prophecy about the future of the Church, "**For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God:** and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls *to Him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator" (I Pet. 4:17-19).

The Apostle Paul went about his mission of, "Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and [saying] that **we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God**" (Acts 14:22). However, Jesus said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

Christ's answer to the Fifth Seal in Matthew 24:9-14 shows preaching the Gospel around the world was not going to be an easy task.

We often find that we suffer from those we know and love the most. Jesus said, "Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword. I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Your enemies will be right in your own household!" (Matt. 10:34-36 NLT).

This is true with family and relatives, but it also happens with believers in the Body of Christ—the household of faith; it is both physical and spiritual. Some Christians have been turned over to the powers of Satan by those calling themselves Christian within their own congregation.

This seal, like the four before it, is the result of wicked beings led by Satan. These types of persecutions will continue and get worse up to, and through, the time of The Great Tribulation.

The Church Has Fallen Asleep

Jesus Christ Himself explains this condition of the Church in the parable of Matthew

25:1-13. The Church is the kingdom of God in waiting. This is a part of the Olivet Prophecy totally ignored by many. It is given by Jesus Christ to show the state of the Church today.

Events leading up to the kingdom of God are likened unto an old-fashioned, Jewish wedding where the bridegroom came at midnight to take his bride to be his wife. This time of waiting throughout the night wore out the bridesmaids (the worshipers of God). These virgins (believers in God) were waiting for the groom (Jesus Christ) but they all got tired of the vigil and fell asleep.

Christians have not been very responsive to the work of the Holy Spirit. In most every case, when new knowledge is taken to the church, it is met with nearly universal and categorical renouncing. The messenger or bearer of such news is emphatically told to, "Get back in your box," or "Get back in the pew; your job is to pay and pray." God's messengers are not well received.

Prophets are not routinely recognized in churches today, yet they hold an official office in the New Testament Church of God. "And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:11-16).

The Apostle Paul went on to say, "Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thess. 5:19-21).

It is sad the Church has become tired of additional, spiritual instruction from our Lord. The Holy Spirit is quenched when we refuse to receive information given to us from Jesus through His messengers! It is our responsibility to prove, through prayer and study, if a message truly is from God!

Many today are not looking for Truth. Even when God brings revelation to them, many have been reluctant to repent and to change their doctrines, traditions, and rituals. "This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from Me. But in vain they do worship Me, **teaching for doctrines the commandments of men**" (Matt. 15:8-9). Because of this attitude Jesus said, "...Every plant not planted by My heavenly Father will be uprooted, so **ignore them**. They are blind guides leading the blind, and if one blind person guides another, they will both fall into a ditch" (Matt. 15:13-14 NLT).

Jesus has much to say to those refusing to receive instruction from Him through the Holy Spirit. Christ will spit the Church out of His mouth because it is so proud, conceited, self-important, self-reliant, and arrogant. **Jesus can hardly teach the Church anymore** because it has wrapped itself in self-imposed importance and intellectual vanity!

Listen to what Jesus says, "...These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth. Because **thou sayest, 'I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing'; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:** I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire [The Great Tribulation], that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent" (Rev. 3:14-19).

This is speaking to the Church NOW!

Now is the time when so many demonstrate, by their actions, that they have all the knowledge from Jesus Christ they want. They don't desire any more instruction from Him. Many have turned their backs on the words of Jesus after He has returned to heaven. Therefore, they will not open their minds, ears, or eyes to the inspiration from Jesus.

Many believers think they have enough knowledge. "No thank you God. We are doing well. We have our church government all set up, everything is in order, this is a fine running business, we are making a great wad of money, and we don't need Your inspiration anymore. We are doing great! We don't lack anything"!

The Apostle Paul prophesied about this, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come, except **there come a falling away first [a deserting of the truth once delivered to the apostles]***, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God [among God's people], showing Himself that He is God" (II Thess. 2:3-4). Jude also said, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness [state of being morally unrestrained; recklessness or arrogance in ignoring justice, decency, and morality], and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 1:3-4).

Remember the book of Revelation and its messages were given, "**To show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass.**" This book was written primarily for

the servants of God that would be alive during “the Day of the Lord.” “Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). God will wait until He has sent a warning message to the Church!

THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS A WARNING MESSAGE OF THE EVENTS SOON TO COME. IT IS SENT TO THE CHURCH FROM GOD THE FATHER THROUGH JESUS!

Now is the time for the Church to awake from its Spiritual Slumber and to repent of its halfhearted (Spiritless) approach to a relationship with God!

The Church today is at the point of being spiritually bankrupt (Laodicean)! This means the Church has little of the Holy Spirit left in it.

Therefore, because the Church will not listen and take heed to Jesus, **He is going to chastise the Church and cause it to suffer persecution and tribulation to wake it up!** This has happened down through history but now is the time, during the second woe, that trials and distress, greater than ever before, will come upon the whole world to try them that dwell on the earth (Rev. 3:10).

Today the world is embroiled in a war of ideologies. There is an enormous struggle raging in the spirit world. Satan and his forces are moving people to push against the people of God. The whole world is entangled in this battle. This is a religious conflict—A SPIRITUAL WARFARE for control of the Earth. This ongoing battle is right now rampant and will continue to get worse. God will use Satan’s evil hoards to accomplish His plan of refining and purifying His own people.

Jesus said, **“I have told you these things so that you won’t abandon your faith. For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God.** [This is the attitude of many who carry out their radical, Islamic jihads of terror.] This is because they have never known the Father or Me. **Yes, I’m telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember My warning...**” (John 16:1-4 NLT).

In Revelation 11:2 we also see, “...and the holy city [God’s people] shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months.” These prophecies reveal three and one-half years of suffering for the saints in The Great Tribulation.

In Daniel 9:27 God shows that Jesus Christ’s ministry will last one week (a day for a year in prophecy fulfilled). However, He was cut off in the middle of His ministry and will finish it at His Second Coming. There will be great suffering on earth for seven years. The days of distress will be cut short for the elect who worship God. The saints will be changed into Spirit at the last or seventh trumpet (see next paragraph). Then Jesus, at His coming, will pour out God’s wrath upon all the wicked. This is the time when Jesus will pour out the seven last plagues on the earth. (Dan. 9:27 shows this to be the rest of Jesus Christ’s ministry.)

“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (I Thess. 4:15-17). Our time of suffering will be cut short.

Great Rebellion Against God and the Truth

The Apostle Paul began, in his day, to explain some of the preliminary events leading up to “The Day of the Lord” and the Second Coming of Christ, “Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away [a defection, or apostasy] comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple [the Church] of God, showing himself that he is God” (II Thess. 2:1-4 NKJV).

You see, even in the days of the Apostle Paul, there were some who thought the Day of the Lord had already begun. However, there was one concern that Paul wanted to emphasize: **The Day of the Lord would not start until there was a great rebellion against the original Church teachings.**

By the second and third centuries A.D., this great rebellion against God and the Truth had already begun. By the fourth and fifth centuries, this monstrous mutiny from the Truth was well established. The original foundation of the Church had been supplanted by teachings and doctrines inspired by Satan and instituted by men throughout much of Christianity. The true Church of God, because of continued persecution, had to flee into the many different wilderness areas of Europe, Great Britain, North America, and many other areas of the world to have freedom to worship God. This is described in Revelation 12:6, “And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.” As will be explained later, time is often calculated as “a day for a year” in prophecy fulfilled. So, the persecuted little flock spent 1,260 years fleeing from the mammoth, church-run, governmental complex to escape its tyranny. This mega church had many daughters, which are also described as having sprouted from this original, rebellious group that has pushed aside the Truth to believe lies and half-truths (read Revelation 17:1-6 below).

Deceived men have been happily, “...teaching for doctrine the commandments of men” (Matt. 15:9).

The true Church of God has always been a little, persecuted flock that has had to hide continually from the mega church to avoid harassment, torture, and death. The Truth delivered by Jesus and the original Apostles has been rejected and anyone teaching the

doctrines of Christ and the customs and traditions of the beginning New Testament Church was often hunted down and silenced.

The prophecy about these events is recorded in Revelation 17:1-6, “And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, ‘Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters [peoples]: with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.’ So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: and upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.” (More detail can be discovered by reading *Fox’s Book of Martyrs* edited by Wm. Byron Forbush.)

Jesus said, “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32).

Just as Paul prophesied, there was already brewing great rebellion against God and the teachings of Jesus Christ and the original Apostles. Some were beginning to turn from the fact the Church was to be built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20).

The seeds of this great rebellion were being planted in the days of the Apostles. And even Jude wanted to teach and instruct the Church about our common salvation but was forced to intercede for the Truth and, “...earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 1:3).

The ideas of mixing the pagan festivals of Mardi gras, Lent, Ash Wednesday, Maude Thursday, Good Friday, Easter (the worship of fertility), Saturnalia (the worship of the sun), and Christmas with Christianity were seeds planted by Satan (author of the half-truth—truth mixed with error). All this changed Christian worship. These substitutions began, in earnest, by around A.D. 100 in the Western reaches of the church. It was these false teachings that have formed the backbone of the Roman Catholic Church! Such is the foundation of much of Christianity today.

God has given us a very stern warning about following the ways of the heathen. “Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? Even so will I do likewise.’ Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which He hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their

gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it” (Deut. 12:30-32).

The practice of mixing pagan idolatry with Christian worship was also becoming a common occurrence. Once again, man’s reasoning prevailed over the commandments of God. God said, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments” (Ex. 20:4-6).

People were comfortable with their idols so it was only natural for them to want to have idols in their Christian worship. After all, what was wrong with a few likenesses of saints and such? In their own reasoning, they considered nothing wrong with these practices but there was one, big problem—GOD SAID DON’T DO IT!

However, humans, in their desire to attract pagans to Christianity, devised a way to fix the problem. In the Roman Catholic Catechism, men decided to rewrite the commandments of God! They took out the commandment about idol worship, which offended them and made them very uncomfortable, and split the last commandment about coveting into two different commandments; one about coveting their neighbor’s wife and another about wanting their neighbor’s belongings. That fixed the problem! All this was done against God’s will or approval!

This is a prime example of teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.

Meanwhile, this false church that emerged in the second and third centuries began to supplant the Passover with Easter without God’s consent or sanction! The church departed far from the truth once delivered to the saints. There was **a great rebellion against the teachings and instructions of Jesus and the Apostles!**

This prophecy by the Apostle Paul came true. This falling away did take place before “The Day of the Lord” began!

Earthquake and Heavenly Signs

THE SIXTH SEAL: “And I beheld when He had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from

the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” (Rev. 6:12-17).

Christ’s answer to the Sixth Seal: “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken” (Matt. 24:29).

Just because Jesus has opened this seal, so we might peer into what events are to occur, doesn’t mean that its fulfillment has already taken place. Its implementation will come about as we witness the end of the sixth trumpet and the beginning of the seventh.

There have been, throughout history, signs in the heavens and events, such as volcanoes, meteors, and so forth that have caused awe, fear, and wonder. While these occurrences have happened as precursors to the main events to come, they have not been the endtime fulfillment of these prophecies.

These **heavenly signs** will disrupt or stop the events of The Great Tribulation and will cause the attention of people to look skyward. God will show who is in command. When these signs begin to occur, then men will know their Lord and their God Jesus Christ is coming soon!

The heavenly signs show that God is taking charge of the earth. He is, at this point, ready to save the world from its own destruction. That’s why Jesus said, “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matt. 24:22).

Understanding what is to happen immediately after The Great Tribulation is given to the Church. These **heavenly signs** will be a source of great fear to the world, but to the faithful worshipers of God, they will point to the end of their suffering and the coming of their LORD!

Seventh Chapter of Revelation Sealing Some of God’s People

In the **Seventh Chapter**, we see two main events cited. First, we observe a sealing of 144,000 people from the twelve tribes of Israel; there were twelve thousand from each tribe listed. (The tribe of Dan was not mentioned because of its major sin of idolatry.) The second happening pictured a great multitude.

This chapter is an inset chapter to the main story flow.

God gave a command to, “...Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have **sealed the servants of our God** in their foreheads” (Rev. 7:3). Did you notice those who are to be sealed are called servants? Not all professing Christians are servants. A servant is one who is committed to doing the work of the Father.

God has not counted all Christians as His servants. Servants obey God and accomplish the work He has for them to do. They have the same attitude and desire as Jesus. They are committed to obeying every request of their Father, "...These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes..." (Rev. 14:1-5 NKJV).

Actually, the 144,000 chosen servants are approximately only one in every 7,000 that call themselves Christians today.

The sealing of the 144,000 will happen before Satan's wrath (The Great Tribulation). This sealing is evidence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and shows the successful completion of the work to which they were called. Their judgment is then secure; they now qualify to be part of the Bride of Christ.

Then out of The Great Tribulation will come, "...**a great multitude**, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands" (Rev. 7:9). "...These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" (Rev. 7:14-17).

This great multitude will be the remaining Christians, who will have to prove their allegiance to Jesus through suffering (Rev. 3:14-20). These believers will suffer at the hand of Satan during The Great Tribulation while the 144,000 sealed worshipers of God will be given safety, protection, and nourishment during the time of Satan's wrath (Rev. 12:14-17).

Judgment on the House of God

There has been an ongoing testing of the people of God down through the ages (I Pet. 4:17). In every generation God has been determining the true believers and worshipers of Him. The Church suffered for 1,260 years under Satan's oppression. Many thousands of believers had to flee for their lives into the mountains and remote areas to avoid persecution and death by a government-sponsored, forced religion that talked about Jesus Christ but was not teaching what He taught. (This is covered in greater detail in the inset Chapter Twelve of the book of Revelation.)

Satan is the cause of the oppression against the Church shown in the Fifth Seal which finally erupts into The Great Tribulation, as revealed in the sixth trumpet plague. The sealing of the 144,000 occurs before The Great Tribulation begins.

The Little Book given to the Church (Rev. 10:8-10) contains God's warning about His imminent judgment. This *Little Book* is sweet in the mouth because it announces the

Second Coming of Jesus Christ, but it is a bitter pill to swallow as we learn of the suffering God's people must endure during The Great Tribulation. This is the reason we must prophesy again before many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings (Rev. 10:11).

In John's vision, Jesus gave the little book to John (the Church during "The Day of the Lord") just before the seventh trumpet was to sound. The Apostle John was told a time of testing was coming upon the Church, "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, 'Rise, and **measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein**. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and **the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months**'" (Rev. 11:1-2).

"Measuring" in other areas of scripture has indicated a time of judgment or testing. To measure is to judge the size, strength, and other distinctive traits of character (Isa. 65:7; Jer. 30:11; 46:28; Ezek. 4; Matt. 7:1-2).

This measuring, or sizing up, is being done among the worshipers of God and not in the world! While the whole world is going through this time of great trouble, God is not testing or measuring them (the outer court—the unbelievers) right now. This serious time of trial and testing is for the people of God.

Notice in Revelation 11:2, "...and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months." This is not speaking of Jerusalem. Jerusalem today is called "Sodom and Egypt" by our Lord (v. 8). This "holy city" mentioned here means the precious people of God (Rev. 21:2; 22:19).

The people of God will be trodden under foot (measured; character will be determined) for forty-two months! James said, "Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience" (Jas. 1:3).

This prophesied event was told to Daniel, "And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and **shall wear out the saints of the most High**, and think to change times and laws: and **they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time [this is the same three and one-half years of The Great Tribulation]**. But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy *it* unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom..." (Dan. 7:25-27).

Here God is having the "Temple of God" and "the Altar" measured or tested to determine their strengths of character and to find the ones that are the true worshipers of Him.

Where is the "Temple of God" today? It is found in I Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV), "Do you not know that **you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you**?" Christians who have the Spirit of God residing in them are part of the temple of

God.

“The altar” is also to be measured. What group of people that are believers in God look longingly for a physical temple and “altar” to enhance their worship? Since A.D. 70, the **Jewish People** have yearned for an “altar.” Before A.D. 70, the Jewish People (Israel) needed an altar as a part of their worship.

These two groups worship the Almighty God of the Bible and comprise the Judeo-Christian beliefs around the world. They will be evaluated by the same “measuring rod” or standard of measurement.

In the Old Covenant, what was the standard by which a person was measured to determine his relationship to God? That standard of measurement was the Law.

Today, in the New Covenant, what is the standard by which all believers of God are measured? God gave us a **new and better standard—His Son Jesus Christ!** We, the believers in God, are to measure ourselves by our relationship to Jesus Christ. **Our standing with the Father is determined by our close connection with His Son Jesus!**

Why is the measuring being done? **To “...measure the temple of God [the Church], and the altar [the Jewish believers], and them that worship therein”** (Rev. 11:1). What does this mean? **God will determine throughout the Judeo-Christian community the true worshipers of Him by trials and testing.** Because believers in God have become so lethargic, the best way to establish if Christians are for real and genuine is to allow Satan to try them. Many millions of people calling themselves believers in God today will have to be proven and examined to discover their true allegiance. Many faithful worshipers of God will be part of the, “...**great multitude**, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands” (Rev. 7:9). “...These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (v. 14).

Serious times are ahead for the believers in God! Oh, that the Church would come alive spiritually! It will, but it is going to take The Great Tribulation to bring the Church back to its first love and to a close relationship with God!

During the close of this age, false prophets and those claiming to represent God will become more and more empowered. “Then if any man shall say unto you, ‘Lo, here *is* Christ,’ or ‘there’; believe *it* not. For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, **if *it were possible*, they shall deceive the very elect**” (Matt. 24:23-24). What makes it impossible for the very elect to be misled? It is because of their closeness to “the real thing”—God the Father and Jesus Christ!

To understand more about the state of affairs the Church faces today, please visit our website www.thelittlebook.com and download free [The Little Book](#). It is a message from

Jesus to the churches.

The Seventh Seal—Seven Trumpets The Day of the Lord

The Eighth Chapter begins the Seventh Seal. The Seventh Seal is the heart and core of the book of Revelation. John was brought, in vision, into “the Lord’s Day” to witness these events and to record them for our enlightenment (Rev. 1:10).

THE REMOVAL OF **THE SEVENTH SEAL** opens to our understanding THE SEVEN TRUMPETS. These **Seven Trumpets are** symbols that represent **seven stages in world events**. The seven trumpets are seven conditions exposed by removing the Seventh Seal. Once opened, seven angels were to blow their trumpets (plagues) upon the earth.

The Seven Seals obscured the meaning of the book of Revelation. The removal of The Seventh Seal reveals “The Day of the Lord” which is composed of the Seven Trumpets. The Last Trumpet announces the Second Coming of Christ. This seventh trumpet begins the “great day of God’s wrath”—the seven last plagues.

Feast of Trumpets The Day of the Lord How Long Is “The Day of the Lord”?

Here is a great KEY to understanding endtime prophecies: King David prophesied about the Day of the Lord, “For a thousand years in Thy sight *are but* as yesterday when it is past, and *as* a watch in the night” (Psa. 90:4). David was inspired to explain this “one-thousand-year day,” from Christ’s perspective, as “yesterday when it is past.”

The Apostle Peter has prophesied about this day, “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that **one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day**” (II Pet. 3:8). One of the Lord’s days is as a thousand years. During one day with Jesus, a thousand years would pass here on earth. A thousand years here on earth is but a day to Christ.

Peter continued, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But THE DAY OF THE LORD will come as a thief in the night...” (II Pet. 3:9-10). Peter didn’t say the Day of the Lord “might come as a thief in the night”; he said, “**It will come as a thief in the night!**” **This was a prophecy!** The Apostle Paul also stated the same fact that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night (I Thess. 5:2). Did you notice that Peter called this one-thousand-year day—“The Day of the Lord”? In prophecy, “the Day of the Lord” is 1,000 years in length!

How can both Paul and Peter say that, “The day of the Lord will come as a thief in

the night” when Jesus Himself said don’t believe someone if they say, “... ‘Behold, He is in the desert’; go not forth: ‘behold, *He is* in the secret chambers’; believe *it* not. **For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be**” (Matt. 24:26-27)?

This clearly shows “the Day of the Lord” is different from “the Second Coming of Jesus Christ”! Everyone alive on earth will know when Christ comes! There will be no “thief in the night” about it!

The answer is The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is only a part of “The Day of the Lord”! Let’s get further clarification.

THE DAY OF THE LORD IS A THOUSAND-YEAR PERIOD!

These prophecies were given to show us the length of “The Day of the Lord”! The Day of the Lord is not just the Second Coming of Christ! It is the entire thousand-year period which includes six of the Trumpet Plagues mentioned in Revelation 8, 9, and 11. These precede Christ’s coming. The Seven Trumpet (Christ’s Coming) is followed by the Seven Last Plagues of Revelation 15:1 and 21:9. These occur after our Lord’s return, as explained in the Book of Revelation. The Seven Trumpet Plagues constitute the Day of the Lord and cover 1,000 years!

The Day of the Lord has come upon us as “a thief in the night,” or as a “watch in the night” and we haven’t even noticed it! **It started way back somewhere around A.D. 1016 to A.D. 1050. The whole world has been sleeping! The major portion of this one-thousand-year period has already past!**

The book of Revelation explains this one-thousand-year period as seven trumpet blasts, described as **plagues** (Rev. 9:20). These trumpet plagues were observed by John in vision. Only the seventh trumpet will be heard here on earth. The delivery of the first four plagues has continued to reappear from the time of their release forward. The remaining three trumpets or “Woes” are time-sensitive, in that, they fit in only one place in God’s plan for mankind.

Seven Trumpet Plagues

These seven trumpet plagues serve as a memorial of blowing trumpets or blowing taps for a dying system of human government manipulated by Satan (Lev. 23:24, “...**a memorial** of blowing of trumpets...”). The days of Satan’s control of civilization are numbered. Satan is on his way down and out. He’s going down for the count. **These Trumpets signify the death of Satan’s government, and they are announcing the Kingdom of God and the Second Coming of Christ!**

The thousand-year day of the Lord is proclaiming the end of Satan’s world and the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Mankind and most of the Church have been oblivious to the consequences of these trumpet blasts from God. The scene John witnessed, in vision, appeared in heaven; the actual trumpet blasts were not audible on earth. For the most part, the results of these plagues have been ignored. **Every time a serious event happens, people don't recognize it as "the hand of God" in the affairs of men.** They call it a "natural disaster" when there is nothing common or ordinary about it. Instead of realizing it as "a wake up call" from God, they simply go back to sleep. This is why nearly a thousand years have gone by unnoticed!

We are now near the end of the sixth trumpet plague or "the second woe" with the storm clouds of World War III and The Great Tribulation looming on the horizon. We, as humans, have become so accustomed to these "unnatural events" that we consider them "natural," even "normal."

How can nearly a thousand years slip by and people not even notice? It is because the Church has been sleeping (Matt. 25:5)! **The Church has not been actively warning the World of God's intervention in the affairs of men. It hasn't been telling mankind about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The Church has been preaching about a baby Jesus in a manger rather than announcing His Second Coming as King of kings and Lord of lords! Because the Church has been sleeping, the world has had no idea about these events that occur as being "the hand of God"! If the Church would have remembered the Holy Convocations, it would have understood more about the Feast of Trumpets and its meaning.**

All during this one-thousand-year period, God has not been slack concerning the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. He has been long-suffering and patient, wanting everyone to come to repentance.

"The Day of the Lord" also has aspects of duality. It can refer to the entire Seventh Seal, which is a thousand years and is the duration of the Seven Trumpets. Or, in some of the Old Testament prophecies, it is only referring to the Seventh Trumpet—The Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the Seven Last Plagues.

These seven trumpet plagues are designed to show God's intervention in world affairs and to progressively punish the forces of evil on this earth. God has been chastising the world and those who have brought suffering on the Church. "The Day of the Lord" will culminate in God's wrath on the wicked—the seven last plagues (Rev. 6:16-17; 11:15-19).

Blowing a trumpet signifies WAR. This is SPIRITUAL WARFARE with human beings caught in the middle of this conflict. **Satan is the present, spiritual force behind the affairs of this evil world.** He is, "...the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2). If you think this is God's society and His government in this world today, then please look at Matthew 4:8-10, "Again, the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto Him, 'All these things

will I give Thee [they were Satan's to give], if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.' Then saith Jesus unto him, 'Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.'"

You see, God has been sending these trumpet plagues to the earth to help humans realize their need for Him. Christ will soon take up the reigns of government on the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. It is marvelous to see that Satan, though in charge of this present, evil world, will be deposed. He is only a pawn in God's hand to accomplish the Father's everlasting purposes.

Jesus now begins to reveal, through the Holy Spirit, details about these trumpet plagues.

First, Four Trumpet Plagues

The first four of these trumpet plagues are described as winds that blow on the earth, trees, rivers, and seas (Rev. 7:1; 8:1-13). **The last three trumpet blasts are called "Woes" which come upon the human population of the earth** (Rev. 8:13).

We have witnessed some of the effects of these first, four trumpets (plagues) by seeing them take their toll in several ways. Forest fires have burned the trees and grass to the point the cattle are bellowing for food because they have nothing to eat. The rivers are being destroyed. The seas, at times, explode with "red tide" because of rising ocean temperatures from volcanic eruptions under the sea. The seas are having difficulty supporting life in some areas. Visual signs in the heavens are evidence of excessive solar radiation. Life's framework is becoming more and more stressed.

Many of these plagues have already occurred, and are continuing to happen regularly throughout the world.

Revelation 8:2 shows, "...I saw [in vision] the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets." These trumpet blasts were actually Divine Plagues announced by blowing these trumpets in heaven. These plagues have been taking place over a thousand-year span of time here on earth to help people realize God wants them to repent of their sins and return to Him! However, **even after all these plagues, "...the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts"** (Rev. 9:20-21 NKJV).

First Trumpet Extreme, Violent Weather

"The **first angel sounded [First Trumpet]**, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and **the third part of trees** was burnt up,

and all green grass was burnt up” (Rev. 8:7).

Over the past nearly 1,000 years, God has increasingly sent abnormal weather, extreme and violent conditions, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes to get man’s attention. With this extreme weather have come lightning strikes and hailstorms causing forest fires and wild, prairie fires to sweep over the earth. In these events, wild animals, livestock, and humans have been killed so, “fire and hail were mingled with blood.” Still, few have recognized that **the hand of God** has been trying to awaken mankind spiritually.

God wants the whole world to realize its need for Him!

“O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field. The beasts of the field cry also unto Thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness” (Joel 1:19-20).

Few have turned their hearts back to God after these disasters have struck. Why is mankind so stubborn?

Second Trumpet Violence in the Sea

“And the **second angel sounded [Second Trumpet]**, and **as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; and the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed” (Rev. 8:8-9).**

John describes one-third of the sea becoming blood. The Greek word for blood is *aima*. It can also mean “of those things that resemble blood.”

When it is God speaking, a great mountain can be thrown into the sea from above or below! **In this example, God has caused great mountains burning with fire to be cast into the sea from below!** Giant volcanoes have erupted under the sea. Massive lava flows have increased the water temperatures which result in “the red tide” and other forms of toxic algae that has killed vast quantities of life in the sea over the last nearly 1,000 years.

I have checked the shipping logs for merchant ships on the internet and discovered that one-third of the ships have been lost at sea. Yet men haven’t paid much attention to these **acts of God** as His attempts to get their attention.

Third Trumpet Bitter Minds

“And the **third angel sounded [Third Trumpet]**, and there fell a great star from

heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; and the name of the star is called Wormwood: and **the third part of the waters became wormwood**; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter” (Rev. 8:10-11).

There are several examples of “a star” or “a great star” falling from heaven. Jesus said, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven...” (Luke 10:18 NKJV). Angels are often referred to as stars.

In Revelation 12:3-4 John recorded the words of Jesus, “And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, **a great, fiery red dragon** having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. **His tail drew a third of the stars [angels] of heaven and threw them to the earth...**”

So we learn that it was Satan, who fell from heaven as a great star. He appeared as “lightning” or as “a great burning lamp” and drew **one-third of the angels**, now demons, with him. This wicked Satan (the Devil) and one-third of the angels have affected one-third of mankind.

In Bible prophecy, nations and peoples are often referred to as “waters.” The angel said to John in Revelation 17:15, “...**The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.**” These “waters” in **this plague dwelled on the land surfaces of the earth.** The attitude Satan brought to mankind was one full of bitterness and hatred toward God and human beings. This bitter poison of “Wormwood” (the attitude of these wicked spirits) has polluted the minds of one-third of the people (waters) on earth with hatred, strife, and violence. Many people have died because demons have influenced or possessed them. Many wars and conflicts have been started by satanic influence of man-made governments. Much of the killings and murders on this earth are a result of people (waters) being influenced (poisoned) by Satan and his demons.

The mental health problems of the world today are mainly caused by Satan and the demons and their controlling grip on humankind. People are consumed with hatred; it eats them up like a cancer. They are devoured by an inability to forgive. Their poisoned attitudes cause them to be very unhappy and depressed. Debilitating diseases—physical disabilities, mental disorders, rotten attitudes, and ugly bitterness are the results of demons messing with the minds of men.

With all these killings, incapacitating diseases, physical infirmities, mental disorders, rotten attitudes, and bitterness of hearts and minds, men ought to be looking to God for answers! However, Jesus said, “**But [even after all these plagues] the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts**” (Rev. 9:20-21 NKJV).

Fourth Trumpet Darkness of the Mind

“And the **fourth angel sounded [Fourth Trumpet]**, and the third part of the **sun** was smitten, and the third part of the **moon**, and the third part of the **stars**; so as **the third part of them was darkened**, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise” (Rev. 8:12).

Another key to Bible prophecy is the sun, moon, and stars can, at times, refer to people. Let’s look at one such example in the life of Joseph. “And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, ‘Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.’ And he told *it* to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, ‘What *is* this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?’” (Gen. 37:9-10). Isn’t it interesting to see how Jesus reveals each one of these plagues by the keys He has left us in His Word?

In Bible prophecy, people can be referred to as the sun (men—husbands, fathers), moon (women—wives, mothers), and stars (children—siblings). This now helps us understand the fourth trumpet.

One-third of the people on earth have been stricken with this plague of darkness. What darkness is Jesus describing here? John wrote, “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘**I am the light of the world**. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life’” (John 8:12 NKJV). The opposite of light is darkness! All the world lies in darkness if they are not walking in Jesus’ light. However, “the darkness” spoken of here is much more than the absence of knowing Jesus. **This is a darkness of demented, evil, sinister, and reprobate minds!**

In Romans 1:21-32, Paul describes the people who are smitten with this plague, “**Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *Him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened**. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. **Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts**, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. **For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet [aids, venereal diseases, and cancers]. And even as [because] they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness,**

fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

Much of this plague is that of the pornography and sex businesses around the world. The entertainment industry is also pumping out enormous quantities of “**dark matter**” in the form of Satan-inspired movies and music. Through Satanic influences, one-third of the earth’s population has allowed its mind to be “**darkened**” with this plague **because man did not want to retain God in his knowledge**. God, therefore, gave him over to a reprobate mind—a mind darkened by satanic forces!

Jesus asked in John 11:9 NKJV, “...Are there not twelve hours in the day? ...” So if there were twelve hours in a day, then there would be twelve hours in the night. One-third of the day would be four hours and one-third of the night would be four hours for a combined total of eight hours of darkness a day. This amounts to one-third of men’s lives that are consumed by this dark, evil plague. This darkness blinds the sight of men, women, and children. **One-third of the population of the earth has had one-third of their hours consumed with rotteness.**

Satan and the demons are trying to get everyone caught up in this darkness which they are promoting on radio and television and in movies and advertising. Satan is, after all, the prince of the power of the air; the wicked spirit that now works in the disobedient (Eph. 2:2).

The entire world has been affected as a consequence of this broadcasting of darkness that God has allowed because of mankind’s willingness to turn its back on Him. **“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *Him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.** Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools... **Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts,** to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie... **For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections...** God gave them over to a reprobate mind...” (Rom. 1:21-28). **Their evil minds were darkened.**

This is a plague allowed by God and is used to teach mankind, **BY THE WAY OF SUFFERING**, what it was unwilling to learn in any other way!

God tells us, “...**have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret**” (Eph. 5:11-12).

God is allowing people to get their bellies so filled with this darkness and evil that their guts will rot out of their bodies!

God is, in effect, saying, “You want to fill your minds and bodies with inordinate desires and filthy things, then I will allow you to destroy both your minds and your bodies with diseases until you will hate sin as much as I do!”

The Three Woes

Now John’s attention is turned to another scene, “And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, ‘Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!’” (Rev. 8:13 NKJV).

“...Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil [Satan] is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman [Church] which brought forth the man *child* [Jesus Christ]” (Rev. 12:12-13).

Behind all the events on earth, there are unseen, spiritual forces at work. God explains to the Church what the world, as a whole, can neither see nor understand.

Fifth Trumpet First Woe The Industrial Revolution

John continued in Revelation 9:1-12, “And the **fifth angel sounded [Fifth Trumpet—First Woe]**, and I saw a star [Satan] fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. [These machines were the product of the smoke of a great furnace (the industrial revolution) and were given “power” or were “self-propelled” by an “internal combustion engine.”] And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but **only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads**. And to them it was given that they should not kill them [spiritually speaking—the second death], but that they should be tormented [tortured or tested] five months: and their torment *was* as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men [some will] seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts *were* like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads *were* as it were crowns like gold, and their faces *were* as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as *the teeth* of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings *was* as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails [Being wounded by their stings could cause physical death. “The sting of death *is* sin...” (I Cor. 15:56)]: and their power *was* to hurt men five months” (Rev. 9:1-10).

There is a key to understanding the duration of this prophecy. As we see in Numbers 14:33-34 and Ezekiel 4:1-6, God has revealed a day for a year in prophecy fulfilled. 5 months X 30 days = 150 days. 150 days = 150 years. God has allowed 150 years for Satan to do his number on humanity. This is but a short time in the spirit world.

You may have noticed that, as Jesus was describing the prophecy to the Church at Smyrna (Rev. 2:10), He mentioned they would have “tribulation ten days.” Recorded Church history shows the Church had ten years of intense persecution and distress that ended with the death of Polycarp.

“And they had a king over them, *which is* the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue *is* Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath *his* name Apollyon [Satan]. One woe is past; *and*, behold, there come two woes more hereafter” (Rev. 9:11-12). When John said “one woe is past,” he was referring to the scene as portrayed to him in vision, not that it had finished here on earth.

Did you notice that God is in complete control and is setting the limits, type, and duration of these plagues? God is in charge. Satan can only do what God allows.

These “woes” are significantly different from the other plagues released by God upon mankind.

Do you realize that man, from the time of Adam until about A.D. 1650, used basically the same method of transport to move himself and his things about?

With this **fifth trumpet**—the first woe, came new means of transportation and, as a result, mushrooming development and raging destruction. This **First Woe** describes the “**Industrial Revolution.**” Horses, donkeys, camels, and elephants were the main means of transport on the land from the time of Adam until somewhere around the 1800’s; that has been most of the history of mankind! For more than 5,600 years life on earth was, more or less, going at the same slow pace.

However, with the Industrial Revolution came man’s increased lust and greed for more things (mankind’s bottomless pit). Once God allowed Satan to stir man’s desires, there was no bottom to the desire for more. Satan was allowed to open the pathway to mass production and destruction. As more was produced, the more people wanted. And since then, human beings have never been satisfied.

Great Britain led the way in this new age of industry. With coal-fired smelters, iron and steel found their way into steam locomotives and ships. The open pit mines fed the bellowing smokestacks for the coal-fired, ore smelters which refined the iron, copper, aluminum, and zinc products. From these smoky factories came terrible weapons with the ability for great destruction and suffering on a massive scale.

It has only been just over 200 years since man invented “the iron horse.” The “locusts,” described by John, made with “internal combustion engines” were created

around 1903. The automobiles and airplanes have both been around for a little over 100 years.

It took very little time for mankind, with demonic influence, to figure out how to turn cars, trucks, airplanes, and helicopters into military implements used to inflict pain, agony, and death.

The “Industrial Revolution” was an unnatural process allowed in God’s plan for man; the results have been a mixture of good and evil. In many ways, the lives of mankind have become more complicated and greatly compromised.

Industrialization has had some benefits with many negative, destructive results. When people can get more done in less time, Satan has time to influence their minds to dwell on evil.

Wherever we look, we see the greed and lust of humanity enhanced. And when these are released, there is much damage, the loss of life, and great sorrow.

In this “fifth trumpet” or “first woe,” we have a complicated picture of a physical world driven by spiritual forces behind the scenes. Satan was allowed to start “the engines” necessary for the destruction of society. **The key to understanding this plague is that “the sting that does not kill” was speaking spiritually.**

Satan, if allowed by God, would kill all physical life on the earth.

Many millions of people have been killed in wars that have happened since the Industrial Revolution started. However, **physical death is not permanent**, “...it is appointed unto men once to die [because sin entered the human race through Adam], but after this the judgment [eternal life or second death]” (Heb. 9:27).

In Revelation 9:4 we find, “...hurt... only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.” **Those with the Holy Spirit cannot be hurt or stung by death! The only sting associated with death, spiritually speaking, is unrepented sin.** (The Apostle Paul will explain this concept in a moment.) This shows that a spiritual battle is going on behind the physical conflicts around the world. “And to them it was given that they should not kill them...” (v. 5). This was written to a spiritual body—the Church, and it is speaking spiritually when it says, “that they should not kill them.”

There has been much killing and slaughter around the world; even godly people have been physically killed. Satan may be able to destroy the physical bodies of people but, speaking spiritually, he cannot destroy the soul or spirit of a person. (A man can give control of his soul over to Satan then God is the one that will destroy it.) **Satan has not been given power over the souls of men in this plague.** Remember the words of Jesus, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matt. 10:28). Only God has that power! The Apostle Paul explained, “...Death is swallowed up in victory. O death,

where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? **The sting of death is sin [to the unconverted there is a sting associated with death because the penalty of sin remains]; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**” (I Cor. 15:54-57).

Satan cannot kill the Spirit of God in those who are converted, therefore, there is no sting connected with the death of a saint! The Spirit of God is eternal, even if the physical body is destroyed! **Death caused by Satan against those with the Holy Spirit has no sting because their deaths are swallowed up in victory!**

Part of this complicated plague is severe depression. Serious depression is the result of the breakdown of society and the standards of morality. Humanity has become so broken that people are confused and disillusioned about life. Mentally, many people are not willing to accept their place in life. John was told that, “...in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them” (Rev. 9:6).

The wish to die but can't, fear of the unknown, and haunting gloom are the thoughts of those who have not the Spirit of God. (Those with chemical imbalances in the brain are the exception.) The “spirit of fear” is often associated with the demons. “For **God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind**” (II Tim. 1:7). God has given Christians the power of a sound mind, not the wish to die! Death talk is often demon talk! (Some of the demons would like to die but can't!)

The “drug industry” is part of this plague released by God, orchestrated by Satan. The pharmaceutical business is man's “inspired” answer to the pressures of a broken society. Everything Satan does results in much evil. Satan would “devilishly desire” to get everyone “hooked” on drugs of all kinds, legal or illegal. In much of the Western world today, we see drugstores being constructed on practically every major intersection and in nearly every town and city of America. This is no accident! Satan would love to have all people drugged into “zombies.” Satan is in the business of “dumbing down” all of mankind. This has been accomplished to a great extent on two fronts: one, through the drug industry (legal and illegal); and two, in the area of entertainment (music, television, motion pictures, and video games).

We are in the greatest spiritual battle of all-time. It is Satan's goal to keep our minds so “out of it” that we cannot hear nor understand the truth God has for us. Satan has captured the minds of approximately one-third of human beings through his devices.

Most don't realize the wicked destructiveness of Satan. If we speak of this bottomless pit in a spiritual context, we begin to realize the depth of Satan's wicked perversions on all of society.

This “bottomless pit” of Satan's lusts and desires has no bottom. When we talk of the awakening of man's greed and the lust for more, it is endless—bottomless. Once we begin to be dissatisfied with what we have, there is never enough to fill that greed. More

only builds the desire for more things. There is no basement to the depth of the human appetite for more inspired by Satan.

It all began with the internal combustion engine. To create and distribute the automobile required tooling up for such a mammoth undertaking. Huge factories became necessary to produce the metals necessary for these vehicles. Smoke began to billow from smokestacks as the Industrial Revolution roared to life.

The genius of this plan was amazing! It began to destroy the foundation of all society—the family. The family unit is the building block upon which all societies and governments have been erected since Adam and Eve. If there are strong family units, there is a healthy and growing society. However, one of the first things Satan did in this Industrial Revolution was to pull the man from the home and away from the land. What a stroke of brilliance! Satan struck at the very foundation of life when he devised this plan for mankind’s destruction.

Up to this time, mankind had an agrarian society. A large percentage of the population lived off the land. They were closer to God, in that, they were nearer to the physical creation God made for them. However, as people began to see a lifestyle filled with more “things,” they began to leave the family farms and ranches in droves, streaming into the cities looking for “the easy life” with the lure of wealth.

Satan’s plan has always been to divide and conquer. So this scheme pulled the man away from the home, his wife, and his family. The separation began. With this strain in the relationship of the family, marital problems began, and divorces shot up dramatically. Children became more and more disobedient. The structure of civilization was attacked; the head of the family and the accompanying leadership was removed.

The man was off to the mines and factories, working up to twelve or more hours a day to produce all the materials necessary for this Satan-inspired “new society.” Then Satan instigated the First World War. More young men were pulled from the family, never to return. Satan was ramping up for his annihilation of mankind.

By the Second World War, Satan had devised another tool for the further breakdown of society. More and more women were needed in the factories to create more of the self-propelled vehicles engineered with “stings in their tails.”

After World War II, many of the women continued working in the plants and factories that were now gearing up for the manufacturing of gadgets to make life easier in this “new age of equality for women.” Women were now “liberated” from the menial tasks of the home and the raising of children. People began to realize “the value” of a second income. They were able to raise their standard of living and acquire more things.

By this time, we had, more or less, a total abandonment of the children on the altar of “progress” and the desire for more things. Satan was well on his way to accomplishing his goal of destroying the family, society, and eventually all mankind.

In all of this, Satan was very busy destroying the moral fabric of society. The family has, for all intents and purposes, been totally decimated. Far too many marriages have ended in divorce. The children of broken marriages suffer mentally, emotionally, physically, and financially. With the breakdown of the family came children left without leadership or guidance. Gangs of young people began to form. The children were hopelessly lost in a sea of materialism. Television, toys, and games had taken the place of a loving father and mother.

Satan then began to interject into the minds of our children his satanically inspired music. His wicked music is called by a variety of names. It started with “Rock” then soon progressed downward to “Hard Rock,” “Punk Rock,” “Acid Rock,” “Heavy Metal,” and “Rap,” all of which began to break down the minds and poison the attitudes of our young people. This music increasingly carried a very heavy, deep bass and a staccato beat that was both alluring and hypnotic to the young. The lyrics of these “songs” carried Satan’s message of evilness, hatred, wickedness, and iniquity of every kind. The idle minds of our children became fertile fields in which Satan was more than willing to work. After all he is, “...the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2).

Then Satan was able to inject drugs into the mix to further devastate society and the family. The stress of this unnatural system of Satan led to drugs to get away from it all. Both legal and illegal drugs were being thrust toward the problem. The pharmaceutical industry was formed, inspired by Satan, to treat the effect but not the cause of man’s problems. The cause of course is a severed relationship with God and the breaking of His laws. So today we have many on a variety of drugs to keep them focused, “high” to get any work done, and “downers” to come off the high. Alcohol was added to the mix. Some people are in such a mental and emotional state that they want to die but can’t. This is not the life God planned for mankind. Depression and delusion are rampant today. This is a world of Satan’s making. Remember he has been given 150 years to do his number on humanity and his time is almost up.

These days it seems young people have seen the devastation caused by the breakup of the family and have been led by Satan to believe that they would be better off not being married at all. This of course pleases Satan. We have many people living together without marriage. Even some governments around the world are making it financially more advantageous by their tax laws for people to live together rather than to be married.

This society is like a frog in a pot of water where heat has been applied to it. Satan has the whole world on the front burner and the flame turned up all the way. We never realized what was happening, and now it is too late! We are cooked and haven’t even realize it!

Now Satan has the children and all of society right where he wants them, and he is now feeding them with the “wormwood—bitter poison” (Rev. 8:11) of anger, hatred, discouragement, and resentment. As a result the prophecy, written by the Apostle Paul about our end times, has been fulfilled. “This know also, that in the last days perilous

times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (II Tim. 3:1-5).

Since opening this fifth trumpet or first woe, we have experienced the First and Second World Wars, many hundreds of other conflicts, and smaller wars around the world. And even now, we are in the first stages of the Third World War. Satan has been very busy in his attempt to destroy humanity. Many millions of people have been killed in these Satan-led conflicts. When the second woe or sixth plague is finished and Jesus Christ has come, one-third of mankind will be dead. Then after Jesus Christ stops Satan’s wicked system, through the seven last plagues of God’s wrath, which finishes the thousand-year Day of the Lord, there will come a time of peace and men will not be learning war anymore. There will be no more video games or movies with war and killing; no more desire to kill or to be killed.

The first and second “woes” will end at the same time—at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. When John said, “One woe is past; *and*, behold, there come two woes more hereafter” (Rev. 9:12), he was saying this from his point of reference in the vision. He didn’t mean the first woe was over to the reader.

“And they had a king over them, *which is* the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue *is* Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath *his* name Apollyon [Satan]” (Rev. 9:11). Satan, as king of this destruction, will reign only until Jesus Christ comes again, then he will be bound for a thousand years.

Sixth Trumpet Second Woe World War III The Great Tribulation

In Revelation 9:13-21 we see the **Sixth Trumpet or Second Woe**, “...the **sixth angel sounded**, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, ‘**Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.**’ [Nowhere in the Bible is there any evidence of God’s Holy angels ever being bound or confined. Demons and Satan can and will be bound (Rev. 20:2).] And the four angles [These angels could be physical leaders or demons directing physical leaders that were held back by God. In other words, they were restrained until a precise time] were loosed, **which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.** And **the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand:** and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses *were* as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was **the third part of men killed**, by the fire, and by the

smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails *were* like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. **And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.**” Even after all these plagues, people continue to do their own thing instead of looking to God for help and deliverance!

This sixth trumpet has all the implementation and industrialization of the fifth plague, but is much more violent and destructive. The sixth trumpet takes place during the same 150 years allotted to Satan that was described in the fifth trumpet. The exact types of weapons and implements of war are used in both plagues to carry out Satan’s diabolical plan against man. Some of the differences between the fifth and sixth trumpets are the death and destruction caused. During the sixth trumpet, there is greater persecution against the Church. In this plague, there is much advanced planning that takes place to perpetrate such great destruction at a precise time—“an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year.” Many precisely timed attacks have been started around the world as part of the “Holy Wars” against the peoples of Judeo-Christian belief. **This is part of the Third World War** and the result will be massive casualties and terrible carnage everywhere. One-third of humanity will be killed by the end of this sixth plague!

Some feel the Third World War has been going on since shortly after the end of World War II. There indeed have been many precisely timed attacks by these radical, Islamic terrorist groups or jihadists.

Finally, there will be a big push from the king of the South against the king of the North that will swing the world into major battles at the end of this age (Dan. 11:40-45).

The Great Tribulation

We are now into the Sixth Trumpet and The Great Tribulation is the major theme of this plague. It is carried out on a global scale. **This precisely timed attack by this 200,000,000 person army, stirred up by these four leaders or spirits from the area of the Euphrates River, will usher in The Great Tribulation. It is directed, or orchestrated, by Satan and allowed by God as a major plague on believers and unbelievers alike.**

This will be a time of testing and judgment on the Church to determine our strength and suitability for the offices and responsibilities in the Government of God at Christ’s return.

We see the beast, as described in Daniel 7 and 12, was able to persecute the Church for forty-two months or three and one-half years. In Daniel 7:21, 25 we read, “I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; ...and **they**

shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.” This same event is also spoken of in Daniel 12:1, “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of Thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time [The Great Tribulation]: and **at that time Thy people shall be delivered**, every one that shall be found written in the book [of life].”

And in Daniel 12:7 we read, “...*it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people*, all these *things* shall be finished.” This is three and one-half years or forty-two months of intense persecution upon the saints of the Most High.

Jesus also prophesied about this same event in Revelation 11:1-2, “And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, ‘Rise, and **measure** [to test, to determine the strength, endurance of] **the temple of God** [the New Testament Christians (1 Cor. 3:16)], and **the altar** [Jewish Peoples], and them that worship therein. But **the court which is without the temple leave out**, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles [unbelievers in God]: and **the holy city** [God’s Holy people] **shall they tread under foot forty and two months.**”

This is speaking of the Christians and Jewish worshipers of God!

In Revelation Chapter Twelve, we see a brief look at Church history. The Church is spoken of as a woman delivering her child (Jesus). The Church, then hiding from the public view, went underground as a small, persecuted Church for 1,260 years. Then, in the endtime, at the beginning of the first woe, the old serpent, Satan the Devil, once again starts his attacks on mankind, knowing that he has but a short time. His assaults are allowed to test the Church as The Great Tribulation begins. (This event is very near.) His plans will be carried out by the beast and false prophet as described in the thirteenth chapter.

We receive confirmation of this distress upon God’s people in Revelation 13:5-7 NLT, “Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And **he [the beast] was given authority to do whatever he wanted for forty-two months**. And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering His name and His temple—that is, those who live in heaven. And **the beast was allowed to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them**. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation.” “**Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand**” (Rev. 13:9 NLT).

“Anyone who is destined for prison will be taken to prison. Anyone destined to die by the sword will die by the sword. This means that God’s holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful” (Rev. 13:10 NLT).

Jesus told Christians, at the end of this age, He would allow these difficulties to come upon the people of God because we have become lukewarm spiritually! He

said, “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, **I will spue thee out of My mouth.** Because thou sayest, ‘I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;’ and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: **I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire [The Great Tribulation],** that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent” (Rev. 3:15-19).

This part of The Great Tribulation will last for three and one-half years. Do you remember the prophecy Jesus gave to His disciples on the Mount of Olives? Read it again in Matthew 24:21-22, “**For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [alive]: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.**” Most Christians will not be delivered from The Great Tribulation—but will be rescued out of it!

So the days of this great tribulation will be cut short for the sake of God’s own people! God is a multitasker! He will mature His people through suffering because it is, “...that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). God, by these plagues, is also punishing the world for its disobedience at the same time.

The sixth trumpet, which is the Second Woe, describes a 200 million-man army spoken of in Revelation 9:14-16. It all begins with four angels being released from the area of the Euphrates River. These four spirits, or human leaders influenced by spirits, are behind the tension in the Middle East today.

Today we see an army of radical, Islamic terrorists (jihadists) loosely organized with one unifying ideology led by Satan and these four leaders or messengers. Their numbers are now around 180 to 220 million worldwide. But, because they are not a single, recognized government, they have slipped under the radar of the world view. If they were all from one nation, the world governments would be terrified! They have one mission and purpose—to **convert by force the whole world to the religion of Islam.** Make no mistake, this is a religious war! Satan is trying to preserve his dominion over the earth by using jihads all around the world to stamp out Judeo-Christian beliefs!

During all this war and violence, God promises a measure of protection for His people. This is done by not allowing nuclear war and mass destruction to take place until 144,000 of His people are sealed (Rev. 12:14-16).

What Does it Mean to be Sealed?

This is the time mentioned in Revelation 7:1-4, “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that

the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, **‘Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.’** And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.” Part of this sealing is the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit. God will not hurt the earth until He has sealed these 144,000. They will prove by their actions that they believe God and are willing to obey Him (Jas. 2:17-24). **By this sealing, God assures that their judgment is complete** (I Pet. 4:17).

We read in Eph. 1:13, “...ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.” In Eph. 4:30, we are told, “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” So we learn the gift of the Holy Spirit seals us until our change to a spirit being comes.

The first part of this sixth trumpet plague will not include weapons of mass destruction to the environment until God has sealed the 144,000 firstfruits—the bride of Christ. “Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”

Part of the Bride of Christ will be gathered out of the Laodicean era of the Church. It is to this group that Jesus said, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne” (Rev. 3:21). To sit with Christ on His throne was not offered to any other era of the Church. The servants invited to sit with Christ on His throne will be offered a place of safety in the wilderness during the three and one-half years of the tribulation, “And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent” (Rev. 12:14). After this sealing and removal of the 144,000 from harms way, all “hell” will break loose.

Tribulation to Come

Surprise and coordinated terrorist attacks have been occurring in an attempt to bring the world under the religion of Islam. These assaults on the Western world are crippling and straining many nations. In Daniel 11, we read more of these prophesied events by picking up the story in verse 40. These jihads by the king of the South will push against the king of the North and finally develop into all-out war (Dan. 11:40-45). These strategic, terrorist attacks from the king of the South (the Arab block of nations and possibly a few others) against the king of the North (the resurrected Roman Empire in Europe) are the part of the sixth trumpet where one-third of mankind will be killed.

We see in world affairs today these Arab and Persian nations from the area of the Euphrates River have been negotiating with the Russians. Iran and other Arab nations are beginning to develop into the king of the South. There have been agreements made

with Russia and Iran to develop a nuclear power plant at Bushehr, Iran. The Russians have supplied Iran with the enriched, uranium rods needed for its new reactor. Iran has been working on a centrifuge program as well. Both Russia's Vladimir Putin and Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad have been outspoken critics of the West. Putin was the head of the KGB in the old U.S.S.R. The old Russian Bear may be coming out of hibernation. China too is monetarily invested in Iran's oil industry and each of these nations has designs for world domination; two of them, for physical and material reasons, the other, for spiritual domination of the world by force. Russia and China will not be a direct part of the king of the South but are assisting in pushing it out onto the world stage.

When the Bible speaks of the king of the South or the king of the North, it means geographically from Jerusalem. The Southern seat of the driving force of the Arab religious movement is in the cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. The king of the North is the resurrected head of the ancient "Holy" Roman Empire, which was a church-run, state government at Vatican City and Rome. (There was actually nothing holy about it. Christians were killed by the thousands by this system.) The modern equivalent of this will arise in Europe and will form rather quickly to give its power for "one hour" to the "beast" (Rev. 17:12). The Vatican and the beast will join forces for a short time. This will be done to repel the advances of the Arab forces around the world. This will result in nuclear confrontation and the greatest number of deaths of World War III.

Today Western governments have not truly recognized the enemy. We are fighting other governments in the Arab world not fully realizing the battle is not with a government but rather an opposing ideology—a religion of death. Islam is the religion and its spirit is behind many of the conflicts around the world.

The forces from the North will bring religious powers against the religious forces of the South.

A man with a sword and spear could not slay a million people in his lifetime. But nowadays, the push of one button could kill more than a million people. As Jesus said, "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matt. 24:22).

It is of this time the Apostle John wrote, "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, 'What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they?' And I said unto him, 'Sir, thou knowest.' And he said to me, '**These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**' Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" (Rev. 7:13-17).

These Christians and Jews will give their lives during this great tribulation by showing their allegiance to Jesus Christ. This group of believers will have gone through the greatest time of suffering in the history of the world. (All that was mentioned in verse 16 is what they will endure during The Great Tribulation.)

Abomination of Desolation

(A sign of the pending Great Tribulation)

Jesus talked about the events of the near future, **“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)... for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.** And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: **but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened”** (Matt. 24:15-22).

Both Matthew and Daniel wrote of the “abomination of desolation” or the “abomination that maketh desolate set up,” yet neither writer gives any in-depth explanation about what this means. Matthew’s account made the statement, “whoso readeth let him understand,” but how can a person understand if it is not explained?

We know from history the account of the taking of Jerusalem by Antiochus Epiphanes (called the antichrist of the Old Testament); he ruled from 175-164 B.C. He spoiled the temple and put a stop to the daily sacrifice for three and one-half years. He sacrificed swine’s flesh on the altar; those who opposed this were put to death. This was just a type of what was to occur in the future.

The Apostle Paul prophesied about these events of the future, “...that man of sin [was to] be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (II Thess. 2:3-4). Jesus Christ gave a better understanding to Paul’s statement and to “the abomination” when He explained that this beast tried to appear as a lamb (a Christian or a “man of God”) and would order, “...an image to [be made of] the beast... He had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed” (Rev. 13:11-15).

There you have it! Jesus gave a more detailed explanation of this image and the resulting consequence of not worshipping the image of the beast. I want you to notice that Christ’s definition was given long after the account of Antiochus Epiphanes and explains what will happen at the end of the sixth trumpet soon to come.

“The desolation” aspect of this abomination describes the armies that will enforce the sentence of death on all who will not worship the image of the beast.

We should be watchful and aware of these events, as they are signs of pending disaster.

This leader of the beast power from Europe will appear as a Christian (horns of a lamb) but speaks “like a dragon.” “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb [looks like a believer], and he spake as a dragon” (Rev. 13:11). This new power in Europe is a part of the old Roman Empire. This church-run, governmental power-machine will be a tool used by Satan to do great damage.

This leader will actually be inspired, or possessed, by Satan. He will do, “...great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And **he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed**” (Rev. 13:13-15; see also Dan. 7:21-27; 12:1-4; Rev. 11:1-13).

Many who call themselves Christian today will be deceived into thinking this man must be from God because he can do all these miracles. They will be tricked into worshipping this beast. However, Jesus warned His true believers, “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before [remember that I have warned you]” (Matt. 24:24-25).

Thank you God! The true believers will not be deceived by these deceptions from Satan.

Tribulation Continues

This is the time of trouble that will last for 1,260 days, forty-two months, or for a time, times, and half a time (three and one-half years). It means trouble for the believers of God. If the Father didn’t intervene by sending Jesus Christ back to this earth, no flesh would be saved alive.

Daniel gives us thirty days advanced warning of The Great Tribulation, “And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, *there shall be* a thousand two hundred and ninety days” (Dan. 12:11). This prophecy is counting backward. It is giving the wise time to get ready for this horrible distress. Thirty days after the abomination is set up, The Great Tribulation will start.

This is the same time mention in Jeremiah 30:7, “Alas! For that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: it *is* even **the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.**”

I hope you understand the severity of the times shown here! Both the Christians and the Jews will be killed by the Islamic jihadists then the next wave of trouble will come from this resurrected Roman Empire seeking to kill all who do not

worship the beast or its image! This will indeed be “the time of Jacob’s trouble.”

God has a message for the Church (the Worshipers of God) as we see the violence of the Sixth Trumpet Plague approaching. “Blow ye the trumpet in Zion [Jerusalem], and sound an alarm in My holy mountain [the Church]: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for *it is* nigh at hand; a **day of darkness and of gloominess**, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, *even* to the years of many generations. **A fire devoureth before them**; and behind them a flame burneth: the land *is* as the garden of Eden before them, and **behind them a desolate wilderness**; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them *is* as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and *when* they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; **the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining**; and the LORD shall utter His voice before His army: for His camp *is* very great: for *He is* strong that executeth His word: **for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?**” (Joel 2:1-11).

God yearns for you to wake up! He wants you to come alive spiritually and to turn from your indifference! **“That is why the LORD says, ‘Turn to Me now, while there is time! Give Me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Don’t tear your clothing in your grief; instead, tear your hearts.’ Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful. He is not easily angered. He is filled with kindness and is eager not to punish you.** Who knows? Perhaps even yet He will give you a reprieve, sending you a blessing instead of this terrible curse. Perhaps He will give you so much that you will be able to offer grain and wine to the LORD your God as before!” (Joel 2:12-14 NLT).

Even though God will punish the Church for its Laodicean attitude, He will always be quick to have mercy on all His children who come to Him with deep repentance and ask for His forgiveness. It may come to be that their physical lives will be snuffed out, but in splendid glory, they will be able to join the great multitude that is reaped to eternal life. These will be those of the Laodicean era of the Church that would not heed “the Call” to awake out of their slumber. It will be through many difficulties that they will enter the Kingdom of God (Acts 14:22; Rev. 7:13-17).

Two groups will come out of the Laodicean era of the Church!

The first are those who sprang into action and were diligent to make “the Cry” the bridegroom was coming (Matt. 25:6). **This is the same group which made themselves ready for the wedding of the Lamb** (Rev. 19:7). They are **the Bride of Christ**, the 144,000, that stood on Mount Zion with Jesus Christ and had the Father’s name written on their foreheads (had the Holy Spirit) (Rev. 14:1). And they are the ones which were not defiled with women (false churches and pagan religions). They were also virgins (worshiped the one true God). **They followed the Lamb wherever He went**. “These were redeemed from among men, *being* the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God” (Rev. 14:1-5). Jesus prayed, “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one” (John 17:15 NKJV).

The second are the innumerable multitude, “...These are they which came out of [went through the] great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 7:14). These are the lukewarm Christians and Jews of today and of the near future. They are the ones of whom Jesus said, “Because thou sayest, ‘I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;’ and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: **I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire**, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent**” (Rev. 3:17-19).

These are all the Christians who wouldn’t believe the witness given to them. They paid no attention to the Father that sent His servants to ask them to come to the wedding. They were negligent by not preparing for that great event, by not making themselves ready, and by not announcing the Second Coming of His Son. They all went back to their farms and businesses; they all slumbered and slept! It was hard for them to get excited about anything spiritual and their relationship with God. The physical was so much more real and important to them!

These believers in God were not getting ready for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. They didn’t see the need to get all that excited about Christ’s Second Coming. They thought they would have plenty of time later.

These are the ones of Christ’s parable in Matt. 22:1-14 who didn’t have on a wedding garment. **They hadn’t bothered to get ready for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ**. And because they were not willing to be ready for Christ, the Father, “...said to him [them], ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few *are* chosen” (Matt. 22:12-14 NKJV).

To be cast out into “outer darkness” where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth means being away from the Light of Jesus and allowed to suffer in The Great Tribulation. Only the 144,000 will be chosen and sealed before The Great Tribulation

begins (Rev. 7:3-4). This is why Jesus said, “For many are called, but few *are* chosen.”

Most Christians don’t realize that we are being judged now. What we do now is important because, from the time of our repentance and baptism, we are being judged! The old person died in the watery grave of baptism; we are then a new person and must walk in newness of life. The Apostle Peter said, “For the time *has come* [after baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit] for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it *begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (I Pet. 4:17 NKJV).

So, as Jesus prophesied, when they saw The Great Tribulation getting underway, they finally woke up and began to get serious about their beliefs. They decided to get busy, “And while they went to buy [to get into a closer relationship with God], the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with Him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

“Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But He answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming” (Matt. 25:10-13 NKJV).

We must be ready and watching for the coming of our Lord. We don’t know how long we have to live.

You may think you have twenty or thirty more years in your life, which you feel is plenty of time to get ready. You say, “Later God.” Yet God could take you tonight, or The Great Tribulation could start when you least expect it and the door of opportunity will be slammed shut!

This will be a time of great distress among all believers in God worldwide! God is going to punish, correct, and refine His own children. God loves them and Jesus said, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” This is the same time spoken of in Jeremiah 30:7-9; Daniel 7:21-27; 12:1-3; Matthew 24:21-22; Revelation 3:14-22; and Revelation 11:1-13. It will be three and one-half years of the greatest time of trouble the world has ever experienced. And unless these days are shortened by the return of Jesus Christ, there wouldn’t be anyone left alive on the face of the earth!

As we see these events begin to occur, we are told by the prophet Joel, “**Blow the trumpet in Zion [sound the alarm in the Church, the spiritual New Jerusalem], sanctify a fast**, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, ‘**Spare Thy people, O LORD, and give not Thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them:** wherefore should they say among the people, “Where *is* their

God?”” “And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call” (Joel 2:15-17; 32). As we see these events begin to occur, we must be asking God to be merciful and to spare His people from the hand of the wicked!

As we are confronted with the trials and tribulations soon to come, remember the promises God gave through King David, who prophesied in Psalm 91, “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler. **Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.** Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is* my refuge, *even* the most High, thy habitation; **there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague [not the sixth trumpet plague either] come nigh thy dwelling.** For He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he [we] hath set his [our] love upon Me [God], therefore will I [God] deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known My name. He [the worshipers] shall call upon Me [God], and I will answer him: I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him My salvation” (Psa. 91:1-16).

Will there be a Rapture of God’s People?

What about the Church during these struggles? Will some of the people of God be taken away to be with the Lord? Does Jesus come twice? Once for the elect and later, at the end of The Great Tribulation, for the dead in Christ? Will there be a secret rapture of God’s elect? Will God’s People escape The Great Tribulation?

There is much confusion among Christians about the idea of “a rapture.” Let’s cover the scriptures regarding this topic.

Jesus told the Philadelphian era of the Church that, “Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation [trial or proving], which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth” (Rev. 3:10).

What could Jesus mean in the above verse? It could be that He would protect you from the ravages of Satan during The Great Tribulation. On the other hand, this may be another way of saying, “You will die and rest in peace before The Great Tribulation begins.” Or, “I will not allow The Great Tribulation to start until your time has passed.” You see, the Philadelphian era of the Church may well be part of history before The

Great Tribulation begins!

The scriptures indicate The Great Tribulation will transpire during the Laodicean era of the Church. Jesus mentions to the Laodicean Church that they would have to, "...buy of Me gold tried in the fire..." (Rev. 3:18). This would signify much suffering in The Great Tribulation.

Satan now realizes he has but a short time to torture the Church and mankind. His desire is to prevent God from producing a family! This is made clear in the brief outline of Church history recorded in the Twelfth Chapter of Revelation. He tried to eliminate Jesus shortly after He was born but that didn't work. Then Satan persecuted the Church for 1,260 years. Finally, with the first two "woes," Satan will attempt to destroy the Church and all civilization by removing life as we know it from the earth.

The Laodicean Church (Rev. 3:14-22) will have a few that are willing to announce the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God as the Father asked them to do (Matt. 22). They are the ones Jesus said would sit with Him on His throne (Rev. 3:21). However, the rest will have to be refined with "fire" during The Great Tribulation.

The Christians who obeyed the Father are the 144,000—12,000 out of each of the twelve tribes mentioned in Revelation 7. Jesus instructed an angel to, "...Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads" (Rev. 7:3). This means nuclear warfare will not start until the servants of God are sealed. They will be sealed, not only with the Holy Spirit, but will also be protected from the events to come as prophesied in Revelation 12:14-16, "And to the woman [Church] were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness [on earth, not off to heaven], into her place, where she is nourished [prepared as the bride for the wedding of the Lamb] for a time, and times, and half a time [three and one-half years or forty-two months], from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water [armies] as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood [armies] which the dragon cast out of his mouth." When Satan realizes he will not be able to destroy the elect (bride of Christ—the 144,000), he will be mad. "...The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed [rest of the Church], which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 12:17).

We are told by Jesus to, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

So we see two groups that compose the Laodicean Church; those who obeyed the will of the Father and those who thought they didn't have to do anything. For many, knowing about Jesus and His forgiveness of sin was enough.

The first group will be given "nourishment" and protection during the three and one-

half years of The Great Tribulation brought on by Satan. The second group will have to go and be refined during The Great Tribulation. They will have to “buy of Me [Jesus] gold tried in the fire.” These are the same ones Jesus spoke of in the parable of the bridesmaids (Matt. 25:1-13) that had to go off to buy oil for their lamps. They will have to build their character and relationship with God through much suffering.

In Matthew 24:20-22 we see Christ’s instruction about “a flight,” “But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”

This instruction, plus the prophecy from Jesus in Revelation 12:14-16, both speak of “a flight.” “And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent” (Rev. 12:14). Notice that this “flight” is not a secret rapture off to heaven. It is “into the wilderness,” here on earth, to be nourished for three and one-half years and given protection from Satan.

The rest of the Church will suffer. But the extent of anguish and distress will be cut short, either by death (showing their belief and faith in God), or by the Second Coming of Christ (Matt. 24:22). If Satan had his way, he would annihilate all human beings from the earth. However, the Church will be saved from the hand of Satan by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Satan will be allowed to persecute the believers in God until God has accomplished His plan and purpose of refining His children through suffering. “And he [**the beast**] shall speak *great* words against the most High, and **shall wear out the saints of the most High**, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time” (Dan. 7:25).

One of the strongest proofs against the traditional rapture theory before the Second Coming of Christ is found in I Thessalonians 4:15, “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that **we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep.**” Jesus Christ will not come to take some Christians to heaven before the resurrection of the dead in Christ. There will not be two comings of Christ. No one will be taken away in a spiritual body before the resurrection of the righteous saints who are now dead! Nor will any be off to the wedding banquet with Jesus Christ before the saints are resurrected!

Jesus is going to save the world from itself and Satan because of the people of God. It is precisely for the sake of these faithful worshipers of God that all the hellishness of this world’s methods will be stopped. The destruction and devastation caused by Satan will end before the planet is totally destroyed.

But, for the rest of the world, more anguish is yet to come during the Seventh

Trumpet (third woe). The seventh trumpet contains God's judgment (the seven last plagues) upon the wicked, as we will see later.

Though some of the Church will have to go through three and one-half years of this tribulation by Satan, **it will be saved out of the rest of God's judgment against the wicked!**

The Two Witnesses

The two witnesses give their warning to the world and to the Church during The Great Tribulation. At least a part of their witness will be from Jerusalem. Their witness will coincide with the forty-two months of intense persecution on the Church. Many Christians will be confused about these two witnesses and possibly think they are the beast and false prophet. The Satan-led team (beast and false prophet) will try to duplicate the powers of the two witnesses by calling down fire from heaven and doing many other miracles to make people think this "false christ" is God.

The two witnesses will also do miracles. All during these days of The Great Tribulation, God's two witnesses will give a last witness to all the peoples of the earth. They will have the power to smite the earth with whatever is necessary to cause people to realize God is calling everyone to repentance! When they are finished with their witness from God, everyone on earth will hate them and rejoice at their deaths.

"And I will give *power* unto My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days [the same three and one-half years as The Great Tribulation], clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will (Rev. 11:3-6).

When the two witnesses finish their ministry, they will be despised by nearly everyone on earth. "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies *shall lie* in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And **they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth**" (Rev. 11:7-10). Satan will have everyone convinced that his forces are good while the two witnesses will be represented as evil.

Don't always consider the majority to be right!

What happens next in these eventful times?

Heavenly Signs

The two witnesses complete their message of warning and announcing Christ's coming during The Great Tribulation. At the end of their ministry will be the **Heavenly Signs**. These heavenly signs are mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 24:29, "**Immediately after the tribulation of those days** shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken." As the Christians that are yet alive witness these events, they can rejoice for their deliverance is very near. Jesus said, "So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, *even* at the doors" (Mark 13:29).

During The Great Tribulation, the whole world will suffer from the power of the beast, his system, and the plagues brought on by the two witnesses. Great Signs will occur in the heavens to signify the salvation of God's people (Matt. 24:29-31; Luke 21:26-28, 31). "For the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

These Heavenly Signs may well coincide with the three and one-half days the two witnesses lie in the streets of Jerusalem after being killed. The tribulation will stop at that point. There will be a brief pause before Christ comes. He will then begin God's judgment upon the wicked by releasing the seven last plagues.

"But in those days, **after that tribulation**, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And **then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory**. And then shall He send His angels, and shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven" (Mark 13:24-27).

The Seventh Trumpet

The Seventh Trumpet announces the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! However, after Jesus comes again, He will, with great power and authority, pour out the Seven Last Plagues, which are God's judgment designed to punish the wicked and destroy Satan's sick and evil control on this earth.

After the Heavenly Signs, the Seventh Trumpet will sound, "And **then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other**" (Matt. 24:30-31).

The other six trumpets in John's vision were heard in heaven with no indication they were ever heard on earth. However, this seventh trumpet will be heard both in heaven

and on the earth.

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is recorded in many places throughout the prophecies of the Bible. We see this event covered in the book of Acts, "...This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

"Behold, I show you a mystery; we [true worshipers of God] shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality" (I Cor. 15:51-53).

When the Seventh Trumpet is sounded, the whole Bible will come to life! A great number of prophecies will be fulfilled, one after another! The first coming of Jesus Christ was nothing in comparison to His Second Coming! His first entrance into this world was in ignominy, but His Second Coming will be with GREAT POWER AND AUTHORITY as KING of kings and LORD of lords! God will establish His Government of Peace on this earth! A major step in realizing God's master plan for all of mankind will be fulfilled! God will, in a masterful and majestic way, bring many sons into glory to serve as kings and priests in His Government in the Wonderful World Tomorrow!

I hope you can visualize the splendor and magnitude of the events soon to come to pass! "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

There is a lot happening at the seventh trumpet. Jesus Christ will be seen in the sky. Every eye will see Him (Rev. 1:7). The holy angels will gather the elect [the dead and the living] from around the world. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and **with the trump of God**: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thess. 4:16-17).

"And **His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives**, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south" (Zech. 14:4). In verse 5 it is verified that, "...**the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with Thee.**"

The Seventh Trumpet is the time when Christians will receive their reward for their lives of obedient sacrifice to God as described in Revelation 11:18, "...**the time of the dead**, that they should be judged [this is the first resurrection. To have a first requires at least a second resurrection (Rev. 20:5-6); there is another yet to follow], and that **thou**

shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.” As Jesus Christ appears in the clouds with the shout of the archangel, the reward of God will be given to the righteous. This same time is recorded in Revelation 14:14-16, “And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud *One* sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, ‘Thrust in Thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for Thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.’ And He that sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.” The reaping spoken of here is the harvesting of Christians into eternal life. They will enter their new spirit bodies and receive their reward in the Kingdom of God.

Resurrection of the Dead

This will all happen as the Apostle Paul has explained in I Thessalonians 4:13, 15-18 (NKJV). He wanted to help us understand how these exciting times will unfold. The **dead in Christ will rise first** and then those Christians, who are alive will be transformed into Spirit bodies and meet Christ in the air. Then their feet, with His, will come down on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem and, “...thus we shall always be with the Lord.” “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep... For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.**”

Transformation of the Elect

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first.** Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” (I Thess. 4:16-18 NKJV). There is nothing here indicating a secret rapture. It will be obvious to all people alive on earth then, that Jesus Christ has come. Nothing will be secret about it!

Again the Apostle Paul says in 1 Cor. 15:51-53, “Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump:** for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.”

Second Coming of Jesus Christ

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ will be such a wonderful time for the Worshipers of God. Can you imagine what it will be like to witness the resurrection of the dead and experience an instant change from a physical body to one composed of

spirit? It will be awesome!

Our King and our God will set up His Government and Kingdom on this earth. We will inherit our positions of rulership in the Government of God as kings and priests. He will come as King of kings and Lord of lords. What a delightful world and exciting future we will have! With establishing the Kingdom of God, the Wonderful World Tomorrow will be ushered in! It will be a time of joy, happiness, and great peace.

“Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle.

“And His feet shall stand in that day [the seventh trumpet] upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave [split in half] in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee *to* the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: **and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with Thee**” (Zech. 14:1-5).

When Jesus comes again with **all power and authority**, the suffering of God’s people will be over. This should be the hope of Christians everywhere. “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: **but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened**” (Matt. 24:22).

God’s people will be rescued from tribulation as they rise to meet Jesus Christ in the air. They will be saved, but not as some have expected. True believers will escape the events of “The Wrath of Almighty God—The Seven Last Plagues.” As they are changed from mortal to immortal spirit beings, their days of suffering will be over, but this is not the case for the rest of humanity. All remaining human beings, after the coming of Christ, will endure judgment as prophesied in the Seven Last Plagues.

A Great Earthquake

When Jesus returns, “[His] ...feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, **and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst** thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and **half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south... And the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with Thee**” (Zech. 14:4-5).

The same earthquake is announced by Jesus and recorded by John in Revelation

11:11-13. The two witnesses were slain in the streets of Jerusalem, “And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, ‘Come up hither.’ And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. **And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand:** and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.”

This same event is also recorded in Revelation 14:1, “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion [Jerusalem], and with Him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having His Father’s name written in their foreheads.”

So it’s learned from the above verses that, when Jesus Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords, He will be preceded by the heavenly signs, the seventh trumpet, the resurrection of the dead (which will also include the resurrection of the two witnesses), the transformation of all the living saints into their spirit bodies, and a great earthquake. Then God’s people will rise to meet Christ in the air and return to stand on the Mount of Olives with Jesus in Jerusalem.

With the advent of Jesus Christ will come the fulfillment of many of the prophecies in the Bible. The mystery of God will finally be revealed. Jesus Christ will come as King and the first of God’s own family will be born into the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God will be given to the Saints of the Most High. “And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him” (Dan. 7:27).

God’s Judgment on the Wicked

Jesus Christ then begins to take charge of the area surrounding Jerusalem at His coming. He will fight against those who fought against Jerusalem. It appears there is a battle of survival for the Jewish people at Jerusalem when He comes.

“Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, ‘Thus saith the Lord GOD; “Behold, I *am* against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: and I **will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee**, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: and I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that *is* with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and *to* the beasts of the field to be devoured. Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken *it*,” saith the Lord GOD. “And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I *am* the LORD”” (Ezek. 39:1-6).

We find this account recorded in Zechariah 14:12-15, “And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all **the people that have fought against Jerusalem**;

their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* a great tumult from the LORD shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour. And **Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem**; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance. And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague.”

The description above may well be a last-ditch effort by the Jewish people. They may use a neutron bomb to wipe out their enemies, or it will be the power of our Lord at His coming. This is the only place in the Bible where such destruction is described. It does not match with the account given for the final battle of Armageddon in Revelation 16:16 near the end of the three and one-half years of Christ’s ministry.

Seven Last Plagues Third Woe Jesus Christ’s Ministry Completed

In Daniel 9:24-27 we find the very important seventy-weeks prophecy. In verse 27 we see a vital statement which has everything to do with the Third Woe and the Seven Last Plagues, “And **He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease...**” This prophecy was speaking of Jesus Christ. The ministry of Jesus Christ was to continue for a week, which in prophecy would equal seven years. However, He was cut off in the middle of the week. The first half of His ministry continued only three and one-half years before He gave His life for us all. But in that act, the need for sacrifices was abolished. Jesus Christ became the perfect sacrifice for sin, causing the oblations to cease. This prophecy revealed there yet remains the second half of Christ’s ministry to be fulfilled!

Jesus will finish the remaining three and one-half years of His Ministry to execute The Seven Last Plagues (Third Woe). He will complete His tasks of bringing salvation to many and judgment on the wicked. Jesus Christ then binds Satan and cleanses the earth of Satan’s systems and governments.

When Jesus came to the earth His first time, He came as a helpless baby wrapped in rags and placed in a manger. However, when He comes again, He will come as King of kings and Lord of lords! He came first in humility and disgrace. Nevertheless, His second coming will be with **POWER AND GREAT AUTHORITY!**

And when Christ returns, He will begin to clean house big time! The whole world will be cleansed from the stain of Satan’s control. No longer will there be governments of the world run by dictators and tyrants possessed by Satan and the demons. There will be no more influences to do wickedness and evil; no more pull to kill and injure other people. The plague of darkness will be over. There won’t be dark matter filling

televisions, movies, video games, and the internet any more.

Seven Last Plagues

When Jesus begins cleaning up the earth, all the dead in Christ will already be resurrected. The righteous worshipers of God will have received their reward of eternal life and, at that point, only the wicked will remain physically alive on the earth. God will then pour out His wrath on those who have snubbed their noises at the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the offer of salvation, and the opportunity to be children of God in His Kingdom.

In Revelation 15:1 John witnessed the next scene in heaven, “And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.” The prophecies surrounding this part of the Day of the Lord are spoken of as the seven last vials, bowls, or plagues that God pronounces on the wicked in Revelation 16.

This will be a terrible time to be alive as a human being! “And the LORD shall utter His voice before His army: for His camp *is* very great: for *He is* strong that executeth His word: for **the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?**” (Joel 2:11). This prophecy is speaking of the seven last plagues which constitute the wrath of God poured out on the remaining wicked that are on the earth.

I hope you can visualize the earth at this point. Jesus Christ has come again. All the saints that were resurrected from the dead and all Christian worshipers of God who are alive are changed into their spirit bodies as they rise to meet Christ in the air. God’s government is being established at Jerusalem on this earth. Rebellion and wickedness are being stamped out. Satan and His demons are yet around influencing the wicked. However, by these seven last plagues, Jesus Christ is systematically destroying Satan’s power and his governments on the earth.

When God establishes His Kingdom and government on the earth, He could simply blot out the remaining people, bind Satan and all the demons, and be done with the whole mess. Then He could start His Government of peace. Nevertheless, even these seven last plagues are designed by God to allow any last, few human beings to come to repentance. That is why Jesus inspired John to write in Revelation 16:15, “**Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.**”

Why would Jesus say, “Behold, I come as a thief” when He has already come? It is because death could happen at any moment during these seven last plagues. Any who finally come to repentance must accept Jesus and clothe themselves with His righteousness. Only then would they be covered and not be spiritually naked!

So, even in these most difficult times, Jesus left humans with a measure of hope. Still, at this late hour, some few may yet wake up and turn to God in repentance. There is reason to have hope for all who finally come to believe, even at the latest hour, just as the

thief on the cross beside Jesus did. A few might still be saved out of this horrifying time. Even during these seven last plagues, you see the love of God in action!

First of the Seven Last Plagues

All of these seven last plagues flow without relief from one to the next. This is what happens to those who insist on fighting against God.

The Seven Last Plagues are described in Revelation 16. The first angel, “...**poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore [malignant sores] upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image**” (Rev. 16:2). This very painful plague will be poured out upon those who helped the beast with its rigorous torture and murder of God’s people. It will continue as the second angel pours out his plague.

With this plague, God begins His judgment on the great whore (the Roman Church’s governmental system) and on all who followed her evil ways of wickedness against the true worshipers of God.

Repentance is always good. And God is allowing room for anyone, even at this late hour, to repent.

Second of the Seven Last Plagues

“And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead *man*: and every living soul died in the sea” (Rev. 16:3).

Can you imagine what great carnage this would cause? The seas, in this second of the seven last plagues, are going to be totally devoid of life and turned red as blood. Only this time they will be much worse than those that occurred in the second trumpet. The Greek word for blood (*aima*) means “of those things that resemble blood.” It really doesn’t matter whether it becomes real blood or just looks like blood, the result is the same. The same Greek word is used here in Revelation 16:3 and 8:8. This plague could be a repeat, on a greater scale, of the oceans heating up causing the red algae bloom. This time, everything in the seas would die.

As a side note, a recent news report stated that, on the West coast of the United States of America, the brown pelicans and many other types of marine life have been dying or left sick and weakened by domoic acid poisoning. In the ocean south of Los Angeles, the waters have tested positive for poisonous algae.

All these plagues sent by God are designed to cause people to turn to Him in repentance and, at the same time, bring God’s judgment on the wicked. What will it take for people to change? How much suffering is enough to cause mankind to turn to God and repent of all its sins?

Third of the Seven Last Plagues

“And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood” (Rev. 16:4). This shows the same plague that occurred in the oceans will happen in the fresh waters of the earth as well. Because of this plague, drinking water will be very hard to find. Here again, it is through hardship and extreme difficulties that God is trying to see if any more people are willing to come to repentance.

Fourth of the Seven Last Plagues

“And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give Him glory” (Rev. 16:8-9).

With the increased temperatures will come drought, famine, and many diseases and sicknesses.

The Prophet Isaiah recorded his account of this event, **“Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man’s heart shall melt: and they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it”** (Isa. 13:6-9).

The Apostle Peter also prophesied about these days, “. . .in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (II Pet. 3:10). Any significant increase in the temperature of the earth would cause some of the elements that are listed on the periodic table to melt.

The flesh of men will cook and possibly melt off their bones. This plague of scorching heat and the one to follow, extreme darkness (and perhaps frigid cold), could all happen by a “slingshot orbit” of the earth around the sun; that is, the earth coming very close to the sun then being hurled far out into the solar system.

Fifth of the Seven Last Plagues

“And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds” (Rev. 16:10-11). “The seat of the beast”—this would be Rome. Remember the words of Jesus, “Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double...” (Rev. 18:6). So God will remember the sins of the government and religious power that

inflicted such destruction on His people.

Chapters Seventeen and Eighteen of Revelation explain the history of the great whore and the torture she has caused the Church to endure. God here pronounces His judgment and punishes her double for all her sins.

Isaiah again explains these shocking events, “Howl ye; for the day of the LORD *is* at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.” “For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. **And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.** I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir” (Isa. 13:6, 10-12). People will be consistently dying off like flies. God is going to wipe the attitudes of pride and arrogance from the earth. There will be few people left on earth when these plagues are finished.

Can you imagine the torture of being fried to a crisp for days on end, only to have all the sources of heat and light go out? There could be extreme cold and darkness that could chatter the teeth and freeze a person to the bone.

In this plague, we see the effects of all the former plagues: the malignant sores, the terrible thirst, the skin peeling off, the flesh being burned, then the darkness and possibly bone-chilling cold.

Sixth of the Seven Last Plagues

“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, **to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.** And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue **Armageddon**” (Rev. 16:12-16).

Even at this late hour, God is still pleading with any last person that would desire to repent! Jesus Christ is offering a last chance to come to God before the great battle of Armageddon begins.

This battle of Armageddon is Satan’s last attempt to stop Jesus Christ from establishing the Kingdom of God on the earth. These three evil spirits that came from Satan, the beast, and the false prophet will influence the remaining wicked and rebellious people to gather at the valley of Armageddon to make their final stand.

“And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, **‘Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.’** And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, **and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.** And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs [two hundred miles]” (Rev. 14:17-20).

In Ezekiel 38:14-23 God told Ezekiel, “Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, ‘Thus saith the Lord GOD; “In that day when My people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know *it*? And thou shalt come **from thy place out of the north parts**, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: and thou shalt come up against My people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; **it shall be in the latter days**, and I will bring thee against My land, that the heathen may know Me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.” Thus saith the Lord GOD; “*Art* thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by My servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days *many* years that I would bring thee against them? And it shall come to pass at **the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel**,” saith the Lord GOD, “*that My fury shall come up in My face*. For in My jealousy *and* in the fire of My wrath have I spoken, ‘**Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; so that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that *are* upon the face of the earth, shall shake at My presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.**’ And I will call for a sword against him throughout all My mountains [governments],” saith the Lord GOD: “**every man’s sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that *are* with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.** Thus will I magnify Myself, and sanctify Myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I *am* the LORD.””

This overflowing rain mixed with blood is what will flow to the height of the horse’s bridle (Rev. 14:20). This prophecy is a combination of the sixth and seventh of the seven last plagues. This great earthquake takes place during the seventh plague.

Isaiah the Prophet explains this event, “For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with His chariots like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. **For by fire and by His sword will the LORD plead with all flesh:** and the slain of the LORD shall be many” (Isa. 66:15-16).

In Joel 3:9-17 this great battle is explained in more detail, “Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; ‘Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, “I *am* strong.”’ Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather

yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. **‘Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great.’** **Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.** [For the second time there will be heavenly signs before this tremendous battle.] The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD *will be* the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel. ‘So shall ye know that I *am* the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem [God’s New Jerusalem] be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.’”

Then John said, “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies *which were* in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and **He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.** And He hath on *His* vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the **fowls** that fly in the midst of heaven, ‘Come and **gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;** that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men, both* free and bond, both small and great.’ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army. And **the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet** that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. **These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.** And the remnant were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of His mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh” (Rev. 19:11-21).

Seventh of the Seven Last Plagues Great Earthquake

“And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, ‘**It is done.**’ And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and **there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God [punished for the second time during these plagues], to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.** And

every island fled away [there will be no islands if there is no more sea], and the mountains were not found [the surface of the earth will be smoothed out. It will probably mean the ocean depths will be raised and the mountains lowered]. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, *every stone* about the weight of a talent [seventy to one hundred pounds]: and men blasphemed God because of the **plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great**” (Rev. 16:17-21).

A report was delivered by Isaiah regarding this time, “Behold, **the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down**, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof” (Isa. 24:1). All this was happening while a few people were yet alive on the earth.

This seventh plague will complete the wrath of Almighty God upon a wicked and sinful world. Everything from this world’s society today will be destroyed. Jesus Christ will solidify His power and begin His reign as King of kings and Lord of lords over the whole earth. Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years. The earth itself will be so transformed and remodeled that it will not be recognized as the same planet.

There will very likely be a shift of the polar axis of the earth. This will mean new North and South magnetic poles. Such shaking and wobbling of the earth will result in severe weather and violent storms, unlike mankind has ever experienced. This will produce the seventy to one hundred-pound blocks of ice, which will fall from the sky.

Isaiah explained this earthquake, “**Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of His fierce anger**” (Isa. 13:13). We could even have a new earth orbit with a different number of days in a year, at least, for awhile.

God shows us the extent of this violent earthquake in Ezekiel 38:19-23, “‘For in My jealousy *and* in the fire of My wrath have I spoken, “**Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; so that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that *are* upon the face of the earth, shall shake at My presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.” And I will call for a sword against him [Gog] throughout all My mountains [nations],’ saith the Lord GOD: ‘every man’s sword shall be against his brother. And **I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that *are* with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.** Thus will I magnify Myself, and sanctify Myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I *am* the LORD.’”**

Even more of this seventh and final plague is mentioned in Isaiah 24:18-20, “...**the windows from on high are open [hail will fall from heaven], and the foundations of the earth do shake. The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved,**

the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.”

When God says, “Behold I make all things new,” He means nothing will resemble the old landscape when He finishes His fury on the earth.

Now, at the end of God’s wrath, begins the Wonderful World Tomorrow spoken of by the prophets down through the ages. The seven last plagues complete the three and one-half years of the second half of Jesus Christ ministry (Dan. 9:27). It also completes the end of the 1,000-year Day of the Lord.

This begins the fulfillment of God’s plan of establishing the Kingdom of God on the earth. The Gospel Jesus brought announced the Kingdom of God and the rulership of Jesus over the whole earth.

This new ruling Government of God on the earth will be composed of Spirit beings born into the God family. Jesus Christ was the firstborn of many other brothers to be born into God’s family (Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:10).

John recorded in Revelation 21:1-7 what he saw at the end of these seven last plagues, “And **I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, ‘Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.’ And He that sat upon the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And he said unto me, ‘Write: for these words are true and faithful.’ And He said unto me, ‘It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.’”

You will note that after this “new heaven and new earth” is formed and the sea is gone, there will still be people on the earth. The tabernacle, or dwelling of God in the person of Jesus Christ, will be with men. This will be a different world! The old world of Satan’s influence will be gone with all the heartache and sorrow. It will be a fresh new world in which to live!

This time was also prophesied by Isaiah, “For, **behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.** But be ye glad and rejoice for ever *in that* which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying” (Isa. 65:17-19).

Jesus Christ will not patch up this world and its systems. He will start all over with a new world and a fresh environment. There will be no more sicknesses or diseases, so hospitals and treatment centers just won't exist.

During this time of the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ, there will be no need to die. As a person matures in godly character, he will be transformed into a son of God and into the family of God. During the 1,000-year reign of Christ, people will live a very long time, similar to the lifespan of those before the flood in Noah's day. "...For as the days of a tree *are* the days of My people, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands" (Isa. 65:22).

The Kingdom of God will now be established on the earth. What a wonderful time it will be!

This brings us to the end of all the events represented by the Feast of Trumpets. By observing the Feast of Trumpets, God wanted us to remember these prophecies. **The Feast of Trumpets pictures The Day of the Lord** and everything leading up to and through the climactic Second Coming of Jesus Christ. It also covers the second half of Christ's ministry to carry out God's wrath upon the wicked and to end Satan's government on the earth. God the Father gave His plan to Jesus sealed with seven seals, and it was Jesus who opened them so the Church would be able to understand the events leading up to His GLORIOUS KINGDOM!

This ends everything pictured in the thousand-year Day of the Lord and all that the Feast of Trumpets represents!

Feast of Atonement Wedding Banquet of the Lamb

Now we come to the rest of the festivals of the Lord that represent the remaining aspects of God's plan for mankind. Do we realize that Jesus continues to show us these details as He opens the Bible to our understanding throughout the Book of Revelation?

The Israelites were given a glimpse into events to come. In Leviticus 16 and 23:27-32, God showed, through this Holy Convocation of Atonement, what is revealed in its fulfillment in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Chapters of Revelation.

Just as it has been the custom for many of the Jewish people and Christians, who observe the annual Festivals of the Lord to be married before the Feast of Tabernacles, so the Lamb of God will be married before He begins His reign as King of kings for 1,000 years. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne" (Rev. 3:21).

Because Jesus Christ made atonement for our sins, we have been given right standing with God. This allows us to be at-one, or "at-one-ment," with God. That is what this day of Atonement pictures. This will be the time of the Wedding Banquet of the Lamb and

the “at-one-ment” that occurs between God and human beings.

We see this explained in rich detail in the Nineteenth Chapter of Revelation, “And a voice came out of the throne, saying, ‘Praise our God, all ye His servants, and ye that fear Him, both small and great.’ And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, ‘Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. **Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready.’ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, ‘Write, “Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb...”’” (Rev. 19:5-9).**

If you would like to learn much more about this wedding banquet and the bride of Christ, please go to our website www.thelittlebook.com and, under the list of booklets, download your free copy of [A Bride for His Son](#).

John explains this at-one-ment with Christ, “And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a **bride adorned for her husband**. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, ‘**Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God**’” (Rev. 21:2-3). This is the true atonement and the fulfillment of God’s plan from the foundation of the world.

We come to realize that the atoning work of Christ and our oneness with Him in the wedding of the Lamb pictures a type of the future oneness we will all have with the Father as Christ delivers up the Kingdom to the Father. (More on this final “At-one-ment” with the Father will be covered later.)

When Christ is united with His Bride, there will still be physical life on the earth. Those who are alive at the end of God’s wrath of the seven last plagues can come to repentance and drink of the fountain of life freely. They wouldn’t have to drink of the fountain of life if they already had the gift of eternal life. There will still be people overcoming (Rev. 21:6-7) after Jesus said, “It is done.” But for those few who survive The Great Tribulation and Seven Last Plagues, the offer of salvation, despite everything, remains open. The blood of Christ is still available to cover their sins, if they repent.

Atonement and Satan’s Banishment

After the great battle of Armageddon, Satan is bound. This banishment of Satan occurs by a two-part procedure. At first, he is placed into captivity and bound for a thousand years. “**Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. He seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for a thousand years. The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished.** Afterward he must be released for a little while” (Rev. 20:1-3 NLT). The final

sentencing will occur after he has been loosed for a short season at the end of the thousand-year reign of Christ.

Satan's punishment was depicted years ago by the instructions God gave to Moses. In Leviticus 16 and 23:27-32, God revealed these details on the Day of Atonement. The example of the two goats told what was to happen at the end of the age. The priest was to take the two goats to the door of the tabernacle and cast lots to determine which goat was to be the Lord's goat. (This goat represented Jesus Christ; it was Christ that has made possible our "at-one-ment" with God.) It was this goat that was to be sacrificed for the sins of the people. The other goat was brought before the people and the sins of the people were laid on the head of this other goat. It was then taken away into the wilderness by a fit man (angel in Rev. 20:3; see Lev. 16:21). This goat represented Satan.

Because Satan can't die, he will be sent bound into the wilderness (the bottomless pit) for 1,000 years. He will be loosed for a short time and then receive his final judgment from God. Satan was the one that brought sin into the world; therefore, he will carry that weight and that responsibility into the lake of fire for all eternity.

This is further explained in the following prophecy of Isaiah, "And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones *that are* on high [Satan and the demons], and the kings of the earth upon the earth [by slaying them at the battle of Armageddon]. **And they [Satan and demons] shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days [1,000 years] shall they be visited** [Satan will be loosed for a short time at the end of the 1,000 years of Christ's reign]. Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before His ancients gloriously" (Isa. 24:21-23).

The Apostle Paul made an important comment when he said, "Know ye not that we shall judge angels?..." (I Cor. 6:3). This judging of the angels will happen as a part of the sentencing of Satan to the bottomless pit and later into the lake of fire. This was all pictured in the judgment pronounced on the second goat on the Day of Atonement as recorded in Leviticus 16.

We, as members of the Family of God, will be those who will judge the angels. Do we remember that it was the priest who pronounced the sins of the people upon the second goat which represented Satan? Jesus Christ will forever be the High Priest, but we are to be kings and priests in the Kingdom of God. We, with Christ, will pronounce all the sins, from the time of Adam throughout all the existence of mankind, upon the head of Satan and his demons. It is Satan that will bear the sins of humanity for all eternity in the lake of fire.

The beast and the false prophet are destroyed in the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20) and Satan is bound and thrown into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:10). All God's trumpet plagues and the seven last plagues are over. Satan and the demons are out

of commission and Jesus Christ has taken the reigns of government over the whole world and we, as kings and priests, will rule with Jesus Christ for 1,000 years. It will be a wonderful time of great peace, joy, and prosperity like this world has never known!

So this brings an end to Satan's kingdoms and government. Satan's regime that held domination over the whole earth will be over. Never forget the world today is Satan's and the kingdoms of this earth are his (Matt. 4:8-9). His reign will only last until Jesus comes again.

Jesus, at this point, said, "It is done" (Rev. 21:6). This marks the end of Satan's rule of the earth.

All mankind will finally have the opportunity to be "at-one-ment" with God. God, in the person of Jesus Christ our King, will dwell with humanity in the Wonderful World Tomorrow. Salvation will be open to everyone, everywhere on earth.

The Twenty-first Chapter of Revelation begins to explain some of the events of the Day of Atonement. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."

After the seven last plagues, there will be no resemblance of the earth today. Massive changes will totally remodel the earth. It will indeed be a new heaven and a new earth! No wall from the old cities will remain. Jesus shows the great expanses of oceans will be gone and there will be no more islands. With great upheavals of the ocean floors and the pulling down of the mountains, the surface of the earth will be utterly changed. With a possible relocation of the North and South polar axis and the fervent heat experienced during the fourth of the seven last plagues, some of the elements of the earth will have melted.

As we have said before, much of prophecy has aspects of duality. The Day of Atonement is one such area of God's plan. Several things happen in the fulfillment of this day. Becoming "at-one" with God can happen at various times in our life. The way we can become "at-one" with the Father is by repenting of our sins and accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Then we are baptized and, by the laying on of hands from a servant of God, we receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit. This allows us right standing with God, then we are able to walk with Him in newness of life.

Fulfillment of this day is also pictured when we are changed from this physical body into our immortal bodies. We then will be "at-one" with God in the final sense.

This oneness with Christ is pictured in the Wedding Banquet of the Lamb. Those accounted worthy to be part of the bride will also experience a special oneness with Jesus Christ. The New Jerusalem is portrayed as a bride coming down out of heaven adorned for her husband (Rev. 21:2-3).

Feast of Tabernacles The Kingdom of God The One-Thousand-Year Reign of Jesus Christ

The next festival in God's plan is the Feast of Tabernacles. The Kingdom of God is portrayed by the Feast of Tabernacles. This is the time Jesus Christ will reign as King over the whole earth.

In Leviticus 23:33-36, God explained the Feast of Tabernacles. It was to be a **time of great rejoicing**. It was sometimes called the Feast of Ingathering, as God's festivals were centered on the harvest seasons of the year (Ex. 23:16). This feast occurred after the fall harvest.

After the harvest was in, it was time to reflect and be thankful for the bounty and blessings God gave. It was an occasion to rejoice and relax with one's family for an entire week. The family patriarch would recount the hand of God in his life by showing God's blessings to his family. He would teach everyone to be **THANKFUL FOR ALL GOD'S KINDNESSES!**

God told Israel, "Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the **first day shall be a sabbath**, and on the **eighth day shall be a sabbath**. And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook [they were to build a temporary dwelling—a booth or tabernacle]; and **ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days**. And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. *It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month*" (Lev. 23:39-41). Because they were told to live in temporary booths or "tabernacles," it was called the Feast of Tabernacles.

Part of this festival season was to be spent looking forward to a future time when God would set up His Government and Kingdom on the earth!

Even Jesus, as His custom was, kept the Feast of Tabernacles. We find a frank discussion recorded by John between Jesus and His physical brothers about the Feast of Tabernacles in John 7:2-10. "Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. His brethren therefore said unto Him, 'Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that Thy disciples also may see the works that Thou doest. For *there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If Thou do these things, show Thyself to the world.*' For neither did His brethren believe in Him. Then Jesus said unto them, 'My time is not yet come: but your time is alway[s] ready. The world cannot hate you; but Me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. **Go ye up unto this feast:** I go not up yet unto this feast; for My time is not yet full come.' When He had said these words unto them, He abode *still* in Galilee. But **when His brethren were gone up, then went He also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret.**" Jesus later appeared at the Feast of Tabernacles, preached before the

congregation, and had various discussions with the crowd.

After the fierceness of the wrath of God has been poured out through the seven last plagues and Jesus has established the Kingdom of God, Zechariah wrote, “And it shall come to pass, *that* everyone that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even **go up from year to year to worship the King**, the LORD of hosts, and **to keep the feast of tabernacles**. And it shall be, *that* **whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain**. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that *have* no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles” (Zech. 14:16-19). The Feast of Tabernacles will be a huge event in the Wonderful World Tomorrow because Jesus Christ has much to teach the citizens of the world about God’s plan for them.

Many Christians glory in calling themselves “Gentiles” today as if it was some badge of honor not to be called a Spiritual Jew or an Israelite. Well, worshipers of God, get used to the idea of The Feast of Tabernacles! In the Wonderful World Tomorrow—The Kingdom of God, any humans that are alive, will go up from year to year to keep the seven days of The Feast of Tabernacles. They will also celebrate the Last Great Day of the Feast which represents the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11) at Jerusalem.

Under the leadership and rule of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, the earth’s population will expand. And when the 1,000 years are finished, there will be millions and millions again on the earth.

Isaiah also prophesied of this Government of God on earth that illustrates the thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ and speaks of the time of the Great White Throne Judgment as well. “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of His roots: and the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; and shall make Him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and He shall not judge after the sight of His eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of His ears: but with righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and faithfulness the girdle of His reins. **The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain [Kingdom]: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Isa. 11:1-9).**

And again in Isaiah 65:17-25, “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth [Rev. 21]: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever *in that* which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner *being* an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: **for as the days of a tree are the days of My people**, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they *are* the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. **The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent’s meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,’ saith the LORD.**”

What a glorious and wonderful time to be alive under the government of God and the rulership of Jesus Christ! Have you any idea what it will be like? It will be Heaven on earth! It will be so delightful when the former world and that way of life will be forgotten and not even come to mind.

The most beautiful part of this whole picture, before people begin to pray, God will give answers to their prayers. He will guide them continuously in the way that leads to everlasting life.

Prosperity and blessings will bloom everywhere! People will build their own homes and live in them for generations. No more will people be paying for their homes two or three times over with thirty-year mortgages. There will not be contractors building thousands of homes a year to sell. Men will plant their own crops, vineyards, and fruit trees and enjoy the fruit of their own labor. There won’t be the huge agricultural businesses with thousands of acres of crops to market to others. The pace of life will slow down as people delight in what they produce. They will finally be off Satan’s treadmill!

Can you imagine the prosperity when people will not be taxed to death just to run a government? The earth will have a Theocracy. Jesus will be King and you will reign with Him as a king or priest. Do you realize all those in governmental offices will be spirit beings, born into the God Family? Now think of the cost-saving differences between a government that has no needs and the human governments of today!

Even the nature of animals will be changed. The lion will eat hay like the ox and the serpent will have the same digestion system as the earthworm. There will be no danger from animals in all the Kingdom of God.

Isaiah prophesied about this wonderful, new world set in order by Jesus Christ, “**The**

wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, *and* the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *even* God *with* a recompense; He will come and save you.’

“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped [these will happen both physically and spiritually]. Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, *shall be* grass with reeds and rushes. And **an highway shall be there, and a way**, and it shall be called **The way of holiness**; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*. No lion shall be there, nor *any* ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but **the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away**” (Isa. 35:1-10).

God describes this same time in Revelation 21:3-5, “...Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.** [Did you notice Jesus said the tabernacle of God is with men? This is the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles.] And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new [All the curses placed on man because of sin will be removed]...’” And in verses 6-8, “And He said unto me, ‘It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. **I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.** But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: **which is the second death** [not eternal life in hellfire].”

This is the fulfillment of God’s plan, from before the foundation of the world, to bring many sons into His family. This is the complete Gospel that Jesus came to announce—the Gospel, or Good News, of the Kingdom of God. It is the mystery and secret God has been hiding from mankind, but He has been revealing it to the Church.

Words cannot express the atmosphere of joy, happiness, and peace that will be present as God’s government rules the earth.

Satan Loosed for a Short Season

All humans have been tested by Satan at some time during their lifetime. Satan has been around since before Adam was on the earth. Everyone, in this era of civilization, has experienced the result of sin in this evil world. However, nearly all who live in the thousand-year reign of Christ will have had no involvement or dealings with Satan and his demons. They too, must be tested to determine whether they will be followers of God or Satan.

“**And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever**” (Rev. 20:7-10). Satan will receive his final judgment and reward for all the pain, destruction, and wickedness he has caused.

Fire will come down from God out of heaven on all those who willingly followed Satan after they had before them the evidence and result of the one-thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ on the earth. They had the chance to understand every aspect of the offer of salvation and yet somehow followed Satan.

It seems the people of Gog and Magog never became totally convinced of the way of life God offered. Fire will come down from God and consume them.

The Last Great Day The Great White Throne Judgment

Immediately after the Feast of Tabernacles comes the Last Great Day in God’s Plan as shown in Leviticus 23:36, John 7:37, and Revelation 20:11-15.

After the end of the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ will come **the Great White Throne Judgment**. “**And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell [Hades—the grave] delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire**” (Rev. 20:11-15).

This is a physical resurrection of all peoples and nations who have never

received the Holy Spirit during their lifetime and have not committed the unpardonable sin. Many of your friends and relatives throughout all generations will be resurrected. It will be all those who have not received eternal life at the first resurrection. To have a “first resurrection” presupposes at least one more resurrection and this is it!

Ezekiel had a vision about this period of time in God’s great plan, “The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the **valley which was full of bones**, and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and, lo, *they were* very dry. And he said unto me, ‘**Son of man, can these bones live?**’ And I answered, ‘**O Lord GOD, thou knowest.**’ Again He said unto me, ‘**Prophecy upon these bones**, and say unto them, “**O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; ‘Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: and I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.’”**” So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them. Then said He unto me, ‘Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, “Thus saith the Lord GOD; ‘Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’”’ **So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Then He said unto me, ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, “Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.” Therefore prophesy and say unto them, “Thus saith the Lord GOD; ‘Behold, O My people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up out of your graves, and shall put My spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it,’ saith the LORD”**’” (Ezek. 37:1-14). This is a physical resurrection!

This picture is showing the Great White Throne Judgment in marvelous detail as revealed by Jesus in Revelation 20:11-15.

Another example of this prophecy is found in Isaiah. This prophecy pictures the thousand-year reign of Christ and this Great White Throne Judgment. This period of time is a continuation of Christ’s rulership and government, just as the Last Great Day was a direct extension of the Feast of Tabernacles, with a few noticeable differences.

The judgment period will last 100 years. There will be no new babies born. It will not matter if a baby has died at birth, or a few days old, or whether an old man has lived a full, long life; everyone will live for 100 years. **They will then be judged on how they lived this second life with the full knowledge and understanding of the Truth. And at the end of that time, they will either become children of God with new spirit bodies, or receive a reward of eternal death in the lake of fire.** The Holy Spirit of

God will be as freely available as water to drink and there will be no one who will not have access to God and His plan for them personally. “For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters [now] cover the sea” (Hab. 2:14).

“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever *in that* which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. **There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner *being* an hundred years old shall be accursed.** And they shall build houses, and inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree *are* the days of My people, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they *are* the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust *shall be* the serpent’s meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith the LORD” (Isa. 65:17-25).

There won’t be sadness and crying anymore. There won’t be any children dying at birth or a few days old. All people will live 100 years. They will be judged during their lifetime on the choices and decisions they have made. And at the end of the 100 years, they will receive their reward—eternal life or eternal death. Each will be judged according to their works (Rev. 20:12-13).

There is a point that should be made here. The reward of the wicked is not eternal life in hellfire. That is the fate of Satan and his demons (Matt. 25:41). Satan would have humans think that is the reward of the wicked, when actually it is his own destiny. The reward of the wicked is eternal death. The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23) not everlasting life in hellfire. People are made of flesh and flesh burns up in fire. “...Fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matt. 10:28). The soul will be destroyed, not live on. God, in His mercy, will put all people out of their misery who insist on living in the pain and agony of sin.

God is love. “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance**” (II Pet. 3:9).

God has always had an orderly plan for creating a family. This plan is centered around the resurrections. Christ was the first to be resurrected from the dead. All who belong to Christ will be resurrected from the dead when He returns. After that, at the end of the 1,000-year reign of Christ, will come the Great White Throne Judgment, which is the second resurrection. After this final judgment, Jesus will, “...turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. For Christ

must reign until He humbles all His enemies beneath His feet. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death. For the Scriptures say, ‘God has put all things under His authority.’ (Of course, when it says ‘all things are under His authority,’ that does not include God Himself, who gave Christ His authority.) Then, when all things are under His authority, the Son will put Himself under God’s authority, so that God, who gave His Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere” (I Cor. 15:24-28 NLT).

Because the Father didn’t call those of this second resurrection into a relationship with His son (John 6:44) during their first lifetime, they were not being judged. Remember the words of Peter, “Judgment begins with the house of God” (I Pet. 4:17). Furthermore, remember the words of Jesus to John in Revelation 11:1-2. The people of the temple and the altar are being measured, or judged, now but the Gentiles (unbelievers) were going to be judged later. That later time is during this Great White Throne Judgment.

This Last Great Day in God’s plan epitomizes the love of God! God, in His mercy, knows and realizes that mankind has always been under the government and sway of Satan and the demons. This has all been part of His master plan. God wants everyone to know and experience that Satan’s way of sin is destructive and causes much pain, heartache, sorrow, and death.

This day represents the Master’s stroke of genius in His plan. It will allow all those who have never experienced the grace of God to live in a world without Satan and the demons around to influence them. It will be a wonderful, new world run by God through His Son Jesus Christ.

In the temple at Jerusalem, “**In the last day, that great *day* of the feast**, Jesus stood and cried, saying, ‘If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.’ (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)” (John 7:37-39). You see, it will be at this Last Great Day that the Holy Spirit will be offered freely to every human being that has ever lived on this earth!

Jesus was picturing the final step in God’s plan of bringing the offer of salvation to everyone. Salvation is now open only to those whom the Father will call. None can come to Jesus currently, unless the Father calls them into a relationship with His Son.

It may come as a shock to you, but salvation is not open to everyone now! Jesus said, “**No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him:** and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44).

Our loving, Almighty, and everlasting God has devised a plan to have a family since before He created the world. Yes, God the Creator of the universe is not impotent! He can reproduce after the Godkind! And, in this plan, He will bring many, many sons into

eternal life with Him. It was His plan from the beginning to share everything about Himself and all that He has with His children!

Jesus was only the firstborn of many brothers and sisters to be born into the family of God! “For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, He called them to come to Him. And having called them, He gave them right standing with Himself. And having given them right standing, He gave them His glory” (Rom. 8:29-30 NLT).

God, in His Plan, made Jesus, “...a little a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became Him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings” (Heb. 2:9-10).

All those resurrected to physical life once again during the Great White Throne Judgment of God will have already experienced life under the sway of Satan and been subjected to his evil grip on mankind. Therefore, they will not need that experience again to decide to follow Jesus Christ or Satan. The contrast will be remarkable and unmistakable. After their time of 100 years of judgment, they will either inherit eternal life or be consumed in the lake of fire.

“And He that sat upon the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said unto me, ‘Write: for these words are true and faithful.’ And he said unto me, ‘It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: **which is the second death**” (Rev. 21:5-8).

After the Great White Throne Judgment, the entire earth will be burned up with fervent heat (Mark 13:31; Matt. 24:35; II Pet. 3:10).

The Apostle Peter prophesied, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

“*Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” (II Pet. 3:10-12).

Now we see the final chapter in God’s marvelous plan. After the thousand-year reign of Christ and the Great White Throne Judgment, we witness the Kingdom of God

given over to the Father after Jesus has placed all things under His feet.

The Apostle Paul tried to give us a picture of this climatic conclusion, “Then *cometh* the end, when He [Jesus Christ] shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet” (I Cor. 15:24-25).

Many prophecies of the Bible speak of Jesus coming to announce the Kingdom of God and the wonderful World Tomorrow. We finally see a picture of the Kingdom being delivered up to the Father, which is the fulfillment of all His plans from before the foundation of the world.

There aren't words to explain the **Awesomeness, Wonder, and Glory of that time!**

May God speed the Day of His Kingdom!

The world is in for very rough times ahead. Terrifying days are coming! However, the delightful good news is that Christ's New World Government will bring happiness, joy, and peace that will never end.

What Shall We Do?

Jesus is alpha and omega—the beginning and the end. “...The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev. 19:10 NLT). The purpose of all Bible prophecy is to give a complete chronicle of the life of Jesus and bring us into a closer relationship with the Father through His Son Jesus Christ.

God has told us in the pages of Isaiah the prophet, “...to this *man* will I look, *even to him that is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word” (Isa. 66:2). If we humble ourselves before God by repenting of all our sins, and for being so stiff-necked and self-willed, He will answer our cries for help and guidance. We need to ask God to come into our lives in a profound and personal way through the mighty power of His Holy Spirit.

When the Apostle Peter was asked, “...What shall we do?” Then Peter said unto them, ‘**Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call’” (Acts 2:37-39).

In the book of James, you are instructed about what God wants you to do, “**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil,** and he will flee from you. **Draw nigh to God,** and He will draw nigh to you. **Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn [repent], and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and **He shall lift you up**” (Jas. 4:7-10).**

God says, “If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin...” (II Chron. 7:14). ““For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,’ says the LORD, ‘thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you,’ says the LORD, ‘and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,’ says the LORD, ‘and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive’” (Jer. 29:11-14 NKJV).

We must turn to God with all our heart and not lean any more on our own understanding (Pro. 3:5). If we draw near to God, He will come closer to us, and if we ask, He will guide us through His Holy Spirit into a closer relationship with His Son Jesus Christ.

The times are later than you think! Nations are now on paths to self-destruction. The storm clouds of war and disaster are looming on the horizon. Now is the time for all to repent and draw closer to God! If you turn to God with all your heart, you will not be rejected by Him. Do it now while you still have the time!

As Satan continues his assault upon the worshipers of God, God will answer by sending Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords at the last trumpet blast.

Please remember the words of Jesus as recorded by Luke. Don’t ignore the warning signs of the days in which you live. “...Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting [carousing], and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and *so* that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man**” (Luke 21:34-36).

Be diligent to pray and continue to study the Word of God. Please visit our website often at www.thelittlebook.com to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Contact Us:

A Message from Jesus Ministry

P. O. Box 4483
Bethel Station
Spanaway, WA 98387

www.thelittlebook.com

or

www.amessagefromjesusministry.org

E-mail: amessagefromjesusministry@comcast.net

Additional Books

The Little Book

The Godhead, The Holy Spirit, The Family of God

Why Jesus Spoke In Parables

How Would God Have Us Worship Him?

The Gospel Truth

The Doctrines of Christ

How God's Work Is Accomplished

A Bride For His Son

Customs and Traditions of the First Century Church of God

If a Man Dies, Shall He Live Again?

The 1000-Year Day of the Lord

Understanding the Book of Revelation

<p>First Trumpet Extreme, Violent Weather</p> <p>Revelation 8:7</p>	<p>Over the past nearly 1,000 years, God has increasingly sent abnormal weather, extreme and violent conditions, such as hurricanes and tornadoes to get the attention of men. With this extreme weather have come lightning strikes and hailstorms causing forest fires and wild prairie fires to sweep over the earth. In these events, wild animals, livestock, and humans have been killed so, “fire and hail were mingled with blood.” Few have recognized that the hand of God has been trying to awaken mankind spiritually.</p>
<p>Second Trumpet Violence in the Sea</p> <p>Revelation 8:8-9</p>	<p>God has caused great mountains, burning with fire, to be cast into the sea from below! Volcanoes have erupted under the sea. Giant lava flows have caused the water temperatures to increase so we have had “red tide” which has killed vast quantities of life in the sea over the last nearly 1,000 years.</p>
<p>Third Trumpet Poisoned Minds</p> <p>Revelation 8:10-11</p>	<p>Wicked Satan (the Devil) and one-third of the angels, now demons, were cast to the earth and have affected one-third of the people (waters) of the earth. These “waters” are people that dwelled on the land surfaces of the earth (Rev. 17:15). The message Satan brought to mankind was a poisoned message of hatred toward God and human beings as well. This bitter poison (“Wormwood”) influenced one-third of the people on earth.</p>
<p>Fourth Trumpet Darkness of the Mind</p> <p>Revelation 8:12</p>	<p>In Genesis 37:9-10, Joseph tells his family of a dream he had. In the dream, the sun, moon, and the eleven stars bowed to him. In Bible prophecy, people can be referred to as the sun (men—husbands, fathers), moon (women—wives, mothers) and stars (children—siblings). “The darkness” spoken of here is more than the absence of knowing Jesus. This is a darkness of demented, evil, sinister, and reprobate minds! (See Rom. 1:21-32.)</p>
<p>Fifth Trumpet First Woe Industrial Revolution I & II World Wars</p> <p>Revelation 9:1-12</p>	<p>Jesus describes the Industrial Revolution in Revelation 9:1-12. God has given us a key. As we see in Numbers 14:33-34 and Ezekiel 4:1-6, God reveals a day for a year. 5 months X 30 days =150 days. 150 days=150 years. This is but a short time for Satan to do his damage. God is in complete control and is setting the limits, type, and duration of these plagues. Satan can only do what God allows.</p>
<p>Sixth Trumpet Second Woe World War III Great Tribulation</p> <p>Revelation 9:13-21</p>	<p>A 200 million-man army will trigger The Third World War with their diabolical and radical jihads designed to stamp out Judeo-Christian beliefs around the world, all in the name of Islam. These radicals kill Jews and Christians, thinking they are doing God’s will. Their action will awaken the Roman Empire which will also seek to destroy Christians and Jews. 144,000 zealous Worshipers of God will be sealed before the destruction begins with nuclear weapons. One-third of mankind will be killed by this plague.</p>
<p>The Seventh Trumpet Resurrection of Dead Transformation of Elect Second Coming of Christ Great Earthquake Ministry of Jesus Christ Lasts 3 ½ years Judgment on the Wicked Revelation 11:18</p>	<p>At the Seventh Trumpet, the dead in Christ are resurrected to spirit bodies. The Worshipers of God who are alive will be changed into spirit. Jesus will be seen in the clouds. As His feet touch the Mount of Olives, there will be a great earthquake. 7,000 will die. Jesus Christ completes His ministry and will pronounce God’s judgment upon the wicked through the seven last plagues.</p>