THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

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Chapter One

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

Among the many mysteries of life, the most challenging and exciting mysteries are found in the pages of the Bible. It is there that we ponder the meaning of life, the nature of God, the nature of evil, and the realities of our existence. But few mysteries have furrowed the questioning brow of the Christian church as deeply as the mystery of iniquity. Mysteries of God are buried under many layers of truth. To dig down to the bedrock, many layers of preconceptions need to be challenged and exposed. Inaccurate presuppositions must be peeled away, in search of the deeper mysteries of God buried within his Word.

It is not comfortable to consider that the pictures held in one’s mind; the pictures on which one bases their concepts of truth or theology, may be in error. I was an adult before I questioned the “flannel graph” Sunday school pictures in my mind of a young boy Daniel standing safely in the lion’s den. Once that picture was embedded I had no reason to question its validity, not until I saw a new picture developing from the biblical record. A picture of an older Daniel, 80ish, who had been a ruler of Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and now Darius. Deeper levels of understanding opened to me and the book of Daniel took on a texture to which I could not have previously related.

The mystery of iniquity is even more shrouded in the veils of flawed bias. We carry in our mind inaccurate pictures of what it is like in heaven at this hour, and the way it will be in the future. We have accepted pictures concerning the nature and timing of the return of Jesus Christ to gather the church, as they were spoken from the pulpit; not based on scripture, but upon traditions passed down in like manner from the previous generation. The phrase “mystery of iniquity” is used only once in the Bible, in II Thessalonians 2:7, yet the context of this phrase is extremely important to the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many Christians have read those words dozens of times without ever considering their significance.

Since mysteries are not readily understood by the uninquisitive perusal of a novice, these words have been treated as insignificant and inconsequential to the Christian church for hundreds of years. The manifestation of this mystery of iniquity, however, is soon to bring about one of the earth’s most spiritually and physically significant events. These incidents concern the last days preceding Christ’s return for his saints and his subsequent return to live and reign on earth for a thousand years. The events that will transpire in the near future will result in a profound disruption of life on the planet, the details of which Jesus himself wants his servants to read and accurately understand. Your life and mine are about to change dramatically because of the events that are about to take place in heaven and on the earth. At the time of Noah, God shook the earth in judgment. At the time of the end, he has declared that he will not only shake the earth, but he will shake the heavens as well. Jesus, and the angels under his command, will subdue all
authority in the heavens and on earth in preparation for the binding and ultimate destruction of Satan. Powers in the spirit realm must be broken and bound in preparation for the reign of Christ on earth.

To understand the mystery of iniquity, or any other biblical mystery, we personally are responsible to challenge our own preconceptions and thought patterns in search of the truth. Through this investigation you will see the prophetic future of this world, from here to eternity, through new eyes. Your vision will be clearer than you have ever thought possible as we dig through the layers of tradition to expose the mystery of iniquity.

II Thessalonians 2:7, For the mystery of iniquity doth already work...

The word mystery in Greek is μυστεριον (musterion). Websters 1925 Unabridged International Dictionary defines mystery, derived from μυστεριον, as:

A substantive secret, that which has been kept cautiously concealed. Something that has not been revealed, or cannot be explained to novices or the uninitiated; Hence, a spiritual truth that is beyond natural understanding.

The substantive secrets, or mysteries of God, can be described by two categories: (a) That which has not been revealed, and therefore cannot be known until it is explained, and (b) that which cannot be explained to novices. The second category is much more common, as we are all, in one field or another, inexperienced. In either case, a mystery is something that cannot be understood without spiritual understanding.

Spiritual understanding can come via direct revelation from God to the individual or by the revelation contained in his written Word, which originated via direct revelation from God to his prophets. But even the understanding of the revelation in his written word does not open in full bloom to a novice upon first perusal of the scriptures. The scriptures display the heart and understanding of God. He will not open these treasures to those who zealously guard inaccurate preconceptions or to those who live in disobedience to him, regardless of academic degrees or social standing. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, without which there are some things that cannot, and will never be understood. A case in point concerns the book of Revelation.

Revelation 1:1, The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant <δουλος> (doulos, bond slave by choice), John.

According to John, this book could be more accurately titled, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ,” rather than “The Revelation of Saint John the Divine,” as it is titled in most of our English Bibles today. Furthermore, he states that this revelation is addressed to, and can only open to those who serve Jesus Christ. The book is cryptic enough to discourage the casual Christian. There are also many things that could not be understood in past generations. The technology, as well as the geopolitical composition of the planet, had not advanced to the state that the Apostle John described. Fanciful, specially created monsters were conjured in the minds of the readers of the
Revelation account, because the war machinery described by John did not exist one hundred years ago. These “monsters” are common, and easily recognized military hardware today.

The interpretations of respected theologians of a past century, who would never live to see the times in which the book of Revelation would be fulfilled, should be carefully reconsidered before the Lord. It was never needful for the Lord to clarify it for them, as it was not the time of its fulfillment. They could only interpret these prophecies in the light of the geopolitcal world and reality in which they lived, just as we do today. The horse and buggy technology of a past generation could not have provided the experiential framework to interpret these scriptures as we are now able to do. It is clear to us living today that past generations of theologians would never see the book of Revelation tied daily to front page news reports of the generation that is being primed to welcome in the world government, and the much heralded New World Order.

It is the Lord Jesus who opened the Revelation to John, to show his servants. It is the Lord Jesus who can alone open it to our understanding, if he finds a meek and obedient heart that will listen to him over the din of a thousand scholarly interpretations. Many of us have become so well versed in the inherited misinterpretations of the past that we cannot see the clarity and beauty of the chronology that unfolds in its pages. Understanding must be sought on one’s knees, and in the discipline of one’s mind to the truth, rather than by adhering to comfortable traditions of thought and activity. Jesus Christ, the revealer himself, is to be sought, allowing the interpretive works of men to pale before him.

Mysteries are opened to the mind through the work of the Spirit of God. It is the work of the spirit to personally lead us into the truth. The provisions of the Lord Jesus Christ are abundant along the path of righteousness. The Spirit of the Lord will shine into your heart, exposing sin and error, so the eyes of your spiritual understanding can be enlightened. Spiritual understanding comes with asking, seeking, knocking, and aggressively obeying. The Lord Jesus desires to open this mystery of iniquity to your understanding, but the truth must be tried on and your own inclinations analyzed and reconsidered. Not everything we think about the Scriptures is truth. Only the Word of God is truth.

No one can force you to reconsider the pictures you hold in your mind. That is your burden alone. However, the Lord is willing to lead you through the pain of doubt and the discomfort of transformation. Trust him rather than your own understanding. The Word of God will not “fall apart” if you dig deeply and reconsider your interpretation of certain scriptures, but your eschatological viewpoint may. Are you willing to risk your present interpretation of a particular scripture by putting your trust in the one who has promised to lead you into all truth? Do so in prayer, and in faith, believing.
I am asking you to “watch the movie” within these pages. I know there are many ways to look at prophetic scriptures, and the more serious students are certain to have their own interpretive pictures planted firmly in their minds. For now, I am asking you to just watch the movie without attempting to defend your own or someone else’s interpretation as you read. If you can suspend your position long enough to take a fresh look, you will understand the mystery of iniquity with unimagined clarity.

The Tribulated Church

The gathering together, or rapture of the Church, in it’s timely relationship to the mystery of iniquity and the revealing of the son of destruction, is the focus of the Apostle Paul’s second letter to the Thessalonians. It is in this letter that we are given a glimpse of the mystery of iniquity for the first time. We will consider that letter in detail. It was written to encourage a church experiencing great tribulation, but remaining faithful to Christ even to their death. Paul, Silas, and Timothy praised their brothers and sisters for their endurance in the face of such persecution.

Their sacrificial living was held up as an example to the entire Christian church. Then, and through the centuries, their endurance in the face of persecution and death has remained a beacon to the church. Their example teaches us that the reality of the resurrection is a far more certain reward than anything that we may gain in this life.

Today the news media in America, and Christians in general, avoid acknowledging that thousands of Christians are imprisoned and exterminated each year. This unpleasant reality has not yet reached our shores. According to the editor of the Christian World Encyclopedia, governments, or unrestrained mobs, have murdered over 160,000 Christians per year throughout most of this century. In the case of the atheist/socialist governments of Hitler, Stalin, and Mao, these numbers have been expanded to millions during particular purges. Too often, American Christians have ignored what is happening to their brothers and sisters in other parts of the world, because they were of another race, another color. This indifference and lack of compassion reaches as close as the next pew. Jesus, on the other hand, cannot stop his ears from hearing the cries of his servants. Since the blood of righteous Abel cried out from the ground for the Lord God to avenge his death, the clock of the age of God’s goodness and longsuffering has been ticking away toward midnight. God is very patient, not willing that any should perish, but he is not slack concerning his promise of judgment.

Man has been allowed this age to repent and turn to God for forgiveness and mercy, but the age is soon to end. The sword of God's righteous and holy indignation is about to fall. The day of his wrath is fast approaching. When the last trumpet sounds, the saints of God, living and dead, will be gathered, and the wrath of God will be poured upon those who have afflicted and killed his people. But this will not happen until the sin of man has been brought to its climax. The disparity between the righteous followers of God and the evil of this world will be separated by the sword of God’s judgment. Man will have absolutely no excuse. Rejection of God and the persecution of his people will be repaid in full measure.
The mystery of iniquity will play a big part in your life in the next few years. Unfortunately, the mystery of iniquity has been ignored, or redefined and neutered of its significance. It is uncomfortable to consider its impact on the way we should live in these last days. The redefinition of this section of scripture pertaining to the mystery of iniquity was offered as part of the well received “peace, safety, and prosperity gospel” that caught on at the onset of the Industrial Revolution. The outgrowth of this redefinition, and resultant doctrinal error, has became part of the strong delusion to which both Jesus and Paul prophesied. The warnings we see in God’s Word are clear. If God’s people continue to ignore these warnings, he will allow those who love comfort more than truth to walk straight into the snare that has been set for them. This is one of the workings of the mystery of iniquity. They will believe a lie, and be hung by their own apathetic unconcern.

II Thessalonians 2:7, For the mystery of iniquity doth already work...

“The mystery of iniquity doth already work,” and has been at work since Satan took his rebellious stand against God, and subsequently man. One construct of the mystery of iniquity is the hidden, behind the scenes workings of Satan, the god of this age as Paul refers to him.

II Corinthians 4:4, The god of this world <αἰῶν> (age) hath blinded the minds of those that do not believe, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, (who is the image of God), should shine unto them.

The mystery of iniquity entails Satan’s legal authority as god of this age. If a person’s mind is blinded by Satan, he is unable to see even the obvious truths of life; much less so the conflicts of power in the spiritual realm and the deep mysteries of God. This spiritual blindness can account for much of the disparity in the mental perception of intelligent persons like Carl Sagan, an eminent New Age science philosopher, who stated, “The cosmos is all that is, all that was, and all that ever will be.” This is a fine example of a blinded mind producing a profoundly distorted view of reality, from an otherwise respectable intellect. This is one man who may be at a real loss for words when he stands before the judgment of Almighty God. His “cosmos” philosophy will come back to bite him, in the end. This blindness is very subtle when one considers one’s own prejudices and presuppositions, which filter out the truth in favor of evidence that confirms one’s comfortable belief system. We must never stop questioning and questing for truth.

Rebellion in Heaven

To understand the mystery of iniquity, we must dig deep and search the scriptures diligently. We must realize that the god of this age desires to blind our eyes to what he desires to accomplish, so we can become ensnared in his world view and remain ineffective in our Christian lives. For our search in uncovering the mystery of iniquity, it would be helpful to have a command of the following definitions. They will be essential to our understanding. Please take a moment to study and comprehend these important legal terms, as they are defined in the 1925 edition of Websters International Dictionary. The mystery (the hidden secrets that cannot be revealed to novices) that we are exploring, is that of iniquity.
**Iniquity** is defined as: The deviation from that which is just or upright. A deed of injustice, or maleficent act.

The Greek word for iniquity is ανοµια (anomia), also translated as *lawlessness* in the KJV.

**Lawlessness** is defined as: The state of being without or in opposition to the law. Hence, lawlessness entails the stand of one who is in opposition to the originator, or author of the law. An act of open rebellion, and renunciation of the one to whom one owes allegiance.

**Rebellion** is: An open, organized and armed resistance to authority. An organized uprising of subjects to overthrow their lawful ruler.

**Sedition**, on the other hand, is: Conduct or speech which is in opposition to lawful authority, but lacks an overt act that would constitute treason or rebellion.

Satan acted in open rebellion against the one to whom he owed his worship and allegiance. Satan led an organized uprising of angels who sought to overthrow their lawful ruler, God. We see that Satan was able to draw away one third of the heavenly hosts in his original rebellion against God, as is depicted in Revelation.

Revelation 12:4, ...his (the dragon, Satan’s) tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth.

Why did God not squash Satan like a bug when he rebelled against him? Why, if God is loving and just, did he allow Satan to enter into the affairs of man and corrupt creation? Why? Because God is love, God is holy, and God is absolutely just. God will not act in a maleficent, unjust, or lawless manner to subdue Satan. Satan was given great power and authority in the beginning, and that authority can only be stripped from him in a legal manner by one who has the right to do so. Through his obedience to God, Jesus has prevailed, receiving the authority to strip Satan of his delegated dominion (Rev 5), defeat him in heaven (Rev 12), subdue him in his rule over the kingdoms of this world (Rev 19,20), and finally destroy the disobedient, lawless one in the lake of fire (Rev 20).

**The Title Deed**

Satan is now holding fast to his authority in the heavens, which allows him access before the throne of God where he now positions himself as the “accuser of the brethren.” Satan’s purposes and methodology are exposed in Revelation 12 (verse 10), and the book of Job (1:6 -2:7) where he is depicted in both scenarios as the accuser before the throne, and the one who steals, kills, and destroys (John 10:10). Besides Satan’s position as the accuser before the throne of God, by his deceptive wiles he also received the dominion of this world from the hand of Adam.

Adam originally received from God complete dominion and authority over the entire creation on earth (Genesis 1:26). He also had dominion over Satan, but was “bribed” into a deal with Satan
after Eve was seduced to sin. Now Satan legally holds the title deed to this world, a title and authority that was delivered to him by the original recipient, Adam. This same authority was offered to Jesus Christ by Satan, for the small price of worship.

Luke 4:5-7, And the devil, took Jesus up into an high mountain, and showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will, I give it. If you worship me, all this shall be yours.

Jesus did not dispute Satan’s claim that this world was delivered to his authority. Jesus did not even challenge his jurisdiction, but flatly refused Satan’s offer, choosing obedience to God and the plan for his blood to be poured out as the atonement for sin. God had ordained the sacrificial death of Jesus before Adam relinquished the dominion of this world to the authority of Satan.

Ephesians 1:4, God has chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world... (KJV)

God has chosen us in Christ before the relinquishing of the world...(MIV)

After Adam relinquished his dominion over the world to Satan, there was no way for man to get it back. It was lost forever. However, Jesus prevailed over temptation, sin, and death, to strip Satan of his delegated authority, securing the kingdoms of this world God’s way. Revelation chapter 5 shows us that only Jesus has the authority to take the scroll of the title deed of this world from the hand of God. That scroll was bound by the seals of Satan’s power and authority. Only Jesus has the authority that was given to him by God to actively dispossess Satan of his legal claim, by stripping the seals of power from the scroll of the title deed to this world.

Revelation 5:1, I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a scroll written within, and on the backside sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaim with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose the seals?” 3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. 4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book...

John was utterly shattered over the realization that there was no hope. There was not a man living or dead who was worthy to loose the seals of the authority of Satan from the title deed. He was in irreconcilable emotional chaos, to weep so profoundly before the throne of the God of the universe. There was no hope for redemption. The fate of the creation was sealed, and there was no way out from under the authority that was delivered to Satan. Satan kept the deed bound with the power of his authority, and no one had the power to divest his authority from the deed to the dominion of this world. John’s only response to this desperate dilemma was to anguish in tears. Put yourself in his place. He was devastated. There was no hope.

Revelation 5:5, ...And one of the elders said unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll, and to loose the seven seals. 7 And the Lamb of God came and took the scroll out of the right hand of him that
sat upon the throne. 8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb...

Jesus Christ alone has prevailed, and only he is worthy to divest Satan of the dominion laid under his authority by the first Adam. By the first Adam came the offense; by the second Adam, Jesus the Messiah, came the reconciliation.

9 And they sung a new song, “Thou art worthy to take the scroll, and to open the seals: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made unto our God kings and priests: and they shall reign on the earth.”

Revelation 6:1, And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts shout, Go! (KJV-GINT)

The power and authority by which Satan securely holds fast his claim, his legal authority to stand before the throne as the accuser, and his authority over the kingdoms of this world is being stripped away in heaven at this very hour. Each time a seal of Satan’s authority is torn from the scroll, the unbridled power and fury of Satan is unleashed on the earth. With each victory in heaven, mankind is brought one giant step closer to the global government of the destroyer. Jesus is not causing the death and destruction on earth as the seals are removed. The destruction is just the unavoidable consequence of stripping Satan’s legal command in the spiritual realm. Satan is holding fast to his authority over the world, which we also see in Ephesians:

Ephesians 6:10-12, Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, <arche = primary powers> against powers, <exousia = exercised authority (from the author)> against the world rulers <kosmokrateros> of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in the Heavenlies. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (KJV-GINT)

...against the world rulers <kosmokrateros> kosmo = the world, the domain of the exercised power of Satan. Krateros = to lay hold of, seize, retain by force. Satan and his minions have seized and maintain their exercised dominion by force in the heavenlies. That spiritual wickedness has a powerful presence in the heavenlies at this time. But that power is being stripped away by the authority delegated to Jesus when he was raised from the dead. There is a battle raging in the heavenlies against the power of the accuser. He is now holding fast to his position in the heavens as the accuser before the throne of God. But there is also a battle raging on earth for the souls of men. It is a life and death struggle with the heavenly hosts fully engaged. Jesus and his angels are not willing that any of his chosen perish. Jesus is not lounging around heaven in his pajamas watching Oprah reruns. There is strife and warfare up above and a battle here on earth. We are told to put on the whole armor of God and enjoin the battle. This spiritual warfare is reality, it is not a figure of speech.
Satan was delegated power and authority before iniquity was found in him. That authority has to be removed from his dominion legally, by one who has overcome the same temptations to which he succumbed. Jesus Christ has prevailed to loose the seven seals. Soon, an all out war in the heavens will result in Michael and his angels’ consummate victory over Satan in the heavenlies.

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**War in Heaven**

We now look into the throne room in heaven where the hidden, behind the scenes working of Satan as the accuser is revealed. The mystery of iniquity begins to unfold as Jesus reveals the details to John.

Revelation 12:7, 8 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And they prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night..."

Verses 6 and 14 in this chapter, pinpoint the war in heaven occurring 3½ years before Armageddon. The war described is not Satan’s original rebellion, but a future event in which the heavens will be shaken and the powers of evil will be defeated in heaven. When Jesus spoke of the heavens being shaken and the stars of heaven being cast to the earth, he was referring to this future cataclysm. The victory of the Lamb will be completed first in heaven, then on the earth 3½ years later as Jesus the Messiah sets up his kingdom. He will incarcerate Satan by casting him into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years.

Concerning this war in heaven, Michael and his angels will prevail over Satan and his angels. Their victory will end his rebellious stand in heaven and despoil Satan of his authority to stand in the midst of the throne room of God, where he now accuses the brethren day and night. He will not relinquish his position willingly, but will hold fast to his position until he is conquered and cast out into the earth. This victory in heaven will occur precisely 3½ years before Christ returns from heaven with the resurrected saints, to conquer and rule at the battle of Armageddon. At this “midst of the last 7 years” event, Satan, who has taken his rebellious stand against God in the heavens, will then take his stand on the earth, opposing God and his people.
The book of Daniel gives a vivid description of the ruler and the world government under his control (referred herein as the New World Order). That government will bear totalitarian control over the entire planet before the Messiah comes to rule the Earth. According to the Prophets Daniel and Paul, the casting out of Satan occurs at the exact time that the abomination of desolation takes place.

The Destroyer is revealed as he takes his stand in the temple mount. This is referred to as Satan’s time, and he will control the world government and the man who sits at the top of it; the man of sin (II Thes 2:3), the son of destruction (II Thes 2:3), the Wicked one (II Thes 2:8), the prince that shall come (Dan 9:27), the king (Dan 11:36), the mouth of the little horn (Dan 7:8), the mouth speaking great things and blasphemies (Rev 13:5), he who shall magnify himself above all (Dan 11:37, II Thes 2:4), he to whom authority is given to make war with the saints and overcome them (Rev 13:7), he who has authority to continue 42 months (Rev 13:5), he who blasphemes God, his namesake, his tabernacle, and the angels (Rev 13:6, Dan 11:36, II Thes 2:3), he whose army shall pollute the sanctuary and shall place the abomination of desolation (Dan 11:31), he who will plant the tents of his command post between the seas in the glorious holy mountain (Dan 11:45), the voice of the beast (Dan 7:11), he who wears out the saints of God for 3½ years (Dan 7:25), antichrist (I John 2:18), he whose coming is after the working of Satan (II Thes 2:9), the Destroyer (Rev 9:11), he who rises to power out of the smoke of the sixth seal nuclear war and it’s bloody aftermath (Rev 9:11), the commander and CEO of the New World Order military machine (Rev 9:11), the spokesman or representative for the beast system (Rev 19:19), he whose coming is with all lying signs and wonders (II Thes 2:9), he who has full ability to deceive utilizing the unrighteousness that is in them that perish (II Thes 2:10), he who will come in his own name and the people will receive (John 5:43), and he who shall be destroyed by the brightness of Christ’s coming at the battle of Armageddon (II Thes 2:8).

It is important to note that the individual spoken of is not the beast, as the beast is indicative of the government system. The son of destruction sits as the undisputed ruler of the beast government. As the head, he is referred to as “the beast” only once in Revelation 19:19-20, just as Nebuchadnezzar was referred to as “the head of gold” in Daniel 2:38, because he was the personal ruler of Babylon. All other references the beast, such as Revelation 13:1, are direct references to the government. People do not have seven heads and ten horns, but governments are described as having such features.

Revelation 12:11,...And [the brethren] overcame [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Living to the end and saving our own skin is not the ultimate goal of life and never has been; enduring faithful to the end is. This verity never changes. It was true in the old covenant. In the gospels, Jesus told the leaders of the New Testament Church that it would be so for us, and Paul confirmed this truth throughout his letters to the churches. In the opening of his “revelation to his servants concerning the things which must come to pass,” Jesus hammered the same message to his church, to prepare them for the rough times ahead. He that endures faithful to the end, shall be saved (Mat 24:13; Rev 2:7,11,17,26; 3:5,12,21; Mat 10:32,33; Luke 9:25,26). Hang in there, I have read the end of the Revelation and Jesus guarantees that it will be worth any amount of pain and suffering the world may heap on us.
Concerning the war in heaven and the victory won there:

Revelation 12:12, Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time...

At the outcome of this war in heaven, Satan is cast down from heaven, against his will. His rebellious stand before the throne of God is abruptly terminated. He is taken out of the midst of the throne room and cast down to the earth where he then takes his rebellious stand on earth. That stand is manifested in the revealing of the son of destruction, a man who is fully complemented with all the power of Satan, replete with lying signs, wonders, and a false prophet. This is truly Woe to the earth and coincides with the first woe which occurs at the fifth trumpet. Abaddon, Apollyon, the Destroyer is revealed as the king or commander of the New World Order military force. He establishes order after the war that brings the world government into full power over the inhabitants of the earth. It is not a peculiar coincidence that Satan is cast out of heaven 3½ years before the return of Christ to reign on earth, and the Destroyer is revealed at exactly the same time. It is the identical incident. Satan’s expulsion is the direct cause of the Wicked one being revealed. His coming is after the working of Satan.

The mystery of iniquity is already at work behind the scenes and before the throne of God. However, that mystery will be in it’s full rage and devastation when Satan, the lawless one himself, is cast down to the earth, and works his will through the son of destruction, antichrist personified.

Revelation 12:13, ...And when the dragon (Satan) saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman (Israel) which brought forth the man child (Jesus Christ). 14 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 (3½ years), away from the face of the serpent. 15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood [common reference to an army] after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 16 And the earth [or forces of the earth] helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The Destroyer is thwarted in his attempt to destroy the people of Israel. They flee from Judea into the mountains as his army is engulfed in a war with a 200 million man army from out of the east, at the sixth trumpet. After a successful defense against the eastern communist bloc, and his failed attempt to exterminate Israel, he then moves to wipe out the followers of Jesus Christ from the planet. After this comes the events of the seven thunders, the details of which are presented in the live seminars: From Here . . . To Eternity.
Chapter Two

Prerequisite to the Rapture

We have seen that Satan does have a dominion that was his in the beginning with God, and an authority that was transferred to him by Adam. He uses that authority stealthily and ruthlessly to injure God by hurting his people. God is bound by his nature to be just, righteous, and loving. God cannot act in an unlawful manner to defeat Satan, even though Satan stands in absolute rebellion against him. God has committed all judgment into the hands of his Son (John 5:22). Christ must rule until he has put down all authority and power in heaven and earth (I Cor 15:24-28). The mystery of iniquity, Satan’s lawlessness, has been shrouded. But now we begin to more fully understand the position that Satan maintains, and to which he holds fast—rights that he was given before his rebellion, and the authority he secured by his conquest over Adam, subjugating the entire human race. Let us now look at the context of the mystery of iniquity.

He Who Now Holds Fast

II Thessalonians 2:5-6, Remember, when I was with you, I told you these things? Now you know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his own time...(KJV)

The Greek indicates that the church in Thessalonica already knew what Paul was about to restate. How did they know? Paul may have spent several days and nights on the subject while he was with them. The evidence indicates that Paul was shown many of the same things that John recorded in Revelation (II Corinthians 12). Some things he could tell them, others he could not (such as the specific events of the Seven Thunders).

...Now you already know what withholdeth...

The word withholdeth is a poor translation of κατεχω (katecho), which primarily translates: To seize and hold fast to retain possession. To know what holds fast to retain possession, we must consider the larger context:

Now you already know what holds fast <κατεχω> that he (the son of destruction) might be revealed in his own time, because the mystery of iniquity is already at work. But he now holds fast <κατεχω> only until he is taken out of the midst <µεσοσ>. Then shall the Wicked one (the man of sin) be revealed, whose coming is after the working of Satan. (GINT)
The context allows only one interpretation of that which is holding fast. It is, and can legally and grammatically only be, the mystery of iniquity which is already at work. It is Satan, the lawless one in rebellion against the one to whom he owes his allegiance, who is now holding fast to his delegated power and authority until he is taken out of the midst of the throne room of God, where he now stands as the accuser. It is the behind the scenes working in the spirit realm of the god of this age, who will be cast down to the earth and finally bound, judged, and cast into the Lake of Fire. It is he, the lawless one himself, who now holds fast to his delegated authority before the throne of God, and his delivered authority from the hand of Adam.

We have seen the mystery of iniquity at work as it was revealed in Revelation 12, where Satan holds fast to his position of authority before the throne of God only until he is taken out of the midst by Michael and his angels, acting under the authority of Jesus. Midst <μέσος> is the term used for the area within the throne room of God (Rev 4:6, 5:6, 6:6), where both Jesus and Satan have authority; Satan as the accuser, and Jesus as our advocate. The term throne in Revelation refers not solely to a seat, but also to the expansive area around the throne, or throne room. This is where Satan accuses the brethren day and night. Satan now holds fast to that position, but only until he is overcome by Michael and his angels, taken out of the midst, and cast down to the earth. Then, at that time, the Wicked one will be revealed (αποκαλυπτω = suddenly uncovered). He is the man of sin, the son of destruction, in II Thessalonians 2:3. It is he who is revealed in verse 7 and it is he whom the Lord will destroy with the brightness of his coming at the Battle of Armageddon, in verse 8. It is he who was also prophesied in Daniel 9:26 as the prince that shall come.

**Straining for a “Restrainer”**

For several decades I, along with a multitude of pre-tribulation rapturists, have redefined the word katecho to mean “the restrainer.” We fabricated a scenario that was never alluded to in any of Paul’s writings or in the text of the entire Bible: That the holy Spirit is restraining Satan’s power, and when the holy Spirit is taken from the earth (as well as the Christians) then the man of sin will be revealed. Even though the language and the context would never allow this redefinition, some of the modern Bible translations were influenced by this error. That redefinition has even further buried the working of the mystery of iniquity. But redefinition does not truth make, especially when it is in direct contradiction to the clear teaching in the context, and the words of Jesus Christ himself.

No matter how much one wrestles the words “that which holds fast” to say that the holy Spirit, or the Christian church in this world, is restraining the man of sin from being revealed, it will never make it the truth. The Christians in America could not even keep our republic, which was rooted in Christianity, from being taken over by atheist socialists. There is not one shred of evidence in the entire Bible that we are keeping the man of sin from being revealed. We have nothing to do with this event, Michael and his angels do! This strained restrainer concept is an attempt to take our eyes off the context of Thessalonians, and produce a rapture before the man of sin is revealed. Twisting this word to produce what the context clearly condemns is the working of Satan. He is the author of the strong but comfortable delusion that Paul exposes.
You could torture κατεχω to say restraints, out of duress (much like you can get a child to say “uncle” by twisting his arm). However, the context would never justify twisting “the mystery of iniquity which holds fast to his authority until he is taken out of the midst of God’s throne room by Michael and his angels” into “the holy spirit within the believer, which restrains the working of Satan until the church is taken out in a secret rapture before the man of sin is revealed.” Only one would be the truth, the other would be a deliberate twisting of the scripture, the result of the working of Satan to bury the mystery of iniquity and the truth of the timing of the return of Jesus Christ from the eyes of the Christian’s understanding.

A Letter to the Church in Tribulation

The section of scripture we have been considering in II Thessalonians is in the middle of a letter to a church in the throes of great tribulation. It is very significant that this letter to the church in tribulation is the last of the seven church epistles in its sequential order. It depicts Christ’s return for his persecuted church proclaiming their glorious hour of deliverance. They are encouraged to endure faithfully to the end, when Jesus will set them free from the pains of tribulation.

To understand this letter we need to read it as a letter from the beginning, rather than by selecting a few specific sentences that “prove” a preconceived notion. It takes a few minutes to carefully read the letter. It is worth every second, because we will find out exactly when Jesus Christ will return to gather the church and pour out the wrath of God. We will see the legal parameters of what must occur before the gathering of the Saints, so that we will not be misled nor taken by surprise. For clarification, brackets <       > have been inserted to bring in the truths concerning the mystery of iniquity that we have discovered from the 12th chapter of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

The Second Letter of Paul the Apostle to the Thessalonians

From: 1Paul, Silas, and Timothy,
To: The church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3We are constrained to always thank God for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows greatly, and the love of every one of you abounds toward each other. 4We glory in you (among the churches of God) for your endurance and faith in all the persecutions and tribulations that you are enduring. 5Your endurance and faith being a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that you may continue to be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are now suffering.

6Seeing it is a righteous act for God to recompense tribulation to those that tribulate you; 7And you who are now tribulated with us, will rest <ανασιν, (anacin) to be suddenly loosed of the strain, be relieved of the pain> when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed
from heaven with his mighty angels, 8In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that do not know God, and on those that do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Here we see exactly when the church will be suddenly relieved of the strain of tribulation. This is the glorious Day of the Lord, when he is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, just as he indicated to his disciples on the Mount of Olives. This is the day of our deliverance, and the day the Lord repays tribulation to those who have tribulated us.

9(who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.)

“Who shall,” in verse 9, starts a parenthetical future clause which indicates the final disposition of the ones to which it refers. The Lord shall in the future accomplish this act, but not at this moment. We have another parenthetical future clause in chapter 2 verse 8, which is just as obvious.

8Then shall the Wicked one be revealed, (whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming,)

The Wicked one (antichrist), will not be destroyed at the moment that he is revealed, or at the coming of Christ for his saints at the last trumpet, but at the Battle of Armageddon, just as Revelation 19 indicates. Here we see the absolute necessity of staying with the chronology of the book of Revelation if we are going to make sense of the order that these prophetic occurrences transpire. This future parenthetical clause that we are addressing in the first chapter does not indicate that which will happen at his return for his saints, but looks forward to the future time of the White Throne Judgment after the millennial reign of Christ, when the final disposition of Satan and those whose names are not found in the Book of Life are cast into the lake of fire and “punished with everlasting destruction.” Now we read this parenthetical in its entirety, inserting in bold italics the timing of this occurrence as we understand from Revelation 20:11-15.

9(who shall, in the end, be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.)

Now let us back up and read from verse 6, leaving out the explanatory parenthesis to follow the flow of the letter.

6Seeing it is a righteous act for God to recompense tribulation to those that tribulate you; 7And you who are now tribulated with us, rest, the strain and pain that you are experiencing will be suddenly relieved when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that do not know God, and on those that do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ 10when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in those that believe, IN THAT DAY (because our testimony among you was believed).
When will the tribulation of the saints be suddenly relieved? In that day. For whom is he coming? For his saints. Why is he going to be glorified in them? Because their (Paul, Silas, and Timothy’s) testimony among them was believed. Of which day is he speaking? That day when the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel and the trump of God, taking vengeance on those who have been tribulating the church and suddenly relieving the pain and strain of tribulation. The tribulated church will rest when the Lord Jesus comes for his saints in all of his glory. The word rest is in the Greek ανεσιν, anacin (from whence is derived the brand name of a famous pain reliever). The picture that the word anacin paints is a person bound and stretched tightly on a rack. Bones are popping out of their sockets and internal organs are beginning to tear loose from the connecting tissue. Ropes and chains holding the body in tension are as tight as a violin string. At the point of loosing consciousness, the avenger breaks through the door, slashes the chains that bind the extremities to the rack, and destroys those who have been torturing his beloved. It is the Day of the Lord. (See Appendix IV, The Witness of the Heavens).

Therefore we always pray for you, that our God would consider you worthy of this calling, (by your endurance unto the end) and fulfill in you, the pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. After his prayer for the tribulated Saints, Paul expounds with clarity the day of our deliverance at the glorious coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now we implore you brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto him; Do not be shaken up or troubled, (not by a spirit, nor by dissertation, nor by a letter as if it were from us), thinking that the day of the Lord is imminent. Let no man deceive you by any means; BECAUSE that day shall not come, EXCEPT FIRST

This third paragraph, starting with chapter 2:1, is concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto him. They were not, and we are not, to be troubled or deceived by any of the means that truth (and lies) are generally disseminated. We are not to be worked into a frenzy, thinking that the gathering together is imminent. We are then told the condition that first must be fulfilled before that day can happen. BECAUSE sets the reason. EXCEPT FIRST sets the condition that must be met, the absolute legal prerequisite to his coming to gather the saints, thereby relieving the pain and strain of tribulation. What is it?
3 Let no man deceive you by any means; BECAUSE that day shall not come, EXCEPT FIRST there come the rebellious stand, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or is venerated; so that he, as God, sits in the temple of God, proclaiming that he is God.

There are no other words that can be used to express with greater clarity, the reason, the condition, and the act. We are not to be shaken because the gathering together is not imminent. The condition that must come first is the rebellious stand. The result of this rebellious stand is that the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction who exalts himself above God. Verse four is nearly a verbatim recitation of Daniel’s description of the king of wickedness in chapter 11, verses 36 and 37, and the mouth, or blasphemous spokesman of the beast government in Revelation 13:5-8. Why did we not see it more clearly? Because the mystery of iniquity is already at work to blind the eyes of men to the truth.

A Falling Away?

Once men formulate an opinion, they have a tendency to protect their theology, as if the universe revolves around their interpretation. Meekness before the Lord is a fine line to walk, and not very comfortable. The King James translators did not help things much either. After laying out the reason and absolute prerequisite for the gathering together of the saints, they let the whole buildup fall flat on its face:

BECAUSE that day shall not come, EXCEPT FIRST there come…

…I must express my personal disappointment at such an uneventful conclusion to a most intense crescendo. I am about to find out in no uncertain terms when the Lord is returning to gather the saints together and end our tribulations. I am finally going to know so specifically that I will not be deceived by any means. Then I get this vague, lackluster, inconclusive: “a falling away.”

A is a general article. In the Greek the word is ‘η, which is the definitive article the. It can be most accurately described by pointing the finger at an object, thereby defining it precisely, and saying, “the ______.” The words “falling away” do not help much either. A falling away from what? The truth? That is how it has been handled in a million and six sermons. Even in Paul’s time:

II Timothy 1:15…all they which are in Asia be turned away from me...

II Timothy 4:16…all men have forsaken me…

Falling away from the truth had certainly happened in Paul’s time, but it happened during the Dark Ages as well. Can we be more specific, since we are pointing the finger at an occurrence
that will signal an event that **must come to pass** before he can gather us to the throne room of God for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb? Or do we acquiesce to “a generic falling away,” to point to the absolute prerequisite to his coming to deliver us?

“A falling away” in the Greek is: ‘η (he) = the, Αποστασία (apostasia) = to stand in seditious opposition, or open rebellion. Αποστασία has been transliterated into the English “apostasy,” and has come laden with the misconceived meaning “a falling away from the truth.” In Greek literature Αποστασία was used as “divorce,” which indicated a betrayal against one’s covenant. It was a stand in opposition to one’s spouse, not a simple “falling out of love.” There is only one other time that the word apostasia is used in the Bible. This one occurrence is rich with meaning.

Acts 21:20 …You see brother Paul, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe, and they are all zealous for the law; And they were seditiously informed about you, that you teach all of the Jews which are among the Gentiles, to **forsake** Moses…

“Forsake” is Αποστασίς (apostasis), apo = away from, stasis = to stand; hence to stand away from, in opposition. Here we see the activity of the word **sedition** that we defined earlier.

**Sedition:** Conduct or speech which is in opposition to lawful authority, but **lacks an overt act** that would constitute treason or rebellion.

They considered Paul’s speech as an incitement to rebel against the lawful authority of Moses. They accused him of teaching people to rebel against the authority of God. His speech, if their accusations were true, would have been sedition. The **act** of the people in response would have been rebellion against Moses.

**Rebellion:** An open, organized, and armed resistance to authority. An organized uprising of subjects to overthrow their lawful ruler.

Αποστασίς is an act. The substantive form designated by the suffix σις indicates an act or stand taken. That would put this “stand in opposition” into the category of rebellion, if it were acted upon by the hearers of Paul’s so called seditious teachings.

We see then that the apostasia in II Thessalonians chapter 2 is not a vague falling away but rather the act of rebellion. This rebellious act is an active stand against the lawful ruler of the universe, God. The act of rebellion was initiated by Satan himself. He has stood in rebellious opposition to God’s authority since his original act, and his rebellion is not yet complete. He now opposes God before his throne. When he is cast down to the earth he will take his stand of rebellion against God and his people here, through the son of destruction - the man of sin.
Aποστασία is an act. The substantive form designated by the suffix σια indicates an act or stand taken, but is not yet completed. That would put the “stand in opposition” into the category of a rebellion that was begun, but is not yet completed. The stand of rebellion that Satan initiated against the Most High God will be quashed while he is bound in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years. His rebellion on earth will resume when he is released and deceives the world one last time at the end of the Millennial reign of Christ on earth. Satan’s rebellion will be eternally terminated as he is cast into the lake of fire and tormented day and night, from ages to ages.

The result of the rebellious stand that must come before the Lord gathers his church, is that the man of sin will be revealed. The son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, is venerated by all those that dwell on the earth. He as God, will sit in the temple of God proclaiming that he is God.

The definite article ‘ἡ or the is also very important to understand when one looks at the next phrase: The man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction, who... This is not referring to some general sinful condition of man or some destructive tendency of mankind. It is in no uncertain terms pointing to the one who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or is venerated; so that he, as God, sits in the temple of God, proclaiming that he is God. Now we plainly see that the event which must come to pass is the event spoken of by Jesus and Daniel, as the abomination of desolation, or the revealing of the king of unrighteousness. This statement is a near verbatim recitation of the accounts in Daniel, Revelation, and Isaiah.

Daniel 11:31, Arms shall stand on his behalf...and they shall place the abomination that makes desolate... 36 And the king shall do according to his will and he shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods...37 Neither shall he regard any god for he shall magnify himself above all.

Revelation 13:5-7, And there was given unto the beast, a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and authority was given unto him to continue forty two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. 7 And authority was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them: and authority was given to him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Isaiah 14:13, 14, For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into the heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most high.
This section in Isaiah has been attributed to the rebellion of Satan, but in the context it is a proverb spoken against the king of Babylon who is portrayed as the morning star having fallen from heaven. This could very well be speaking prophetically concerning Satan’s future casting down to the earth, and the ruler of the last “Babylon” taking his throne under the power of Satan’s working. It also could have a direct prophetic application for Satan, Nimrod, and Nebuchadnezzar, and a final specific fulfillment at the end time with the antichrist. In any case, the attitude and verbiage are the same as we see in II Thessalonians chapter 2. It appears that the man of sin is one groomed to be inhabited by Satan himself. He is described as the man \textit{of sin}. He is probably a man completely possessed by Satan.

II Thessalonians 2:5, Remember, when I was with you, I told you these things?

Paul had rehearsed the specifics of this revelation with them in detail while he was with them in Thessalonica. He also put some of these things down on parchment so the church would have a record of the things that must come to pass in the latter days. This revelation fully corroborates the revelation that John received on Patmos Island. We were not there to know all of the things that Paul revealed to those Christians in Thessalonica. He may have spent days unmasking the mystery of iniquity for them. What you are seeing unfold in this book is a portion of what Paul laid out for those believers. What was necessary for the church in tribulation to know then is even more necessary for the church (who will experience the great tribulation) to know now.

\[6\text{Now you already know what holds fast to his position in heaven as the accuser might be revealed in his own time, because the mystery of iniquity is already at work. But, he now holds fast to the authority and dominion delivered to him only until he is taken out of the midst of the throne room of God, by Michael and his angels.}\]

\[7\text{Then shall the Wicked one be revealed, (whom the Lord shall, at Armageddon, consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming,) He whose coming is after the working of Satan: With all power and signs and lying wonders, having full ability to deceive utilizing the unrighteousness that is in them that perish; because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. For this reason, God shall let them go (πεµπω) to a working error, so that they will believe the lie: That they might all be damned who do not believe the truth, but had pleasure living in unrighteousness.}\]
The Legal Prerequisite

The context of the first and second chapters of II Thessalonians gives us a picture of a persecuted, but courageous Christian church. They are being encouraged to endure. Paul told them that they will be relieved of the strain and pain of persecution when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his angels, taking fiery vengeance on those who have been tribulating them with torture and death.

Paul instructs them not to be shaken up by anyone who indicates that the day of the Lord gathering his church, and taking vengeance on the world, is imminent. Paul sets the absolute prerequisite for that day, being the rebellious stand of Satan when he is cast down to the earth. The result of this rebellious stand is that the man of sin is then revealed (apokalupto, suddenly uncovered), the son of destruction who exalts himself as God. This will happen prior to the gathering together.

No Christian is to be deceived by anyone who teaches that the Lord could return at any moment, even though they mean well. And no Christian should be deceived into thinking that the Day of the Lord does not refer to the day that the Lord raises the dead in Christ at the first resurrection, and gathers those that are alive and remain to meet him in the air. They are one in the same. This is made abundantly clear in the two Epistles to the Thessalonians, as well as I Corinthians and the Revelation.

We can now see that over the last 1990 years, the Lord's return was never imminent. He could not have returned 100 years ago. The abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel, Jesus Christ, Paul, and John must occur first. Paul reminded them that what he is saying refers back to what he taught them while he was in Thessalonica. They were already aware of the mystery of iniquity at work and holding fast to his position in heaven, until the future war with Michael and his angels results in his being cast down to earth. When that takes place, the Wicked one will be revealed whose coming is energized by the power of Satan. That man of sin will be destroyed by Jesus Christ when he returns to establish his kingdom, at the Battle of Armageddon. Those who love this world more than they love the truth will be allowed to go to a working error of the mystery of iniquity. They will believe the lie of which Paul again tells them not to be deceived. This deception concerns the timing of the gathering together of the church in relation to the abomination of desolation, when the man of sin, the son of destruction is revealed. II Thessalonians 2:11 (KJV) reads:

…God shall send them strong delusion…

The word send is πεµπω, which properly translates “to send home.” Because some in the churches and the world would rather listen to the voice of men over the voice of God as it is recorded in the scriptures, God will send them home to where they are comfortable with their own delusions and commodious errors. All who do not love and believe the truth, but find their reward living in the comfortable lap of the world, will be judged accordingly.

In II Thessalonians chapters 1 and 2, there is a clear and repeating emphasis all through this section of scripture concerning Satan and the revealing of the man of sin.
Satan:
The one who takes his rebellious stand
That which holds fast
The mystery of iniquity
That which is already at work
He who now holds fast
He who is taken out of the midst
The working of Satan

The Destroyer:
The man of sin revealed
The son of destruction
He who exalts himself above all
He who proclaims himself God
He who will be revealed in his own time
The Wicked one who shall be revealed
He who is coming after Satan's working

There is also a clear and repeating emphasis all through this section of scripture concerning the day that the Lord Jesus is revealed at his coming for the saints, to gather them together.

The Lord Jesus Christ:
Who will repay tribulation to those who are now tribulating you.
You who are now being tribulated, rest - the strain and pain will be relieved:
When Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels
When the Lord takes out his vengeance in flaming fire
In that day when he comes to be glorified in his saints
In that day when he comes to be admired in them that believe
In that day when he gathers us together
In that day that will not happen, EXCEPT FIRST...

Their is absolutely no context for that which is now holding fast to be considered as anything other than Satan holding fast to his position before the throne of God, as the accuser. This section of scripture is telling the Church that the prerequisite for Jesus Christ returning to end the pain of tribulation is the events laid out in the book of Revelation, when Satan is cast out of heaven and the man of sin is then revealed at the 5th trump, the 1st Woe. He will not return before then. He cannot. Legal prerequisites exist. God cannot break his word. Praying contrary to his word will not change anything. Satan must be expelled from heaven and his dominion terminated there before the victory in heaven is complete. Jesus cannot gather us to the sea of fire and glass in front of the throne of our heavenly Father, until the mystery of iniquity is conquered and taken out of the midst. We cannot enter the throne room for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb until Satan is permanently expelled from heaven, and the wrath of God is completely poured out. Satan’s authority must be stripped from him, legally and permanently. No one goes up before Satan is cast down. Period!

I was guilty of twisting these scriptures in just the way that I have exposed to you. I had to do so to prove my pre-tribulation rapture teachings. I was an energetic exponent of the teachings of my church and theological institutions. I had a doctrine, position, reputation, and denomination to protect. In short, I was party to the system of this world that had been well rooted in my religious sect. Just because a denomination is in the mainstream of modern Christianity does not mean that truth is much of a concern.

But I did have concerns. For twenty years I did not feel completely comfortable with the way that I was handling II Thessalonians chapter 2; but I would feel more uncomfortable not having a
command of the denominational party line on these verses. One weekend of seclusion, with no one to impress and nothing to prove, I prayed honestly: “Lord, you know that I don’t understand the mystery of iniquity or how it relates to the gathering together of the church. If you desire, you can show it to me. I know that you are able to reveal anything that you want.” I was in no hurry. I picked up my Greek New Testament and began to read and think. I was compelled to leave II Thessalonians and go to the 12th chapter of Revelation, which in my mind had nothing to do with Thessalonians. The Lord revealed the mystery of iniquity to me by using a chapter of the Bible that I had blindly misinterpreted for over 20 years. Fourteen hours later, it all fit together. I was electrified by what I saw, but my eschatology lay in shattered pieces on the stone picnic table at which I sat. The verses on which I had based my dispensational interpretation of the pre-tribulation rapture had melted before my eyes. For the first time in my life, I understood what Paul was communicating to the church in Thessalonica, and the church today. Once I dropped my haughty intellectual pre-suppositions and went to my knees before the Lord, he began to open my heart to the truth of his Word.

Hours later, I asked the Lord Jesus if he was willing to open the book of Revelation to me. I had been pretending to have a command of the book of Revelation for years. Although it was my “pet book,” honestly, before the Lord, I knew He had never opened it to me. I had pried it open by studying the interpreters of current and past generations. I knew that if Jesus had given the revelation to John to show his servants, then Jesus could, if he wanted, open it up to me. As I prayed on my knees, an explosion in my mind resulted in my repeating over and over, “It is all there, and it is all in order. The abomination of desolation is there, the gathering of the church is there, it is all there and it is all in order.” I repeated that explosion in my mind so many times, that now a year and a half later, it is as fluent as the moment I saw it. I reached for my unmarked reading Bible and began to feverishly mark up the book of Revelation with a rainbow of color. I knew where all of the major events were instinctively. I was unable to sleep for the next three days. My personal interpretation was in ruins, but for the first time the book of Revelation was clear to me and without confusion. It is all there, and it is all in order. Reading it in sequence, setting aside the chapters of parenthetical explanations, brings out a Technicolor picture that is both horrifying in its destruction, and awesome in its glory.

For the next several weeks of solitude I prayed over and over again, “Lord, if you have shown this to me and it is true, and not the fabrication of a sin sick mind, burn it in my soul and don’t let me compromise what you have shown me. Show me how to communicate this, if it is you Lord. If this is not true, take it from me Lord. I cannot bear to separate myself from my Christian friends. If this is not your revelation, take it from me Lord.”
The fire kept growing in me. In the months to come, the Lord confirmed his Word to me very
unforgettably. He repeated specific verbal confirmations from several sources, verbatim.
Sometimes from very unwilling sources. A fire is shut up in my bones that I cannot quench.
Months passed with nothing to sustain me but the clarity of the revelation and the drive to teach
it to the people who will be able to make a real difference in the weeks and months to come. I
have a reward because I do this willingly, without the chance of personal gain.

In May of 1996, this manuscript began as a personal letter to a fellow minister. Within a few
hours, I knew that I could not stop until I had secured in written form, some of the things that the
Lord had revealed to me. I have deliberately avoided reading any of the prophetic works that
have been recently published until the draft of the manuscript was finished. I have been asked by
many if I had read Rosenthal’s work on the pre-wrath rapture. I have not. If the revelation
stands or falls, it must be judged against the Word of God and not by man’s work. I do not know
what revelations have been seen or what conclusions have been reached by others. There are
however, a few specific revelations to which the Lord has led me, to verify what he had shown
me from the pages of scripture. Appendix III concerns the modern day prophets, whose voices
the Lord used to confirm the revelation.

It is my responsibility to speak out on this, because I had been in the past an unwitting party to
the mystery of iniquity. No minister would want to be party to that mystery. Yet by omission,
the mystery of iniquity has been hidden from the Christian church, because ministers like myself
have not exposed the hidden, behind the scenes workings of Satan. While the system of the god
of this age labors to bring about the world government and the man who will be revealed as the
prince of the New World Order, the church has remained mute as godless humanism is forced
upon our offspring. By our silence we are playing into his hand. By teaching error from the
pulpit, we have set the snare of Satan that will catch the church in its own comfort zone.
Remember, ministers, the denominational hierarchy will not be standing in front of you at the
judgment seat of Christ. He will. You will answer to him personally, and you cannot plead
ignorance or, “I was just following orders.” Jesus gives the orders around here. If you don’t
want to listen to him, get out of the way and quit misleading God’s people. Your reward may not
be as severe if you decide to quit actively promulgating the mystery of iniquity.
Chapter Three

The Chronology: From Here to Eternity

The most well defined signpost concerning the end times is the event referred to by Jesus and Daniel as the abomination of desolation, which takes place precisely 3½ years before Christ establishes his earthly kingdom. This event and timing is one of the most documented facts on the prophetic calendar. Paul refers to this as the revealing of the man of sin, the son of destruction, the Wicked one who proclaims himself to be God. John refers to him as antichrist, the mouth speaking great things, and Abaddon, Apollyon, the Destroyer.

The chronological order of end time events is detailed within the specific seals, trumpets, thunders, and bowls of wrath in the book of Revelation. Please note that chapter 12, from which we have been reading, sets as a parenthesis within the chronology of the Revelation. This particular parenthesis covers several thousand years. It details among other things, the original rebellion of Satan and his angels in heaven, the birth and ascension of the Messiah, and Satan’s subsequent rebellious stand on earth after he is cast out of heaven 3½ years before Armageddon. But before we discuss the parenthetical explanations in the book of Revelation, it will be helpful to set the chronology first.

Nowhere else in scripture are we given future prophecies concerning the end times in a chronological order. Those who have studied the prophetic accounts in the gospels and Old Testament prophets are painfully aware of this. They simply were not written by one man and laid down chronologically. For generations we have attempted to assemble the ancient prophecies in an order that has made sense, both biblically and in the current geopolitical world in which we live. It is wise to remember that only the Word of God is flawless. Our interpretation of Bible prophecy is subject to our own presuppositions, the times in which we live, and our limited comprehension of the eternal purposes of God.

Well respected prophetic interpreters of the past have fallen into disrepute because they have failed to reconsider their interpretations in the light of what has developed on the world scene. Many of these interpretations have proven invalid through the years. If they do not reevaluate their positions, they both become relics of a past generation. God’s Word alone is completely reliable. What we think about it should always be suspect and open for reevaluation.

The only sure way to assemble the chronology of end time events is to go to the only book in which the chronological order of events is recorded: The Revelation of Jesus Christ. After the introduction, the book of Revelation begins by Jesus Christ laying down the structure for how the entire revelation will be given. The revelation commences in verse 10.
Revelation 1:10, I (John) was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia.

After John was given this instruction, he saw the Lord Jesus Christ in the glory of his resurrected body.  John was so shaken that he fell down on his face as if he were dead.  Jesus then touched him, told him not to fear, and to:

19 Write the things which thou hast seen (Jesus appearing to John in the glory of his resurrected body), and the things which are (Christ’s current messages to the church), and the things which shall be hereafter (in the future); 20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden lamp stands. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven lamp stands which thou sawest are the seven churches.

The things which thou hast seen, are recorded in chapter 1 verses 12 - 18.

The things which are, are recorded in chapter 1 verse 20 through chapter 3 verse 22. Even though these messages addressed specifics in the church of that day and time, (the way they are, back then), their relevance to the church throughout history, and today, is undeniable. It is sobering to recognize that Jesus sees behind our facades and cannot be fooled by the front we project to even our closest friends. Reading this section of Revelation on your knees can be a very rough experience. The format is there in each message to a church. What does Jesus have against your personal lifestyle and walk with him? What can he praise you about? What encouragement to a more worthy endeavor can he entice you with? What vision of the future reward will give you courage to endure? If you will read these messages to the churches, asking your Lord to speak to your heart and to be brutally honest with you, you can be brought to the place of true repentance before him, and you will not need to be crushed by the world before you turn your heart to him. If you will judge yourself and keep yourself from sin, Jesus will purge you and keep you in the hour of tribulation that is coming upon the whole world. That is one of his promises to you.

Otherwise, you can try this thing on your own, do it your own way, and see how you fare. Business as usual is not going to cut it in the months and years ahead. If you are not living for him and walking by the spirit of God now, don’t think that you are going to miraculously change when the economy crashes and you can’t buy a loaf of bread with your entire retirement fund. Do not think that a host of angels is going to descend on your house to keep you warm and safe while you watch five hours of entertainment TV and eat steak out of a freezer that never goes empty. There are only so many angels to go around. If Daniel had to wait for 21 days for an angel to get through the spiritual battle to deliver a message to him, I think that it would be wise to make our lives valuable in doing the will of our Lord. Perhaps then we will “rate” an angel to keep us and our family protected, which may result in others turning to the Lord Jesus.
The things **which shall be hereafter** are recorded in chapter 4:1 through chapter 22:6. This addresses those things which are in the future to the 90 AD churches in Asia, and have been future to all but the Christians that will see the end of the age. Jesus described some of these events to his “future followers” as he addressed his disciples just days before his crucifixion, when he sat them down in private on the mount of Olives (Matthew chapters 24, 25).

Revelation 4:1, After this I looked, and, behold, a door **was** opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard **was** as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, **Come up hither,** and **I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.**

John was then taken to the throne of God to see the future of mankind, and the battle that rages in the heavens because of the rebellious stand that Satan has taken against God and his people. To extrapolate from this verse that John “represents” the church as it is taken up into heaven in a secret rapture, destroys any possibility of understanding the book of Revelation.

Utilizing that logic, we must say that John, falling down as dead at the feet of Jesus, represents the church being paralyzed by fear and unable to live for Christ (Rev 1:17). Of course this is a inane abstraction, but not more so than the “secret rapture indicator.” If we are allowed to allegorize the Bible in this “anything goes” fashion, we might as well close the book and make up our own stories. I am not saying that there is no rapture, but **this is clearly not it!** We will see the day that he raises and rewards his Saints later in the book of Revelation. It will be no secret. It will not be a vague allusion or indication. It will not be stuck in between verses or between seals or thunders. It will be the greatest revelation in the history of the planet. Jesus said that every eye will see when he sends forth his angels to gather the elect, and all of the tribes of the earth who have not obeyed his Word shall mourn. As we explore **the things which must be hereafter,** we see that the book of Revelation is laid out in chronological succession.

**7 SEALS:** Satan's authority stripped from heaven; his unbridled power unleashed on earth.

**6 TRUMPETS:** War devastation that gives the New World Order full control on earth.

**7 THUNDERERS:** Great tribulation and persecution of Israel and the Christian church.

**7th and LAST TRUMPET:** Age of grace ends; the saints’ (1st) resurrection and rewards.

**7 BOWLS OF GOD’S WRATH:** The day of vengeance of our God; tribulators tribulated.

**ARMAGEDDON:** Christ returns to the earth to rule; Satan bound for 1,000 years.

**MILLENNIUM:** The 1000 year reign of Christ on earth; saints rule with a rod of iron.

**THE END:** The last (2nd) resurrection and final judgment; death and the grave destroyed.

**ETERNITY:** The new heaven, and earth, and new Jerusalem; God wipes the tears away.
Every significant prophetic future event in the Old and New Testaments will fit precisely into the chronological sequence that unfolds in Revelation. When speaking of the chronological order of events, it is obvious that Jesus could not strip off the 4th seal before he stripped off the 1st seal, because the 4th seal would then have been the 1st seal. When Jesus strips off the 7th seal, the seven angels with trumpets are introduced and begin sounding their trumpets in successive, chronological order. If this seems like we are dealing with elementary logic, we are. Why then have we not been able to intelligently see the order of events in the book of Revelation? Honestly, because we don't like seeing what takes place. I don't like it either, but that is not the criterion by which God rules the universe. Where the chronology is clearly disturbing, some have attempted to legitimize an “early out” by engaging in a “dance of the seals and trumpets,” that stacks seals on top of thunders, on top of trumpets, on top of bowls. This leaves the book of Revelation in an indecipherable time warp continuum, all in an attempt to get us out of here before the first resurrection at the last trump. (See Appendix I, The Chronological Outline of the book of Revelation).

Every prophetic event in the Old and New Testaments will fit precisely into the chronological sequence that unfolds in Revelation. Prophetic events of great significance are indicated by the events described by the seals, trumpets, thunders, last trumpet, and bowls in precise chronological sequence. The revealing of the Destroyer is there. The raising of the dead in Christ at the rapture of the church is there. It is all in there, and it is all in order. There is an extremely important and fearsome warning to those who would trifle with the book of Revelation. It originates in the Gospel of Matthew, in Jesus’ warning to, “Take heed that no man deceive you, for many shall come in my name...and deceive many.” Sincerity will not make a difference when it comes to casually explaining away the solemn warnings of Jesus Christ concerning his second coming. The snares have been set. Most Christians will walk blindly into them. Yes, I am talking about you! Unless you carefully listen and take heed in meekness, willing to broadly apply the warnings of your Lord to your own thought processes, you will be snared.

**The Secret Rapture?**

Our thought processes and beliefs are primarily shaped by the pew that we sat in, and the experiences that grew out of that understanding. But there is a higher authority to whom we must answer, and our minister will not be with us before the throne to accept the blame for what we believed about life, or how we lived it. Do not trifle with the warnings of Jesus Christ, but rather, try your heart diligently according to his words.

Revelation 22:18, I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 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.
I will not add an extra resurrection into the book of Revelation, or in any book of the Bible, in an attempt to get us out of here early. The penalty is too severe. I will not take away the value of the warnings, thereby taking away the validity of the entire book, by insisting that it is not written to the Christian church as the Servants of Jesus Christ, but rather to “Israel in the future.” I will not take away the church, before Jesus takes it away at the Last Trumpet. I would rather err on the side of caution than to assume a most damnable attitude of frivolity concerning these warnings. Let me err on the side of caution. As a man, err I will. I will not attempt to change the timing of events by insisting that extremely significant events must have happened between verses, or between seals or trumpets. I will not attempt to sneak in a secret rapture anywhere in the book of Revelation. Instead, I will wait for Jesus Christ to return to raise the dead and gather the church, when Jesus clearly revealed to John and Paul that it would take place: At the 7th and last trump.

The seals, trumpets, and thunders record the destruction of man against man under the influence of Satan. Nations are being judged at this time, by God’s time honored method of allowing other nations to crush those who have turned away from him. Yet, none of the occurrences in Revelation is the vengeance and wrath of God until we get to the seven bowls of God’s wrath. That is the time of his punishing those who have destroyed the earth (Rev 11:18).

To be truthful with you, I don't like what happens before the Destroyer is introduced at the 5th trumpet. I don't like the seven thunders. I don't like what happens before the last Trump. I like the end, but the journey looks a bit rough. I would like the waters of life to be very smooth until Jesus returns to take me to heaven in the middle of a five course Sunday brunch. I would also like my daughters to grow up in the America of 40 years ago. I would like to have a million dollars in my pocket, and peace on earth. I would like...

Once you read the book of Revelation by staying directly with the chronology of the 7 seals, 6 trumpets, 7 thunders, last trumpet, 7 bowls of Wrath, and the Battle of Armageddon and succeeding events, you can then go back and fill in the details with the parenthetical sections of scripture. The parentheticals do not change the chronology, they only amplify. They give detail, and show cause and effect. They describe past and foretell future events. They tie the beginnings to the endings, but they never contradict the perfection of the chronology. Some parentheticals cover 3½ years, one covers several thousand years, but the chronology of the book of Revelation stands alone.

### The Three Resurrections

The parenthetical section that we have been dealing with in the 12th chapter of Revelation is directly after the chronological revelation of the seventh and last trumpet, when the mystery of God is executed. This particular mystery concerns the resurrection out from among the dead of those who are “in Christ” from both the old and new covenants. This is the first resurrection, the resurrection of the just, when the saints will be raised incorruptible and rewarded for their faithful service.
Revelation 10:7, In the days of the **voice of the seventh angel**, when he shall **begin to sound**, **the mystery of God shall be executed**, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

This is the mystery of God concerning the resurrection that Paul revealed for the first time to the Corinthians. It is important to recognize that before Paul revealed this mystery, the resurrection of the saints was not understood in the detail that we comprehend it today. The body with which we will be raised is addressed for the first time in the records of the church.

I Corinthians 15:50, ...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God...Behold I show you a **mystery**...

This is the first time that Paul puts together the change from the corrupted corpse to the incorruptible new body and from the mortal flesh to the immortality of a body like Christ’s glorious body. **How fast** will this change happen?

I Corinthians 15:52, ...In a moment, in a twinkling of an eye...

**When** will this mystery be executed?

I Corinthians 15:52, ...At the last trump...

There is no confusion between Jesus, Paul, and John. This is when the mystery of God is executed, at the last trump. This is the moment that the dead in Christ will be raised and the righteous will be judged and rewarded. This is the exact picture that we see when the seventh angel sounds the last trumpet:

11:15 And **the seventh angel sounded**; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become **the kingdoms** of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. 18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and **the time of the dead, that they should be judged, 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.

The faithful martyrs from Able to Zechariah; Stephen, Matthew, and Thomas, to those who stand against the son of destruction; **these all will be raised and rewarded** (as well as **all** those who have died in Christ) at the last trumpet. They will be given authority to reign with Christ a thousand years. Of the two resurrections, this is without question the better one in which to participate.

Hebrews 11:35 ...others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a **better resurrection**.
Some say that there is no resurrection or future judgment. In I Corinthians 15:12 and following, Paul refuted some errors that had crept into the body of believers at Corinth. Paul laid out the specifics of the three times that the dead are raised, Jesus himself becoming the firstfruits from among those who have died, being alive now and forevermore.

I Corinthians 15:20,  But Christ is risen from the dead, becoming the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 Since by man came death, by man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming; 24 then cometh the end...

The word: cometh, being in italics, was added by the King James translator. There is no authority to add the word cometh. It is improperly supplied and should be deleted and read as follows:

22...in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: (1) Christ the firstfruits; (2) afterward they that are Christ's at his coming; (3) Then the end; (When he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.)

Christ will have put down all rule, authority, and power by the time of the “Great White Throne Judgment.” He will have cleansed heaven of the exercised authority of Satan. He will have put down all rule on earth and subjected this world under himself as Adam was to have done. Then he will overcome all the power of Satan, opening the grave and casting Satan into the lake of fire. Note the order of the time indicators: firstfruits, afterward, then. That summarizes the resurrections.

After Christ’s resurrection, the next resurrection, in order, will be those that belong to Christ at his coming. This is referred to as the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5). In I Corinthians 15:12-54, the truth of the resurrection, the nature of the new body, the indication of rewards, the speed at which this change will occur, and the timing of this first resurrection are all addressed. The entire context of this section of scripture is the resurrection of “they that are Christ’s at his coming” for his saints at the last trump. This is our hope; not a “get out of tribulation free” card. These are the three resurrections, or times that the dead will be raised to life. In these three resurrections all will be made alive:

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is the firstfruits from among the dead.

2. Those that are Christ's at his coming. The justified in Christ who looked forward to his coming in faith, such as Abraham, Moses, and David, and those of us who look back at his sacrifice in faith, as we do today. They will be rewarded for their righteous works. This is the resurrection of the just.

3. The end, or last resurrection, when all who have ever lived will stand in judgment before the great white throne. This excludes all those who have previously stood before the judgment of Christ at the first resurrection.
The two resurrections remaining to be fulfilled are those who are Christ’s at his coming, and the end resurrection when he has conquered all principalities and powers. These remaining two resurrections are documented fully in the book of Revelation. They occur at the 7th and last trump (Rev 10:7; 11:15,18), and at the end, just before the final judgment (Rev 20:11-15). These are the only times that the dead are raised. That is all there is, and there ain’t no more.

Do not tamper with God’s Word. There remain two resurrections after Jesus was raised from the dead. He now holds the keys to the grave, and all who live will be raised and judged by him. Do not trifle with the Word of God by adding more resurrections to the book of Revelation and to I Corinthians chapter 15. You will find yourself in contempt of God, having loved a comfortable lie more than you love the truth. He will not change his plan to suit your fancy, you will simply be judged for misleading others into your personal plan of salvation.

There are those who have redefined the resurrection of those in Christ in I Corinthians 15 as not a “resurrection,” but only a “raising of the dead.” This asinine and illegitimate redefinition is a contrived striving over words in a vain attempt to insert another resurrection of the dead. The raising of the dead in Christ is a resurrection; the terms are synonymous and legally describe the resurrection of the justified at the last trump. The audacity to redefine this entire chapter is inexcusable. Attempting to redefine the resurrection as “a raising” is a prime example of the wrestling of definitions that needs to be accomplished to support an extra resurrection in which to insert the secret, pre-tribulation rapture of the church.

Without the illegitimate redefinition of the word “resurrection,” there is no legal base for a pre or mid-tribulation rapture. None. The theological juggling of parables must then be resorted to, in order to justify the assumption. The word “resurrection” appears in the 15th chapter of I Corinthians more than any other place in the Bible. This chapter is speaking specifically of the gathering of those in Christ as the resurrection of those who have been justified by him. If you are in Christ, when the last trumpet sounds you will either be resurrected or changed. You will in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, be “born again.”

**Born Again?**

Scripture declares a literal resurrection of every person who has ever lived. The euphemism “sleep” is used here in I Corinthians, because death will end. In Revelation 1:18, Jesus holds the keys to death and hell (the grave). All will be made alive by him, and stand before his judgment. Christ was raised as the firstborn from among the dead (Rev 1:5). When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, he told him of the necessity of being γενναω ανοθεν (born again) in order to inherit the kingdom of heaven. Nicodemus responded with a question for further clarification. Nicodemus knew that one does not enter into their own mother’s womb a second time. He was not a fool, he was a doctor of the law.
Nicodemus knew that Jesus was using a parable, which is simply a parallel between a well-known reality of the physical universe, as it relates to a spiritual reality, or a concept that has not yet been revealed. Just as we are born into the physical world with a body equipped to live in this physical universe, we must be born again with a spiritual body equipped to live in the kingdom of heaven.

Paul clearly expounded the truth concerning the incorruptible body with which we will be raised, “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven.” This corrupted body must put on incorruption, and this mortal body must put on an immortal one (I Cor 15:50ff). That new body will be like the body with which Jesus was raised. When Jesus was raised, he was the firstborn from among the dead. He was raised with a body that was no longer powered by blood, but by the spirit, yet it had physical properties that are quite tangible. This is when Jesus was “born again” as he used the term when speaking to Nicodemus.

Jesus was raised from the dead with a new body that is equipped to live eternally in the kingdom of heaven. We too will receive a new body that is like his resurrected body (Philippians 3:21), at the time we are either raised from the grave, or clothed with a new body at the moment of his return. Then, we too will be “born again.” Since the flesh and blood body of this first physical birth cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven, “marvel not that I say unto you, you must be born again.” No one enters by any other door, and Jesus himself is the door to eternal life.

I realize that most Christians, like myself, have grown up in the church using the term “born again” as describing the experience of confessing Jesus as Lord and being filled with the gift of holy spirit. I in no way deny that experience. I am simply saying that Jesus did not use the term “born again” to describe that experience. While this is not an evil error, its wrong usage paints an incorrect picture of not only our salvation, but the change that must transpire before we can inherit the kingdom of heaven. The lights will go on when this truth takes root in your heart. One thing is obvious, however, none of us are “born again” at this time. It is a future experience that will have a physical impact on our bodies, whether we are alive or in the grave.

**Be Not Misled**

Matthew 24:4, ...Take heed that no man deceive you.  

The word deceive is πλανοσ, (planos) from which we get the word planet, meaning wandering star. It means to mislead or cause to wander. It does not carry the weight of the word “deception.” Jesus explained, when the blind leads the blind, they both fall into a ditch (Mat 15:14). The blind are attempting to help each other, but they still get hurt. They may be helping each other to live a Christian life. The two walking together may find strength, encouragement, and hope from each other as they stumble down the road. Their assistance from each other is more encouraging than no help at all, yet they are still blind and cannot know what they cannot see. They are not to be criticized and condemned as unenlightened fools. They need to be helped out of love, or left alone, but certainly not jeered.
They may be doing their best, as they follow the advice of other blind men who have walked the path before them. They may very well be doing their best and they will answer to their Lord for how they have walked. They may be walking a straighter path than we, just because they are so earnestly endeavoring to please their Lord. I will not mock them, yet I will not put out my eyes and join them either. I have enough blind spots in my own life without making more.

In the Gospel of Luke we find another very critical warning from Jesus. It concerns his return and the prophesied deception that will be rampant in the church.

Luke 21:8, And he said, “Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many will come in my name saying that I am Christ, and that the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them!”

To not be deceived, Jesus said that it is up to us to take heed. It is our responsibility to listen carefully to what he has said, comparing his teachings with the teachings of those who come in his name. We see from the scriptures that false prophets are inside the church and may speak the truth in many areas. They may be completely sincere ministers and teachers, but they still mislead, especially those who are not rooted in the Word of the Lord. There is, however, a very specific warning that Jesus focuses on here. Those who are going to be misleading the church in the end times will proclaim that Jesus is the Christ and that the time (of his return) draweth near. The “time draweth near” is referring to his promised return for them, just as it does in the companion record in Matthew chapter 24.

The words for draweth near in the Greek are: συνελαυνω (sunelauno), which means to drive together with intensity, and εγγιζω (eggidzo), which means to closely approach; to be near at hand. Its usage paints the picture that the time of his return is intently imminent, the time is now at hand, it could happen at any moment. Jesus warned his followers: When those who name the name of Christ say that his return is imminent, do not follow them. The words are clear, and the warning to the terminal generation, timely. There are prerequisites to his return, as Jesus will clarify in the following verses. When teachers in the church at the end of the age say that the return of Jesus is imminent, Jesus said very boldly and clearly to go not after them; do not follow their teachings for they are not teaching the truth. In the following dissertation, Jesus tells them that many things will happen that will terrify most people, but that even then, the end is not imminent. Jesus goes on to describe the days of Satan’s vengeance that will cause his disciples to be persecuted and killed. He speaks further of the signs in the sun, moon, and stars; the shaking of the powers of the heavens that will precede his return for them. In verse 27, Jesus says that after the powers of the heaven are shaken, then they will see him coming in power and great glory.

Luke 21:28, And when you see these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth near.

Right here Jesus wraps up the whole teaching on “the scandalous deception,” and ties it with a big pretty bow. He starts out the warning by telling his disciple not to follow those that say his return is συνελαυνω εγγιζω. He then states the prerequisites that must be fulfilled. When those conditions are met then they are to look up because his return is συνελαυνω εγγιζω. When are
they to look up? When all of these things begin happening, as they are initiated by the shaking of
the heavens when Satan is cast out. These are the exact terms that are used by Jesus to indicate
the beginning of the devastation of the Great Tribulation.

Do not follow those who come in his name and say that his return is imminent. They are
speaking a lie. They will answer to Jesus for their deceptive handling of the scriptures, even if it
was handed down to them by their denominational traditions. They are setting the snare of the
mystery of iniquity for the strong delusion. Do not follow them. Reprove them. Give them a
copy of this book so that they will see the error of their ways and repent. Do not assume that they
are too hard hearted or set in their ways. The Lord knows their heart and he may have been
working on them for years. I was in the same deception. Our Lord is merciful to those who seek
him with their whole heart.

We will be able to say that the Lord’s return is imminent before too long. We know that in just
less than 3½ years after the Destroyer is revealed as the commander of the New World Order,
Jesus will return for his church. Our redemption will be especially longed for, after a few years
of great tribulation. I have observed that those who teach the imminent (at any moment) return
of Jesus avoid Luke 21:8-28 like the plague. I do not feel that the words of Jesus Christ can be
swept under the rug as insignificant chatter. I will stick with Jesus on this one, if you don’t mind.

The Greatest Scandal of the Christian Church

This scandal will not likely be reported on the evening news, yet it is the most serious scandal
that the Church will ever face in its history. It will be more shocking than the bones of hundreds
of babies found at the bottom of the lake at the cloistered convents of the Roman church in
France. It will be more contemptible than the executions of millions of Christians in Europe by
Popes during the Dark Ages. It will be more devastating than Stalin exterminating 7 million
Christians in the Ukraine with the financial aid and knowledge of the United States government,
under the regime of Franklin Roosevelt. It will be more newsworthy than exposing Jim and
Tammy Faye Bakker’s air conditioned doghouse. This scandal will result in Christians hating
and betraying each other to death! Disappointed expectation will be the reason that Christians
will hate and betray each other. They will be snared in their own preconceptions and habit
patterns, because they have believed what Jesus said, “Believe not!”

Matthew 24:10, And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

WHY? What could cause such bitterness, disappointment, and hurt that Christians would betray
each other to the death? What terrible traps have been laid for the Christian church? What are
the plans of the mystery of iniquity that could put us into such a condition? It appears that there
will be two groups of Christians: The haters and betrayers, and the hated and betrayed. It will
not be a pretty picture, just as it isn’t when it happens in the church now.

I know how it is to find your denomination riddled with envy, pride, jealousy, and sexual
promiscuity and perversion. I know many ministers who are now recuperating as truck drivers
because they have witnessed the same hypocrisy within the upper echelons of their own denominations. It crushed their lives and their spirit. I know what it is like. Life can be bitterly disappointing, even when things are going relatively well. But what could cause such wholesale hatred against each other? What disappointed expectation? What could cause the Christian church to turn their back on Jesus Christ and each other? What could cause such bitter hostility? Could it be that they would have reason to believe that Jesus himself has let them down? Life is not lived in a vacuum. What is the cause of this terror? What is this trap, Lord?

10 And then shall many be offended, <σκάνδαλιζω (skandalidzo) = snared> and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Skandalidzo is a snare. A snare is set to capture the prey in their own environment and habit patterns. The snare is set by watching the habit patterns of the intended victims. You observe where they feed, where they go to water, and where they go for rest. You learn the comfort zones of the beasts that you are attempting to capture. The snare is then set to catch them in their own habit patterns by a device that is well camouflaged and appears to be a harmless part of their comfortable environment.

Skandalidzo is the Greek word from which we get the English scandal. Legally, to lure with bait is to entrap, but to catch someone in an act in which they are willingly engaged is scandal. The Christian church will be caught in their own habits, snared by thought patterns and taken captive in their own comfort zones. Their expectations are about to be irreversibly disappointed. When this snare is sprung it will cause them to turn on each other. Their world will be turned upside down. What are the snares that will catch the Christian church in their own expectation, thought patterns, and habits?

Matthew 24:11-13, And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love αγαπε of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

There are two major snares that Jesus exposes in this section of scripture. The first is the nature of salvation, confessing Jesus as Lord, and our accountability to him. Part of this snare concerns our responsibility to Jesus as our Lord, our continuing in the path he laid down for us, and the requirement of enduring and remaining faithful to the end. It is clear that we are accountable to the Lord for our works as his servants. That is the main thrust of the parables in this section. The result of this snare does not manifest itself until he returns to gather the church. Many grief stricken servants will be weeping and wailing and gnashing their teeth over lost opportunities, lost rewards, and, perhaps worse, being left behind to inherit the reward of disobedience. The parable in Matthew 24:42-51 and the warning of II Thessalonians 1:8 speak to those who do not obey their Lord.
The second snare concerns the nature and timing of his return to gather his servants together. By timing, I do not mean the day and hour, but the parameters that we as awake and sober Christians are instructed to know so as not to be deceived by the strong delusion already at work in the mystery of iniquity. Christians who believe that Jesus is going to come and get them before the Great Tribulation, will feel betrayed. The let down will be severe. It is certain that they will feel lied to by those who have preached this “gospel.” The hatred and betrayal will cause the love of God to grow cold in many. The ensuing confusion will cause all but the very elect to be deceived by the “prince that shall come.”

Forewarned is Forearmed

Jesus foretold the wrestling of scriptures to try to prove that there is another resurrection, a secret rapture or “tameion” coming for his saints, as Jesus referred to it. He detailed this deception in Matthew, and warned about adding and subtracting from the chronological sequence of Revelation. He then told Paul that those who love comfortable lies more than the truth will be allowed to go home to their own working error, right into the waiting arms of the “messiah from hell.” The snare has been set, just as Jesus foretold.

Matthew 24:24, For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.

For thirty years I assumed “behold, I have told you before,” meant that Jesus was reiterating something that he had told them previously. That is what the King James Version indicates. Since we do not have a scriptural record of the previous occurrence, I relegated his warning to insignificance. I never seriously questioned the scope of his statement, I just read by it with unconcern. I was wrong, and the King James is mistranslated here. The Greek text reads:

...Look, I am foretelling this!

These words highlight one of the most serious warnings of Christ to his followers concerning his return for them. Cautiously heeding this warning will ensure that we will not be deceived by any man. He is foretelling the future condition in the church that will allow all but the very elect to be deceived. This deception will dominate the teachings of the church before he returns, and it will have been introduced by ministers who have spoken what Jesus has not authorized, and repeated by those who found the message comforting. Given the solemnity of the warnings, it is a dangerous position to ignore, gloss over, or attach an insignificant meaning to the specifics Jesus describes.

Jesus stated to the Apostles of the New Testament church, nearly 2000 years before the fact, that these false teachings will so permeate the church that it will deceive nearly everyone! Listen! Listen! If there is one warning to be heeded from the lips of Jesus Christ concerning his coming for his followers, it is this prophetic warning of the teachings that will abound before he returns.
Do not trivialize this warning! Let it haunt you day and night. I pray that you will not be able to sleep until the truth of what Jesus spoke grabs your heart and shakes you to the depth of your soul. I pray that you wake up shaking in cold sweats over the veracity of this warning. This is serious. You have been set up for the great deception if you love the words of manufactured comfort from man more than you love the warnings of your Lord. He has shown us the path and has promised us strength to endure until the end.

Matthew 24:26, Therefore if they <false Christs> shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; <ερηµος> go not forth!

The word desert is not indicating a dry hot area with cactus, snakes, and lizards. Words paint pictures in the mind as a means of communicating thoughts and emotions from one mind to another. What is the picture or communication being painted by the word <ερηµος> eremos? Here eremos is a noun used as an adjective which is a descriptive, indicating the environment. This Hebrew linguistic construction is very common in Matthew and Revelation. But, what is the environment? It is the same word, and environment, which described where John the Baptist was teaching:

Mark 1:4, John did baptize in the wilderness <eremos>, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judea...

John was in the wilderness where everyone who wanted to see him had to go forth to see him. Jesus described the same environment here. False Christs will mislead the church to think that we will need to go to him when he returns. Jesus warned us to go not forth, and went on to tell us the true environment of his coming that cannot be falsified.

Matthew 24:31, 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.

This is why we will not need to “go forth” to see him. He is sending forth his angels to get us. He is coming in all of his power and glory. No one will be able to duplicate his coming. No one could deceive you unless you were taught to look for a “different” coming: A secret, imminent coming with no known precursors to the event. Jesus said the snare would be set by false teaching among his future followers.

False Christs, for the most part, are not very good at deceiving the church; at least not to this date. But the mystery of iniquity has laid plans for a very dangerous deception in the near future that will deceive all but the very elect of God. Most of the Christian church will fall prey to this snare. Be forewarned, this is not an idle prophecy from Jesus! The snare is set. To keep from getting snared read on carefully. No matter who shows up as the messiah, go not forth!
You may very well witness this snare as it is sprung on the church. Remember, Jesus has foretold it. But how will this snare be set for the church? By prophets and teachers in the church who have spoken falsely in the name of the Lord. However, this snare cannot be sprung without the false teaching that Jesus now exposes for his future disciples who will live to see his return.

This is the picture that Jesus paints of his return for his disciples. However, Jesus warned us of false prophets who would sow the seeds of a deadly snare into the church at the end of the age. Jesus stated the form that this deception would take so that his disciples would not be deceived by anyone who taught a different gospel. Remember, he is foretelling this so that we will not be deceived by men!

Matthew 24:26b, *If they* <the false Prophets*> shall say unto you, behold! he is in the secret chambers; <ταµειον> Believe it not!

**Secret chambers** is ταµειον (tameion), which again is a noun used as an adjective describing the environment of his coming back for his disciples. The significance is clearly not on the place, but the condition. The Hebrew emphasis is again on the picture the words paint, rather than the more typical mathematical construction of the Greek language. The environment of his coming is the emphasis. What is the environment described? Please look at the context of these two other occurrences of tameion. It becomes very clear.

Matthew 6:5-6, ..And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward (which is to be seen openly praying). 6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, <ταµειον> and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Tameion shows us that which is done deliberately in secret so as not to be seen openly. It is an intentional secret for the purpose of concealing the activity from those who could see if it were done openly. Tameion can be, and is translated as closet, storehouse, storeroom, inner chamber; anyplace that can obscure the actions of one from being observed. Its usage is not meant to convey where one hangs clothes or stores grain. Jesus is not painting the picture of a deception by false prophets who will teach that Jesus will come, and you will find him in a closet standing amidst your suits and dresses, or you will find him behind a sack of wheat flour. No! The false teaching is that he will return to gather us in a secret rapture, unseen by the world. The act, as well as its timing, would be a secret with no precursors to the coming event. His real coming, however, will be preceded by several events that are an integral part of the Great Tribulation. Jesus foretold of the deception by false prophets. That you would not know when it would happen, and that it would be an unseen event. Let’s look at Jesus’ other usage of tameion:
Luke 12:2-3, For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid that shall not be known. 3 Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets <ταµειον> shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

What are the conditions described by tameion? Secret, covered, hidden, not known, in darkness, silent. Tameion clearly indicates that which is not open for visual inspection, a secret occurrence, or a mystery event unseen by the world. If false prophets (who may be honest, sincere Christians) say, “Look, he will return at any time to gather his church in secret!” DO NOT, DO NOT, DO NOT BELIEVE IT! Look, Jesus foretold of this deception!

Jesus said that this teaching would become predominate in the church. He foretold it 1900 years ago! Yet we have swallowed this secret pre-tribulation rapture hook, line, and sinker, since it made its major debut in the early 1800s. Jesus said that this would happen, yet many people are more willing to accept the words of a man in the pulpit than the words of Jesus Christ. It is not a question of the sincerity of those who teach it, it is a question of authenticity.

It has been recently reported that pre-tribulation rapturists have uncovered evidence that suggests that the pre-tribulation rapture was taught hundreds of years before the false prophecy of Margaret McDonald started this current craze. I fail to recognize that the longevity or antiquity of a lie qualifies it to be considered truth. It does not matter when the lie was first spoken, or by whom. It was exposed by Jesus as a future deception that would mislead all but the very elect. His prophecy stands. All that are contrary, are misled misleaders, the unwitting assistants of the mystery of iniquity. We will all stand before his throne very soon. Let us at least consider what Jesus said before accepting this new and comfortable doctrine. Jesus is not coming in tameion. How then is he coming? His disciples asked…

Matthew 24:3, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the age? 4 And Jesus answered, TAKE HEED THAT NO MAN DECEIVE YOU!"

The apostles asked when and what and Jesus began with the caution: Take heed that no man deceive you. He then went on to answer their question, but gave them prophetic detail about the snares that will be set by the false Christs and false prophets in the church. Jesus painted the picture of what life will be like before he returns for the Apostles, and the church that will be established by them. He made no effort to paint a rosy picture for those “to whom were given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God” (Mat 13:11). After a very discouraging set up, Jesus told them exactly what his coming will look like, and when it will be. Make no mistake, Jesus was speaking to his disciples, his dedicated followers, about his promised return for them.

Matthew 24:27, 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. 28 (For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.) 29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun shall 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:
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 (all the tribes of the earth) 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.

Jesus nailed every specific that he had just warned them about concerning the false Christs and false prophets:

1. When he returns, you will not need to go forth to him, he is sending forth his angels to raise the dead and gather the elect.

2. It will not be a secret in its timing or in its execution. Every eye on earth will witness his power and great glory; all those left behind will mourn. This will be the great and notable day of the Lord, the day that the Lord acts. It will take place after the tribulation.

When will it happen? After the tribulation of those days, which begins at the abomination of desolation, detailed in verses 15 - 22. The powers of heaven will be shaken and the Great Tribulation begins when Satan and his angels are cast down to the earth, forevermore defeated in the heavens. After the tribulation of those days is when Jesus will return for his disciples, as he has promised. The gathering together, or rapture of the elect, is neither a secret in its timing or in its employment. Jesus has given us specific parameters for both what it will look like and when it will happen.

The Rapture: Timing and Execution

Nearly two thousand years ago Jesus prophesied of the secret pre-tribulation rapture heresy and warned us of the “false prophets” that would be teaching this very doctrine (just as I, myself, did for over twenty-five years). Must the Christian church continue to deny his words and every scripture concerning his coming for his church because we are afraid to believe the Bible over our denominational associations? The Day of the Lord will be the most triumphant revealing in the history of man. Unfortunately, many who have been misled by the false prophets, insert a secret rapture between verses, and then allegorize the book of Revelation any way that fits that presumption. The pre-tribulation rapture is not reality. It is a fairy-tale from the prince of fairies himself, Satan. No one can read the Bible and come up with a pre or mid-tribulation rapture. It simply is not in the plain text of the Bible. It needs to be explained by the “enlightened ones,” to the theologically ignorant masses. After the masses are shown which sentences to isolate to prove this fabrication, we then can pass it down to the next generation of unenlightened “sheeple.” This self comforting theology attempts to get us out of here before we must face what life is now like in many other parts of the world. But it won’t happen! If you think things are bad now, cheer up. They are going to get a lot worse. Jesus clearly teaches his followers when he is coming back, and what it will look like. They have not been asking about Armageddon, they know nothing about Armageddon. They want to know when Jesus is coming back for them! Jesus knows what must happen first so he tells them:
Matthew 24:27, "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. (28For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.)"

As scavengers make their timely arrival at the carcass of those who have fallen, so will the angels make their timely arrival at the graves of the just, when they are sent forth to raise them in the twinkling of the eye.

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days (the sun shall 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:) 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:

When will the sign appear? After the tribulation of those days, which will be worse than any other time in the history of mankind, and unless those days were cut short, there would not be anyone left alive on the planet. What is the sign? Like lightning, splitting the sky from east to west, as he sends forth his angels to gather the elect. In the atmosphere darkened by the nuclear war in the west at the sixth seal, and the conventional war in the Mideast at the sixth trumpet, the entire earth will witness the angels in full glory being sent out to gather the elect over all the earth. This darkened atmospheric condition was prophesied to exist “before the day of the Lord” many times in both Old and New Testaments (Joel 2:10,31; 3:15; Mat 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; Acts 2:20). But we never learn the cause of the condition until it is revealed in the book of Revelation (Rev 6:12; 8:12; 9:2). The sign is not the darkened atmosphere, but the light of the mighty angels piercing the darkness as they are sent forth to gather the elect from the four winds.

30 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. 31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect <the justified in Christ from all ages> from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Then and only then (after the tribulation of those days that begins at the abomination of desolation) will we all see the angels sent forth. Not everyone on the globe will see Jesus personally at the moment of his return, that would be an optical impossibility. However, the sign--millions of angels being sent forth--will not be missed by anyone alive on planet earth. This is Jesus’ coming in power and great glory!
Chapter Four

Coming in Power and Great Glory

Lets look at these verses in the light of the other records of Christ's coming to gather the church, that “where he is, we may be also” (John 14:3).

Matthew 24:27, 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... 30 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 (all the tribes of the earth) shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 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.

Does this scenario of his coming look and sound familiar? Let us peruse the New Testament for other accounts.

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 precede them which are asleep. 16 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: 17 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.

Plenty of noise and glory going on here. This cannot be a secret to anyone on earth. Caught up, Αρπηζω (harpadzo), was translated into the Latin as rapture, from whence comes the term as it is used in Christian circles today. “Caught up” and “gathering together” are used in the KJV Bible as the event described by Jesus of his coming again to his followers to receive them unto himself. The place he has prepared for us in his Father's house, will be accessed via Jesus Christ, who is The Way. Any attempt to get to the throne of God, other than by him, will be a futile attempt (John 14:1-6). He will come and get us how and when he told us he was coming, and not a moment sooner.

II Thessalonians 1:6, Seeing it is a righteous act with God to repay tribulation to them that tribulate you; 7 And you who are tribulated with us, rest <οσιοινπν> when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Pay back time is coming. The day of vengeance and the wrath of God nears. The tribulated
church will rest \(<\alphaν\varepsilonιν = \alphaν\alpha\nuιν\)= anacin>, yes, the pain will be relieved! **When?** **When** (and not a
moment sooner than **when**) the Lord is revealed from heaven to gather the church and execute
his vengeance and wrath on all those who have tribulated his people in the last days. The glory
and power of the Lord will be revealed on that day.

Revelation 1:7, Behold, he cometh with clouds; and **every eye shall see him**, and they
**also** which pierced him: and **all kindreds of the earth shall wail** because of him.

There is no secret here either. The last trump is the great day of victory for the Lord Jesus Christ
and his church. Every eye shall see and all the earth shall wail, who have not made him Lord.

I Corinthians 15:51, Behold, **I shew you a mystery**; We shall not all sleep, but we shall
all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump: for the trumpetshall sound**, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

If this is a secret rapture, the trumpet has got to go. If the English and Greek language can be
depended on as a reliable means of communication, **the speed** at which this change will occur
and **the timing** are both addressed in this verse. At the last trump is **when**. **The last trumpet is
not some obscure reference to a vague occurrence somewhere in the annals of ancient
Hebrew history. It is the establishment of the revelation that John and Paul received
concerning the first resurrection of the dead in Christ at the last trump.** Looking back at
these verses after seeing them a thousand times, it is easy to forget that when Paul wrote
concerning the changing of our bodies at the last trump, he was declaring a **mystery**. These
Christians had never before heard this revelation. The mystery he was revealing to the
Corinthian church is the same mystery to which Jesus alluded, and God has kept secret until this
time. It is the mystery of the new birth, when our corrupted or mortal bodies will be changed into
a body that is equipped for the kingdom of heaven. Paul said the same thing Jesus told
Nicodemus, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven. We must be changed.
We must be born again, just as Jesus was when he was raised from the dead. Jesus has been
given the keys to death and hell. No one gets up until he raises them, and the first to rise will be
the justified in Christ at the last trump. **The mystery of the new birth will be executed at the
last trump.** John was told the exact same thing by the angel in heaven.

Revelation 10:7, But in the days of **the voice of the seventh angel**, when he shall **begin
to sound, the mystery of God shall be finished** \(<\tau\varepsilon\lambda\varepsilon\omega\> = \tau\varepsilon\lambda\varepsilon\omega\) **EXECUTED**, as he hath
declared to his servants the prophets.

**When is this mystery to be executed?** **When the 7th and last trump sounds.**

Revelation 11:15, 18, **And the seventh angel sounded**; and there were great voices in
heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms** of our Lord, and of
his Christ; and he **shall reign for ever and ever**.

18 **And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and THE TIME OF THE DEAD,**
**that they should be judged, 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 shoudest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Here it is at last. The last trump was revealed by Jesus to his servants, the prophets John and Paul. Through the mouth of these two witnesses (Deut 19:15), the when of the gathering of the saints to their reward was established. There is no confusion. This is exactly the same picture Jesus presented to his disciples, as recorded in the book of Matthew. Paul presented it to the church in tribulation in Thessalonica, when he was with them, and to the Corinthian church, when he revealed the mystery of the new birth at the resurrection of the saints. This last trumpet is the day of the Lord and our gathering together unto him, thereby saving us from the wrath of God. The 7th trumpet is also the day of vengeance of our God, when he will tribulate those who have tribulated us. This is the glorious day of our deliverance from tribulation and the grave.

The Time of the Dead

Revelation 11:18 refers to the time of the dead having now come at the last trump. Which time of the dead is this? It should be obvious to even the most casual student of the Bible. According to I Corinthians chapter 15, there remain only two times that the dead will be raised. This is certainly not the end resurrection after the Millennial reign of Christ at the White Throne Judgment! It is the resurrection of those in Christ from all ages. The resurrection of those who looked forward in faith to the coming of Christ, such as Abraham, Moses, David, and those who looked back in faith, like Stephen, Peter, and Mary. This is the first resurrection, the resurrection of the just, the better resurrection. This is the resurrection out from among the dead, when the dead will be raised incorruptible and the living in Christ will be changed. This is when we will be rewarded for faithful service by the one who raises us from the dead. This will be the execution of the “mystery of the resurrection out from among the dead and the changing of the mortal to immortality,” as was declared by the prophets of Jesus Christ (I Cor 15:51, Rev 10:7). This is the mystery of the new birth, the resurrection of the just, as was revealed and declared by Paul.

The reference to this particular “mystery of God” presented a great problem to me as a lifelong dispensational, pre-tribulation secret rapturist. When I considered the truth that this mystery is executed at the 7th and last trumpet, I had to go back and reinterpret the book of Revelation to fit what was revealed by Jesus. This was not comfortable to do, as I had over 25 years invested in my theology. But when I did, the chronology of events fit in a perfectly logical sense and I no longer had to shut my eyes to the myriad of evidence that does not make any sense at all to pre and mid-tribulation secret rapturists. After 25 years of reading it, the book of Revelation finally made sense from beginning to end. The Lord Jesus is faithful to open up new treasures in his Word each day.
When I say that the book of Revelation finally made sense, I mean that even the geopolitical spectrum that shapes the destinies of nations also began to unfold. Not only did the Bible begin to explode from cover to cover unfolding God’s great plan of redemption, but the planned strategy of the rulers of this world (kosmokrateros) to devolve the world into the New World Order came alive in the pages of the prophetic records. The planned course of action that was published under the direction of the Luciferian Illuminatti and their present day atheist globalist offspring, began to make perfect sense. Their stated goal, to bring the United States and all nations into a one world government, has been moving relentlessly forward on several fronts. Fortunately for those who are watching, their plans can be clearly seen in the pages of history and the scripture. Their fulfillment is inevitable. Jesus said these things must come to pass...but woe to him that brings the offense.

Some of these topics are part of the subject matter in the 12 hour seminar concerning the book of Revelation and the coming New World Order: From Here . . . To Eternity. Not lightweight material, but it should be known by every Christian young person and adult who intends to stand for Christ in the next few years. Once they pull the rug out from under the monetary house of cards and the coming economic earthquake ensues, there may be very little opportunity to educate yourself or prepare.

From Here . . . To Eternity gives a prophetic overview of life on the planet, and in the United States over the next few years. The seminar exposes the plan that will allow our melding into the final world government that will dominate the earth, and exactly which of the several planned options they will end up using, according to the Word and foreknowledge of God. This seminar is available to Christian groups in the United States and Canada.

The Resurrection has Passed

The tameion rapture is clearly a violation of the warnings of Jesus Christ, as well as every scripture that concerns Christ's coming for his saints in power and great glory. The secret rapture of the church is a heresy that has been affectionately accepted in the church for over 150 years. This snare was given its first public hearing in the first century by Philetus and Hymenaeus; it is still alive and well on planet earth. Some of the Christians were trapped into thinking that they had already missed the first resurrection. That appears to be the case as Paul writes to Timothy:

II Timothy 2:17-18, And their word will eat as doth a cancer: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is already past; and overthrow the faith of some.

If the believers were mislead into thinking that the resurrection of the saints at the return of Christ was going to be a secret, silent pre-tribulation rapture, it would be relatively easy to lead the gullible into thinking that the resurrection has already past, and that they had missed it.
How much easier it will be to mislead disenchanted Christians into thinking that they have been left behind to endure God’s wrath. They have been primed by the teaching of the pre-tribulation rapture from birth. When the war that destroys national sovereignty decimates the earth, out of the ashes of this supposed “Armageddon” will arise “the messiah.”

Very soon things are really going to get rough in America, during the coming economic earthquake and war. There are millions of Christians who live with the false hope of a tameion rapture before anything bad goes down in America, and before they need to change their lifestyle. When the seal that will plunge the world into economic chaos is stripped, revolution will erupt in the States, martial law will be declared, and your cold dead fingers will be pried from the trigger if you attempt to maintain your God given rights of self-protection and self-determination.

The nuclear war that Russia has been building toward at breakneck speed over the last “peaceful” decades, will plunge the world into chaos; the global government of the New World Order will emerge. The United States of America will cease to maintain the facade of the Christian nation that she once truly was. God will use the Russians to judge a nation that has thumbed her nose at the Almighty, and now proclaims to all her offspring that there is no God. America will be smashed by Russia, and Russia will be smashed by God as they attempt to invade Israel.

The New World Order of the “rich men of the world” (James 5) will rise up out of the smoke of this war, just as the Phoenix bird is pictured rising out of the ashes of the final glorious bloody revolution in the painting that is directly over the head of the secretary general of the United Nations. Satan has had this planned to perfection for generations. The plan is carried out by those who, unlike Jesus, have bowed their knee to Satan in return for the wealth, power, and glory of this present world. The plan is unwavering as it is carried out under the watchful “all seeing eye” of the god of this age, Satan. The evil in the heart of man is about to come to its full fruition in the most violent and bloody turmoil that mankind has ever, and will ever experience. Hitlers will be punished for being too easy on people. The transgressors will come to full maturity in this time of the wrath of Satan.

Those expecting the tameion rapture will believe that either Jesus stood them up and is not really returning, or that the resurrection has already passed and they missed it. Jesus said that the love of God in many Christians will grow cold. They will hate each other and betray one another to death (Mat 24:12). These are the prophecies of Christ, and this will be a reality in our lifetime. Closing our eyes to the warnings of Jesus Christ will not make truth go away. How this hatred and betrayal could happen becomes apparent, when one considers the working of Satan and the mystery of iniquity. The stage is set for the strong delusion of the church.
The Thief in the Night

Every one of the accounts that we read concerning the rapture is describing the very same event in specific detail. They are identical. One of the great mysteries of life still remains to be answered. Why, when every clear picture in the Bible shows the same coming of Jesus Christ in all of his glory to gather the church, have we so easily fallen prey to the tameion rapture heresy and denied everything that Jesus said to the Apostles, as if Jesus did not know about his return himself? The popularity of this doctrine has been legitimized by an over extrapolation of the “thief in the night” parable.

In Matthew 24 we have a parable that tells us that Jesus is returning as a thief in the night. What it communicates is sobering, but simple. If you know when a thief is coming, you will be ready for him and not allow your home to be plundered. The picture painted in this parable is a man asleep and drunk, with no idea that something is going to happen that will profoundly disturb his life. On the other hand, there are those who are aware that the times and the seasons are changing. They are alert and prepared, so as not to be taken by surprise.

All parables break down, as there are only so many similarities that can be compared from one situation to another. Only the point intended can be communicated with any amount of accuracy. What is the point of this parable? Accountability. When our Lord returns, what are you going to be doing with what he has entrusted to you?

Matthew 24:42-51, Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have allowed his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. 45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. 47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; 49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware, 51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

This parable is scary. Jesus says that he expects us to be living our commitment to him. He is our Lord, and he has given us a job to do. Faithfulness will be rewarded, slothfulness and disobedience punished. He tells us to be especially careful how we live, and how we treat our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are fully accountable to our Lord for how we conduct ourselves and how we spend our time and money in these final years. Especially those who are his ministers! Is this the time to start a new 20 year building program? Is your life and ministry focused on the reality of the times, or are you living with the goals and aspirations of the past? Are you attempting to hold on to the American dream? Wake up! It’s gone! The priorities of the last generation should be considerably different from the generations that have gone before
us. The Spirit of God wants you to know where you are today in relationship to the history of mankind and the plan of God.

Earlier in the 24th chapter of Matthew, Jesus told us of the snares that will catch the Christian church, and that many will hate one another and betray one another to the death. The tameion rapture of the church is one of these snares. To teach that this parable of “the thief in the night” is indicating that life will flow gently down the stream until one day Christians will just disappear without a trace with everyone else standing there in amazement, is nonsense. First, it destroys the solemn warning of accountable living that Jesus is making to his people. Secondly, it contradicts every scripture in the Bible that depicts his coming. This is just one of the fairy tale lifestyle pictures that has been painted over the eyelids of the sleeping, lukewarm Christian church in America. Where did we get the picture that no one will know that he has come and gone? The secret rapture of the church has no grounds in reality, or in scripture. The fertile soil was found in the minds of those who have milked the cash cow of the prosperity gospel. If it feels good, it will sell! The secret rapture of the church is the primary foundation stone to the “strong delusion” of II Thessalonians 2:11.

The strong delusion is the skandalidzo of Satan that will play out differently in the lives of each deceived Christian. Each person will be taken by their own ignorance of the scriptures. That is one of the reasons that Satan has worked so feverishly to dumb down the population through entertainment and the government school system. When one reads the Federalist Papers and realizes that they were written to explain the constitutional republic to the general population of the late 1700s, then one can appreciate how dumbed down we have become. In the 1700s, anyone in America who could be considered at all educated had to have a command of the Scriptures. Our complacent ignorance has helped set the deadly snare for the mystery of iniquity.

The strong delusion according to the context of II Thessalonians 2 is: Christ will come at any moment, and certainly before the Wicked one is revealed.

The strong delusion according to the context of Luke 21 is: His return is imminent, he can return at any moment.

The strong delusion according to the context of Matthew 24 is: Christ is going to return in secret--before the tribulation to gather his church.

The strong delusion according to the context of II Timothy 2 is: The resurrection is past. Christ has come and gone, and you have missed it.

The strong delusion according to the context of Matthew 24 is: Since you have missed the secret rapture, you can go see “Christ” in the temple after the big war. (Or just stay home and watch him on CNN).
The strong delusion according to the context of Mark 13 and Revelation 13 is:
You don’t need to endure until the end, just say the sinner’s prayer, put the gospel of John on your shelf, and you are in. Don’t worry about that little micro-chip in your forehead!

The strong delusion according to the context of Dispensationalism is:
None of what Jesus said has anything to do with the church, reeelllaaaxxx. We’ll be outa here before you know it. Don’t listen to Jesus, he will just confuse you. Listen to me! I’ll set you free from all of the negative thinking that keeps you from being a full expression of the self-actualized individual you were created to be. Jesus wants you to be haaamppyyyy!

The strong delusion snare is set. The Christian church is expecting the lie and has closed their eyes to the truth. You had better start waking people up by shaking them up. The snare is about to be sprung.

If people feel more at home with a comfortable lie than they do the truth, they will believe the lie regardless of what the Bible clearly teaches. The Laodicean lifestyle does not go very well with the 7th trumpet resurrection of the just, but it does fit well with the imminent, thief in the night, pre-tribulation secret rapture delusion. The last trumpet gathering of the saints in the book of Revelation makes perfect sense. It teaches us to strip down to fighting weight and prepare for the deadly battle ahead. It constrains us to give our all for our Lord now, realizing we will be judged and rewarded by what we have laid up in the Kingdom of God, and not by the junk that we accumulate and cannot take with us. Your death is a more imminent reality than the return of Jesus Christ. We should live like we don’t have next year. We probably won’t.

The delusion of the pre-tribulation rapture of the church allows us to live for the present time in relative comfort, if we have the things in life that can make us comfortable. We can live in denial of the trials that are part of dying Christians all over the world today, and deny that we will be required to make the same sacrifices in the upcoming great tribulation. The imminent return of Jesus theology has lulled the church of the last days to sleep, just as Jesus prophesied. Perhaps American Christians would have more cautiously guarded their nation from an internal atheist socialist takeover if they thought their children were going to have to live with the result of their sin, waste, and the ultimate judgment of God on this nation. Yes, it would be nice to get out of here before the piper has to be paid, but it won’t happen. Jesus is longsuffering, waiting for the latter rain and harvest. He needs us in there to do the work of the ministry until the last trump sounds. If you think you are getting out of here before then, you are deluded by your own overinflated self-worth. Of the twelve apostles, only John was spared a martyr’s death, and he was boiled in oil! War is hell. Yet, there are those who don’t even put on the armor and engage in the fight.
The Day of the Lord

In I Thessalonians we see this day of the Lord referred to as coming as a thief in the night:

1 Thessalonians 4:16  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. 5:1  But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you,

Times and the seasons is a figure of speech that is in use in nearly every culture and language of the world. It indicates the events that play across the stage of history, and the manifold changes that a careful observer sees in the natural world before the season changes. Life, after all, does not happen in a vacuum. Life is cause and effect, sowing and reaping.

5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, (as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.) But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that, that day should overtake you as a thief.

The world will be crying out for peace at any price. Their personal safety will be more important than freedom of conscience or individual sovereignty before our Creator. In the aftermath of the coming desolation, all of mankind will be crying out for peace; for safety. But their destruction from the hand of God will come forth as surely as a child will be born of a woman struggling in labor. There will be no turning back. Jesus is coming back in vengeance against those who have denied God and destroyed his people. Their destruction will come upon them as a thief, completely unaware. But we are not in darkness; we are not unaware of the signs of the times. We have the light of God’s Word that tells us what must come to pass. We will not falter, but endure till the end.

That day of our deliverance is coming, when we will be caught up, raptured. The times and seasons are obvious to the careful observer. We see the day approaching. What day? What is the context? The day of the Lord. The day that the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God. The dead in Christ shall rise first. The same day of the Lord spoken of in the Old Testament. That day will be fulfilled by the Lord, Jesus Christ. That day to which we are not to be in darkness. That day that shall not overtake us as a thief. We have been given the specific parameters of what it will look like and when it will take place, so that we will not be deceived. It will be on the day that he saves us from the grave and calls us home. It is the day of victory for the Lord Jesus Christ, when he raises the dead, and gives the mortal a new, spiritual body, just before he pours out his wrath. The Day of the Lord is his finest hour.
It is dishonest to present the Day of the Lord as having nothing to do with the gathering together of the saints of God, because it is just that. But for those left behind it is a different kind of day. It is the day that he takes vengeance on God rejecters and infidels. It is the day the “thief” takes the recalcitrant by surprise and breaks up their house. It is the day that he pours out the wrath and fury of Almighty God.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober…

Many are proclaiming, “Relax, there is nothing to be concerned about,” as the world marches straight into a Godless totalitarian one world government. “Jesus is coming back any second now!” No! We are not to be intoxicated by the promises of peace and safety from Moscow, the Oval office, or the pulpit.

7For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love <protect your heart>; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation <protect your mind and thoughts, keep clear on your priorities>. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

We will not be subject to the wrath of God as it is poured out on the earth. We will be saved from the wrath to come. When will we obtain this salvation? IN THAT DAY.

The day the tribulated saints will be relieved from the strain and pain of tribulation.

The day the Lord Jesus Christ comes to rescue us.

The day the Captain of our salvation returns to gather his elect, as he promised his disciples.

The day he comes again to receive us unto himself; that where he is, we may be also.

The day he comes to take us to the Father.

The day of his appearing; his coming; his revealing.

The day the unrepentant of Israel will look on him whom they have pierced.

The day all the tribes of the earth will mourn.

The day every eye will see him, and many will realize it is too late.

The day he returns in like manner as you have seen him go up into heaven.

The day the angel of the Almighty will make a great blast with the last trumpet of God.

The day the angel shouts and the dead are raised incorruptible.
The day the alive in Christ will be changed and caught up together to meet the Lord in the air.

The day he cuts us loose from the bands of the Wicked one.

The day he comes to be glorified in his saints.

The day he takes vengeance on those who do not obey him as their Lord.

The day he sends forth his angels to gather the elect from the four winds of heaven.

The Day of the Lord!

I Thessalonians 1:10, And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Even though I would prefer to go to heaven much earlier than when Jesus says he is returning, we must patiently wait and endure, just as our fallen brothers and sisters in Christ did in Thessalonica, in Rome, in Persia, in Medieval Europe, in the German death camps, in the Soviet Gulags, in communist China, in Cuba, in Ethiopia, and in America. But glory be to God, we will be delivered before the seven bowls of God's wrath are poured out. We will be received up into glory at the last trump. We are going to be delivered from the wrath of God, which has been promised for thousands of years. We will not endure his wrath, but the wrath of man and Satan will continue to be a part of our lives until the end of the age. That is just the way life is. It is written, “They that live Godly in Christ Jesus, will suffer persecution.”

Before the righteous judgment of God can be poured upon the earth’s inhabitants, the world must fully set themselves against the Lord and against his people. Before the entire planet is given blood to drink, they must be worthy of such wrath, because they have poured out the blood of the saints (Rev 16:4-7). The world is, and must, polarize to the extremes. As the feast of unleavened bread reminds us, there is no room for compromise. We must aggressively obey our Lord and seek ways to separate ourselves from the entanglements of this world, while at the same time increasing our ability and intensity of reaching into the world to save that which is lost.

Romans 2:5, But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

The day of wrath is the day of vengeance of our God. This is the only reason that the prepared church will be removed from the earth. They will not be subjected to the wrath of God, only the judgment seat of Christ. The wrath of God has been promised as righteous retribution against the godless. The wrath of God revealed against Sodom and Gomorrah are pictures of the coming wrath of God. The angels sent to remove Lot and his family is a type, or prophetic picture, of the angels being sent to raise the dead and gather the saints to meet Christ in the air (Luke 17:28-30). We will be taken to the judgment seat of Jesus Christ and the marriage supper of the Lamb, while on earth the fury and wrath of God will be poured out on those who have tortured his saints.
That day is our victory celebration. The day of his coming will be our day of redemption, and our day of perfection.

Romans 2:16, **In the day** when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 1:8, **Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

I Corinthians 5:5, **To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.**

Ephesians 4:30, **And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.**

Philippians 1:6, **Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

Philippians 2:16, **Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.**

**The Day of the Lord “Redefined”**

In order to teach the pre or mid-tribulation rapture, one must redefine The Day of the Lord as: A period of time in which the Lord does the judging, in the future. This redefinition attempts to separate the day of the Lord pouring out his wrath, from the day of the Lord gathering the church. While it is true that the day of the Lord can, and at times does refer to a period of time in which the Lord judges, it definitely points to the Day that it all begins. It is the Day of monumental significance that ends the age of God's goodness and longsuffering, and begins the Day of God’s vengeance and wrath. As we have seen in the previous six verses, the Day of the Lord, The Day of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Day of Redemption, and the Day of Jesus Christ, are all used synonymously. They are very clear in their meaning. They refer to the day that the righteous are gathered and the day of his wrath begins. It is the same day.

Great pains have to be taken by pre and mid-tribulation rapturists to keep us as far as possible from the last trumpet resurrection and the ensuing bowls of God’s wrath. Those espousing an early secret rapture avoid the “last trumpet” record in the book of Revelation. It clearly exposes their “added” unauthorized resurrections, and “taking away” the church earlier in a secret rapture. But I can sympathize with them. I did the same thing for many years myself. I have children and would like all of us to go sooner too! But that is not my call, it is God’s.

The day of the Lord is when the Lord moves and shakes the foundations of the earth, and he will bring to pass a “very strange act” on the day that the Lord returns to gather his saints. That day will be the day of vengeance of our God, the end of God’s longsuffering, and the commencement of his wrath. It is the day the Lord Jesus Christ does the judging. It is not an indistinct “period of time in the future.” It is the distinct day that he delivers his people from
the hands of the enemy and takes vengeance on those who tribulated the saints of God, and it is coming soon. While the wrath of God is being poured out upon the earth, we will be standing before the judgment throne of Jesus Christ giving an account of what we were entrusted in this life.

II Corinthians 5:10-11. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.

This warning is a little disconcerting isn’t it? I know it is for me. But...“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” We are individually accountable before our Lord. We should all be a little more humble and disconcerted.

Jesus warned that false Christs were going to proclaim that Jesus has returned and you need to go out to him. Jesus said, do not go, when I return I will send my angels to gather you together. You will not miss me because I will get you! He then said that false prophets (which refers to false teaching by otherwise respectable ministers within the church) are going to teach that he is returning to gather the church in secret and will not be seen. He said do not believe them. As the lightning splits the sky from east to west, that is how obvious it will be when he returns. Every eye will see him.
Chapter Five

Dispensationalism and the Secret Pre-tribulation Rapture

Would you care to consider the logic that Jesus was only talking to Israel in general, and that nothing in this section of Matthew 24 concerns the church? This is the most common device that is used to assign anything that Jesus said to another group. To Israel, in this case. Many consider this concept a criminal devise that has been used to disregard everything that Jesus taught the apostles, who he chose and trained to lead the New Testament church. One can literally scrap everything that Jesus said by using that same logic. It provides the perfect excuse to license everything from Adultery to the Secret Rapture.

Let's consider for a moment that Jesus is not really answering his disciples, who would be recording this for the church. (The church that they would be responsible to shepherd in just a few weeks). Jesus would then be telling Israel not to listen to the false prophets who teach that Jesus is coming back in secret, after he would have already come back in secret for his church! That is nonsense. No one is supposed to listen to the prophets that teach this false doctrine.

Some find it difficult to believe that Jesus’ disciples would have asked him about the signs of his promised return for them, and that Jesus would have told them all these things, but “forgot” to tell them that none of this pertains to them. As strained as this dispensational explanation is, in an attempt to disregard Jesus’ clear teaching on his return after the tribulation, pre-tribulation rapturists have abandoned the rules of context and common sense, in favor of isolating a few numbered sentences and overextrapolating parables for the sake of personal mental comfort. These dispensational inventions have been used for over 150 years, and have become the accepted methodology of a number of theological institutions. It is primarily used to support the teaching of what Jesus Christ condemned. Without this dispensational invention, there is no way to contrive a pre or mid-tribulation rapture. This is the best “peace and safety” device that can be manufactured. The new age dispensationalists have succeeded in convincing most churches that Jesus did not know to whom he was speaking on the Mount of Olives, and that he will in fact go against everything he said and take us out of here before the tribulation of those days. Some may think that I am beating a dead horse, but few realize that the entire pre and mid-tribulation rapture is built on this dead horse!

What began as an honest attempt to explain certain uncomfortable scriptures in the early 1800s, dispensationalism has become a most clever instrument in the arsenal of the mystery of iniquity. A very flexible use of dispensationalism has been applied by mid-tribulation rapturists to pick and choose what does and does not apply to the church in Matthew chapter 24. This flexibility allows any number of interpretational schemes, and rules out none. It leaves us without any concrete guide as to whom Jesus is speaking at any particular moment. It can get real crazy. Either Jesus is speaking to his disciples or he is not. No selective applications or secret raptures
between verses is allowed. We can not make up the story as we go to fit our lifestyle or theology. **We cannot extrapolate meanings out of the associated parables that deny the clear events indicated in the context.** Parables must be interpreted tightly and conservatively in regards to the context. It is better to underinterpret than to overapply. Isolating parables from their context to formulate doctrinal conclusions leads to extensive error.

Dispensationalism assumes a pre-tribulation rapture and therefore isolates numbered sentences, individual words, or parables, in an attempt to prove the preconceived assumption. Many reasonable theological arguments can be marshaled to prove such a theory. If one disregards the absolute legal prerequisites that exist in the plain text of scripture, one can argue against the words of Jesus and the prophets from now until the gathering together after the tribulation, but no one is getting out of here before the last trumpet.

Another covert and dangerous side effect of dispensationalism that has misled many Christians, is the instruction that portions of the Bible were not “addressed to them” and have no relevance to their lives. This danger is especially acute in the Gospels, where the standard of our obedience to the Lord Jesus is established. The Gospels show us the context from which all of the Apostles lived and moved in their ministry through the remainder of the first century. **The parables that were spoken to Israel without explanation were addressed “to Israel.” They did not understand them, nor were they supposed to understand them. The explanations of these parables were addressed to the followers of Jesus Christ. We understand them. We are supposed to understand and live them.**

Jesus’ **life** was our example, not our substitute. His **death** was our **substitute**. It is true that Jesus was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and only, very reluctantly, ministered to anyone outside that fold. However, he was on a specific mission from God. That mission, for the time being, required him to focus on the heavy burden of paying for the sins of the world. Jesus also had to establish a corps of disciples who would eventually follow him to a martyr’s death.

Of his disciples, he chose twelve Apostles to lead the New Covenant church after his ascension. Those twelve, and perhaps several more disciples, had just heard Jesus foretell the destruction of their civilization (Mat 24:2). Their hearts were very heavy and they were looking for a light at the end of the tunnel. They asked Jesus **when** he is going to return to get them, and **what** it will look like. Jesus then takes the leaders of the first century church, and subsequent generations of followers, down a very dark tunnel. Not to scare them, but to let them know that this long war against God was going to get mighty nasty. Jesus encourages us to hang tough and do what he called us to do, no matter how desperate things get. He is patient to wait for the latter rain (James 5:7), but there will come a time that he says, “Enough is enough.” He will then rescue his elect (II Thes 1:6,7). That day will end the age of God's longsuffering (Rom 2:3-11). That day of the Lord will begin the day of vengeance of our God (II Thes 1:7,8; Isaiah 61:2).
Plan “A” and Plan “B”

There are those who teach that Jesus came to Israel with a plan A, and a plan B. The theological term for this concept is dispensationalism. In a nutshell, dispensationalism has been explained in a plan A, plan B scenario, and can be understood very well as such.

Plan A: Jesus was to come to Israel, have Israel accept him as the Messiah, and live happily ever after.

Plan B: If they did not accept him, he was then to be beaten, crucified, and die; thereby paying for the sins of the whole world, so that whosoever believeth on him, could have everlasting life.

Let’s look at plan A for a moment.

Matthew 15:24, Jesus said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

That is true. But how did he relate to the house of Israel?

Matthew 13:34, All these things spoke Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and he did not speak to them unless he spoke in parables.

Matthew 13:10-13, And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why do you speak to them in parables? He answered, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. Therefore I speak to them in parables: because seeing, they see not; and hearing, hear not, neither do they understand the things that I say unto them.

Jesus deliberately hid his identity from the multitudes, while at the same time fulfilling the prophecies concerning the Messiah’s coming. Yet when some would make him known, he rebuked them and told them to keep quiet concerning his identity.

Luke 4:34-35, The man with a devil spirit cried out saying, Leave us alone; I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God. Jesus rebuked him, saying, Shut up, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him down, he came out of him, and no longer hurt him... 41 And devils came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuked them and did not allow them to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.

Jesus fulfilled the prophecies that would prove his being the Messiah, yet he spoke very cryptically about his mission. He did not come to be anointed as King. Not yet.
Matthew 11:2, Now when John (in prison) had heard of the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, 3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? 4 Jesus answered, Go and shew John those things which you hear and see: 5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Did Jesus answer their question? Yes, and no. John had to put 2 and 2 together to get an answer. Jesus did not openly disclose his identity, but he made the equation simple enough. Three days before his crucifixion, Jesus asked his disciples:

Matthew 16:13, ...Whom do men say that I am? And they said, Some say John the Baptist: some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Then he said, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answered, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered him, Blessed art thou, Peter: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. Then he charged his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. From that time forth Jesus began to show unto his disciples, how he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Right to the end, he kept his true identity and mission covert. If Satan had comprehended what Christ’s death would accomplish, he would never have crucified him (I Cor 2:7,8). That is the reason the Old Testament prophecies, and often the words of Jesus himself, were so “cryptic.” Satan is well read. Some things needed to be hidden from him. But God can still open the windows of spiritual understanding to his people, just as he did for Peter. After the resurrection, Jesus met two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus, and engaged them in conversation.

Luke 24:19-21, And they said, Jesus of Nazareth was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: But the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. But we trusted that he should have been the one to redeem Israel… 25Then Jesus said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

He did redeem Israel; not by “plan A” as they expected, but by “plan B,” which was God's only plan. Jesus knew it. Moses and all of the prophets knew it and testified concerning his suffering.

Jesus died fulfilling Isaac’s question, “Where is the Lamb?” Abraham’s prophecy, “God shall provide himself a lamb!,” and John the Baptist’s proclamation, “Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world!” (Genesis 22:7,8 and John 1:29,36). Long before his crucifixion, Jesus confided to Nicodemus:

John 3:14-16, As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so the Son of man must be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have
eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Jesus’ death paid the price for man’s redemption in full, and opened the door to all nations immediately; that whosoever will, may come.

Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the age. (Amen)

Thus, when Jesus spoke to his disciples in the gospels generally, and in answering their questions concerning his return for them specifically, he was not speaking in vague uninterpreted parables, as he did to Israel. It was not given to Israel to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but it was given to his disciples to know. He did not reveal the plan of redemption to Israel, but he did, in part, to his disciples. He will also fulfill his promises to his disciples concerning his coming again to gather them together and reward their faithful service.

The Mystery of the Church

The church is one body throughout all time. When the church is raised at the last trump, the entire church, Old Testament saints and New Testament Saints, will be raised to enjoy the reward of their faithfulness. Together they will partake in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in heaven, and the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus the Messiah, according as their reward provides. Before Jesus made both Israel and Gentile one, Gentiles were never heirs of that promise.

Some dispensationalists, in their attempt to justify a pre-tribulation tmeion rapture, teach that the Gospels are addressed to Israel, the Bride of Christ, and that the church Epistles are addressed and applicable to a distinctly separate group, the Body of Christ. Beside the point that these “bride and body” references are both figures of speech, how many times do you think Israel is referred to as the bride, or wife of Christ in the Gospels? ZERO. How many times is the church in the Epistles referred to as the bride or wife of Christ? Twice. Clearly and specifically in Romans 7:4, and in Ephesians 5:25, which finds its fulfillment in Revelation 19:7.

In the Epistles, the church is referred to figuratively as the bride, body, soldiers, farmers, wrestlers, fist fighters, and runners. Dividing the Church by using the figures of the bride and body, negates the work of Jesus Christ in establishing the New Covenant. The great mystery revealed to the Apostle Paul was that the Gentiles, who were outside of the promises to Israel, would be brought together with them through the blood of Christ, and that the two unrelated parties would become one singular body. The promises that were made to Israel became available for all to acquire in Christ.

Ephesians 2:12-20, You [Gentiles] were without Christ, being alien to the wealth that was common to all of Israel. You were strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus you who were far off, are
made near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who has made the two (both Israel and the Gentiles) one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between the two; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, to make in himself one new man, out of two, so making peace; And reconciling both unto God in one body by the cross. For through Christ we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints (of Israel), and of the household of God; And you are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.

Ephesians 3:3, By revelation [God] made known unto me the good news of the mystery; Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of God's promise in Christ.

Rather than recognizing the one body of Israel and the Gentiles that Jesus brought together in his blood and accepting our responsibility to him as our Lord, we have these dispensational devices that were introduced into the church, and have put many to sleep. Now when I chide dispensationalism, I am not attempting to put everyone in the same box and burn it. I realize that there are no two people considering themselves dispensationalists, taking the same path of interpretation. If some of the dispensational views I present appear extreme, I agree. But if dispensationalism is the truth, it will be truth when followed to the extreme. Extreme dispensationalists are at least honest with their concept. I am not painting everyone with the same brush, nor do I desire to pigeonhole anyone. Likewise do not pigeonhole and attach a label to yourself that you would be better off without. There are many good teachings that come out of a dispensational viewpoint; this is not one of them. As with any “truth” it can be slightly twisted, extrapolated upon, and end as a lie. That is what Satan did with Eve in Eden; that is what Satan has done with the rapture in churches. In both cases, man was warned of the deception well in advance.

Many extreme dispensationalists have instructed that Jesus was never speaking to us when he made his demands for commitment and obedience. Some consider Jesus unenlightened, compared to us, because “he did not know the mystery.” Nor did he really understand what he was talking about when he spoke of “the coming of the gift of holy spirit.” They tell us that he never addressed any of his teachings to the twelve apostles, as the soon to be leaders of the Christian church. We are told that he only addressed them as “Israel, the bride,” and that all of his teachings are being held in abeyance because Israel did not accept him as their Messiah. Therefore, everything that Jesus said concerning his coming to gather the saints as meticulously detailed in Matthew chapter 24, is for someone else. Even though it matches every detail of his coming, as indicated throughout the Epistles and the book of Revelation. Jesus words must be discounted, because they put several critical stakes through the heart of the pre and mid-tribulation rapture. In fact, he flatly told us that these teachings will come from the mouth of false prophets.

I further assert that this extreme dispensational fabrication is even more dangerous, considering that one cannot make Jesus Lord if they are able to disregard everything or anything that he says, at their discretion. Our salvation is established on our confessing Jesus as Lord, not
by accepting Jesus as Savior. That puts many people on very shaky ground. Being savior is what Jesus is, and does. He needs no acceptance. Making Jesus Lord is what we must do, so he can save us! I consider dispensationalism very dangerous on this ground alone.

Romans 10:9, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.  

The four words: “Thou shalt be saved” are the future tense of the one word: σωζωθεν (sodzothen), which translates: Thou shalt, in the future, be saved. It is a future occurrence that we anticipate, when the captain of our salvation saves us. Many scriptures point to this future time when we will obtain the hope of our salvation. Once we are saved (at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ), we will be forever saved. On the day that we are raised from the grave, we will be “born again” with an incorruptible new body, and the living mortal will put on a new immortal body. At the execution of this mystery of the new birth, we are biblically “saved.” Those are the primary (but not only) usages of the words “saved” and “born again,” in the Bible. The church has used the words very loosely. The most important thing for us to recognize here, is that we must make Jesus Lord in our lives. “Accepting Jesus as Savior” while maintaining the lordship over your own life will not get you anywhere. If you are happy being your own lord, perhaps you can save yourself while you are at it. That way you can be your own lord and savior!

To Whom Addressed

Why do dispensationalists go through such contortions to get Matthew chapter 24 and 25 addressed to Israel? Because it clearly shows that the church will not be gathered until after the time of great tribulation that is instigated at the abomination of desolation, when the unspoken terror of Satan's fury brings mankind to the eve of destruction. Dispensationalists attempt to sell the idea that these scriptures are the picture of Jesus returning to the earth at the Battle of Armageddon. This is a rather bizarre idea, but the only fabrication that allows them to dismiss the entire section and continue to teach the tameion pre-tribulation rapture of the church. When Jesus condemns the tameion rapture, dispensationalists either completely avoid his warning, or relegate this warning to insignificant prattling with no relevance to anyone. We may not entirely like the picture painted here, but I doubt that the disciples liked the picture Jesus painted of the temple being destroyed and the nation of Israel ravaged.

Matthew 24:1, Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to show him the buildings of the temple.  

Matthew 24:2, And Jesus said unto them, See all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.
There was silence from the disciples for about a Sabbath’s day journey, until they were up on the Mount of Olives. Jesus had just told them that their entire lifestyle was to be violently interrupted. The temple was central to the Jewish culture. Jesus told them that their world was about to be reduced to a pile of smoking rubble and the fabric of their society torn to shreds. Do you think that may have had an impact on those disciples with families? Israel worshipped their nation, lifestyle, and traditions more than they worshipped God. Jesus said that it's over, your nation is finished. This was a very heavy revelation. It sobered them. When it happened, over one million people were slaughtered in the streets under the sword of the Roman legions.

Accepting the truth of the future desolation of their nation, they then asked him about his promised return for them. Jesus answered his disciples’ questions concerning the when and what of his return for them, in fulfillment of his earlier promises to do so. To whom is he addressing his answer? To Israel, who he had just left in the temple, having cursed their leaders, temple and nation? No! He is addressing his disciplined followers, who will lead the New Testament church in a few short weeks. He is addressing those who he had chosen and trained to leave behind. He is addressing those who will be required to give their life’s blood as a witness to the world. He is addressing those who will pen these words of truth for future generations of followers, who will believe through their testimony. If you are a follower of the Lord Jesus, this is addressed to you!

Oikonomia: Administrations

Dispensationalism has been very flimsily supported by a redefinition of the Greek word: οικονοµια (oikonomia), which was translated dispensation four times, and stewardship thrice, in the King James Version. The following was adapted from Strong’s Concordance:

Oikonomia is translated as dispensation 4 times and stewardship 3 times, totaling 7 usages in the KJV. Usages depict: The management of a household or of household affairs. Specifically, (a) the management, oversight, and administration of other’s property; (b) denoting a steward’s responsibility and accountability to his master for the wise use of his goods; (c) the office of a manager or overseer, stewardship; and (d) dispensation.

The foundation of the word oikonomia is stewardship, a bond slave’s responsibility and accountability to his master. The redefinition has portrayed little “oikonomias” or “houses in time” into which one can divide the commandments of God. While some of these considerations are legitimate, they cannot be blanketed by oikonomias. Consider these “dispensation” verses, with “stewardship responsibility” properly supplied:

I Corinthians 9:17-19, If I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but I have no reward if I preach the Gospel against my will. A stewardship responsibility of the gospel is entrusted to me. What is my reward then? When I preach the gospel, I make the gospel of Christ available without charging money, so that I do not abuse that which has been entrusted to me. For though I myself am free, I have made myself a servant <δουλος> unto all, that I might gain my reward. (MIV)
This is not referring to a dispensation of time or an administration of time, such as the “age of grace” being committed entirely to Paul. It was his individual responsibility as a steward (a bond slave to his master), to carry out what his Lord had committed to him. We each have our own stewardship responsibility. No one can do the job you were called to do, and you cannot do what Paul was called to do. There are two other important points to consider here: (1) Making Jesus your Lord and making yourself his doulos, or bondslave, is a free will choice, and (2) the gospel is taught without charge. It is up to the hearers to support the ministry by their free will sacrifice so that others can hear, or the minister needs to keep making tents.

Ephesians 3:2, You have heard of my responsibility as steward of the grace of God, which was given to me, for you...

Paul’s responsibility included getting the word out to others. His individual calling was to communicate the grace of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Others have been called to communicate other parts of the gospel, to other lands and people. Even today, not everyone has the same gift or calling. It is healthy to eat off the plate of many ministers, spit out the bones, and chew the meat well before swallowing.

Return to Sender…

Both of these scriptures denote Paul’s responsibility to God concerning the Gospel that was committed to him, not a dispensation of time. Further complicating our stewardship responsibilities, some dispensationalists have renamed dispensations as: Administrations. They like to picture these administrations as individual houses positioned in time, each with its own particular administrative directives. Each house has a different address, and its own place in time. Hence, when you find uncomfortable requirements from God the Father or the Lord Jesus Christ, you can simply address it to someone else. You just stamp on the envelope of the gospels: “Please forward to the nearest Jew.” That way they have to live with the responsibility and accountability to the Lord, not you! It is ingenious, but disingenuous.

Obviously there are things that are spoken to individuals or groups which cannot be construed to relate directly to us. In that light, dispensation makes sense, but it is never a mindless blanket that covers the whole bed. There are many things that are spoken to one group which cannot be universally applied to another group. That fact is true in the church Epistles as well as in the book of Genesis. The called out, or church, has taken on a new dimension since Pentecost. Those who looked forward to the coming Messiah, and those who look back at the Messiah who came, are both “in Christ.” He will raise them together at the first resurrection, on the day of the Lord Jesus Christ. The faithful in Israel anticipated the resurrection. Moses and David will share in the honor of reigning with Jesus in his millennial kingdom. By grace, we Gentiles will share in the same victory. God’s “called out” spans time, nations, and dispensations. He will gather his elect from all ages, at the last trump resurrection of the just.
There is now no difference between Israel and Gentile. We are all one in Jesus Christ. The words of Jesus to his followers are as pertinent to us as they were to his twelve Apostles. To propound that the words of Christ to his disciples can be dismissed under the guise of dispensationalism, or “convenient avoidance,” is not only dishonest, but will be indefensible before the throne of God on judgment day.

Jesus knew why he was here the first time, and he knows that he is coming again to receive his followers unto himself that where he is, they may be also. In Matthew 24, Jesus is answering the specific question of when he is going to return to gather his disciples together and reward them, and what it will look like. Anyone attempting to mislead you by saying that Jesus does not know to whom or what he is talking about, has succumbed to a doctrine of false prophets in the church. I too had not only believed this heresy, I taught it. I have repented because the Lord has given me the space to turn to him, and away from my sin of mishandling the scriptures. Parroting the teachings of childhood is not the way a minister is to conduct himself. A minister of the Lord must first look to his Master and then teach the truth, even if it means being ostracized by his particular denomination. Unless we repent now, we will stand in judgment before the throne. Ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ will answer to him, for being part of the strong deception of the mystery of iniquity that will rip at the seams of the Christian church in the months ahead. Bear in mind that these scriptures were addressed primarily to those who would live at the end of the age and see the deception as part of their own “Christian heritage.” It is past the time for this last generation to wake up and smell the fire.
Chapter Six

The Strong Delusion is Imminent

The more pumped up the church becomes in its expectation of the imminent return of Christ, the greater will be the shock and disappointment when the pleanstries of American life are reduced to daily survival. The imminency of Christ's return has been poetically extolled by the secret rapturists as the “breath by breath motivation that has served the Christian church for centuries.” However, many ministers of today are blaming this false hope as the primary drug that has dulled the heart of action, the emotions of intensity, and the mind of sound reason.

Tim LaHaye is one of a million fine Christian ministers who have been led down the path of pre-tribulationism since childhood. I use this example from Dr. LaHaye’s book because no one would doubt his sincerity or desire to help people. He and his wife are tireless soldiers for the Lord, but he has swallowed the hook of dispensational theology and took the whole line and sinker of the pre-tribulation rapture with it. That, however, is the church pew that he and I were raised in. He said:

Down through the centuries Christians have lived... with an expectation
...in the next breath,
the next blink of an eye,
the next tick of the clock,
the next rustle of the leaves,
the next sigh,
The Lord Jesus Christ could descend from heaven with a shout and call them home.

Wait just a moment! Stop the world. Look at your own life, and the lives of your most dedicated Christian friends. Do you know anyone on the planet that lives with this intense, moment by moment, imminency driven expectation? No, no one does. But it sounds very poetic, doesn't it? You can only pull people's legs with this circumlocution so many times before it wears thin. Ministers recognize it as a reliable, if not timeworn ending to an otherwise lackluster sermon. Congregants recognize it as an ineffective and overused attempt to motivate them.

Imminency theology causes serious Bible students to play redefinitional pogo stick with isolated sentences in Thessalonians, in order to get us out of here before the abomination of desolation. As we have clearly seen, Jesus Christ indicated that the abomination of desolation will initiate the Great Tribulation, and that he will return after that takes place. I cannot say, as so many others do, “maybe he didn't know what he was talking about,” or “he didn’t realize to whom he was speaking” when he answered John and Peter's question about when he would return to take them to where Jesus said he was going to prepare a place for them.
Believers living a Christian life have the hope of the return of Christ, the resurrection out from among the dead, and eternal rewards to motivate them and provide focus for their endeavors. Our love for God and desire to please our Lord encourages us to labor for him out of love and to store our treasure in heaven, rather than to build temporal fortunes. Jesus never told us that he could return at any moment, and the Apostles never lived with this false concept. In any generation, Christians could have interpreted the signs of the times to believe that it could happen in their life time. Most of the history of the Christian church has seen their blood spilled for the witness of Jesus. Every generation has seen great tribulation (when you are the one being tortured, the “tribulation” doesn’t get any “greater”). However, Satan has not been cast down from the throne room of God, and the destroyer has not been revealed. Therefore, we know without any hesitation that we are at least a few bloody and violent years from the return of our Lord. What are we going to do with those years? Live for him? Or live to build an estate that will be ultimately burned.

When John Huss was burning at the stake for his resolute stand on the Word of God, he was not feverishly scanning the horizon for Christ's return at the next “blink of an eye.” He sang hymns of praise to the Captain of his salvation, who would raise his cindered body from the grave at his future return.

Matthew had the promises of the Lord deeply etched in his mind as the King of Ethiopia staked his hands and feet to the ground. As the axeman poised his gleaming blade over Matthew’s neck, his expectation was not that in the next breath Jesus would return. He imminently expected to die as he shouted, “Father forgive them fo............” Matthew lost consciousness as the blood drained from his severed head. In his expectation lived the resurrection of the just, at the last trumpet. Matthew had penned the words of his Lord, detailing the greatest tribulation that the world would ever see. He described the darkened atmosphere that would prevail before Jesus would return in all of his glory, just as the descriptions had come from Christ's lips. Matthew had no false hope. He lived with a sense of reality that drove him, as a faithful witness, to a martyr’s death. Matthew gave his all during the early rain. The latter rain is yet to come...

More and more ministers are awaking to the realization that the false hope of the imminent return of Christ has put their church to sleep. Their opiated congregations have closed their eyes to the world, hoping that it will all be over before they experience any of the hardship that is part of the daily routine of their foreign brethren. They have a false hope that Jesus is legally bound to appear before the time when man’s and Satan’s wrath are escalated to the point of predominance over a fallen world. The lie of the imminent return of Christ has put people to sleep, and now we are being told that the lie is good for us. We might have expected as much. The mystery of iniquity is already at work, just as Jesus foretold.

II Thessalonians 2:2,  Do not be shaken up or troubled, thinking that the day of the Lord is imminent. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means; Because that day shall not come, except first there come the rebellious stand, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called by God, or is venerated; so that he, as God, sits in the temple of God, proclaiming that he is God.
Jesus will not return to gather his saints until after the abomination of desolation takes place. Period. It doesn’t matter how much you wrestle the scriptures, things are going to get extremely rough and you had better come to grips with the fact that if Jesus is your Lord; the resurrection is reality. You had better not be loving this life more than you love the Lord Jesus Christ. You can wrestle isolated scriptures to say nearly anything that you want. However, there will be no resurrection of the church and no gathering together before the last trumpet in the book of Revelation. You cannot take away the Church before the last trump and you cannot add resurrections at will to the book of Revelation. There are very stiff penalties for this kind of activity, and I don't feel comfortable with ignorance as a defense.

Revelation 22:18,...If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 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...

There are only two resurrections to come. The first one will be at the last trump, the last one at the final judgment. That is it! When they happen, neither will be a secret. Every eye will see him and all those on the earth who have not made him their Lord will be in shock and sorrow. If every knee shall bow, why not now?

**Living in the Comfort Zone**

Earlier in the book we studied the Skandalidzo, the snares that are set to capture the prey in its own environment and habit patterns. We saw that a snare is set by watching the habit patterns of the intended victim. By observing where it feeds, where it goes to water, and where it goes for rest, you learn the comfort zones of the beast you are attempting to capture. The snare is then set to catch it in its own habit patterns by a device that is well camouflaged and appears to be a harmless part of its comfortable environment. Let us consider the habit patterns of the modern church as they are revealed in the auspicious message of Jesus to the church of the Laodiceans:

Revelation 3:15, I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Mediocrity, or living in the comfort zone, is the goal of most modern Christians. The desire to fit in with the world, not make waves, and not appear to be a religious fanatic for the sake of friendships or business, drives us more often than the desire to step out of our self-protective shells and give ourselves to love, as Jesus Christ loved. Rather than laying up treasures in the kingdom of heaven, we find ourselves preoccupied with our treasures on the earth.

3:17, 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.
We too readily accept the world’s measure of success. We are in control of our lives. We have a manageable God, and our church social structure works well for our personal goals. We do not view our personal prosperity in the same light that Jesus does, as filthy rags of temporal distractions from the true wealth.

3:18, I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich.

Gold tried in a fire indicates the burning away of the things that are impure and have no eternal value. Volunteering for the furnace of the refiner to be purified is stepping way out of the comfort zone. Through the centuries, persecution has been the purifier of the Christian church from without. During the upcoming tribulation, those who are practicing Christianity as a hobby will find a new hobby. The Lord purifies us for his service with adversity.

3:19, As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Repentance is an individual thing, and so is rebuke and chastening by the Lord. People repent and turn to God individually. Nations do not. I suggest that we attempt to reach as many individuals as possible with the gospel of Christ Jesus the Messiah. I will not waste my time trying to turn America back to God; but rather Americans back to God.

The Fiery Judgment of America

In 1776 Americans boldly declared to the world that, “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal (in) that they are endowed by their Creator with absolute, inalienable rights.” America’s corridors of power have been taken over by atheist socialists who are dedicated to the destruction of our constitution, our sovereignty, and all vestiges of Christianity in our country. The fiery wrath of God is being stored up against those who have perverted the ways of righteousness and have murdered the innocent. I refuse to idolize the nation that we once had. America as we knew it, is gone.

America was founded as a Christian nation and was declared so by the Supreme Court in 1892. Unfortunately, we are no longer a Christian society. Neither do the people of our land or our government servants believe in what originally constituted us as a nation: “That all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator...” We have allowed deceptive or uneducated people to take the oath to protect and defend our constitution. They have no knowledge of, and do not even believe that there is a Creator, let alone the “certain (absolute) inalienable (non-transferable, God given) rights” that our Federal government was established to secure and protect for us as a people. Our “new” government and the socialist controlled Department of Re-education has replaced the true history of America’s Christian past with multi-cultural babbling. Those who wrestled control of the halls of power in our nation, have diligently worked to subvert the knowledge of God as our Creator and originator of rights.
The government is now the supreme giver and taker of rights. Ask any school child attending one of the public re-education centers. The official doctrine of the United States government is atheism, there is no God. Where there is no God, there are no God given rights, only “civil” rights granted by the mercies of the governing “guardians.”

Atheists live with astounding faith! They live with a hope that contradicts all that their senses tell them about the physical universe. They hope that the incomprehensible intricacies of our bodies, the marvels of mental reasoning, and the unknown property of life itself is the result of millions of years of aberrant chance mutations in a purely mechanical universe. Against the laws and verifiable facts of science, they hold to the scientifically untenable, mathematically impossible, geologically insupportable, philosophically unlivable, and intellectually unsubstantiable fairy tale of the evolutionary genesis of life. This is an act of extreme faith. A faith that transcends any found in the Christian world. To protect its religion from exposure to rational thinking, millions of people have, out of necessity, been executed by atheist run governments. Evolution is the religion of those who refuse to open their eyes to scientific facts and the cause of our one time existence in this universe--God Almighty.

Atheist/Socialists promoting the New World Order of international socialism are the “domestic enemies” that conquered our government and are polluting the minds of our children through the fallacious and deceptively presented theory of evolution. Educate yourself and your children before the ability to think for ourselves is lost forever to the New World Order. There is no time to let our children discover for themselves that “Santa Claus” does not really exist. Tell them plainly that evolution, atheism, and socialism/communism is pure totalitarian slavery.

It should not be a surprise that socialism is the form of government of the new atheist regime that now sits in Washington. An atheist cannot conceive of a limited constitutional republic based on absolute, God given rights. That was the form of government that our Christian forefathers designed for America. Our new government has removed any purpose and reason for life. They have replaced meaning with the constant, mindless entertainment and dumbing down of America through the mass media.

The voices of the prophets warn of the judgment of God that will come upon this nation for having forsaken him, carving out our own religious systems in which the Spirit of the living God cannot speak. It is over. Our only hope is in eternity with a just God, and in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to pull us out of the coming carnage. Unfortunately, just as with Israel, when a nation is judged even the faithful get cut down in the crossfire and shredded by the shrapnel. There is no one who is “innocent” in this matter.

I heard a statement which was attributed to the wife of Billy Graham: “If God does not judge America, he will need to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah!” There will be no apologies. This statement is in full agreement with the scriptures as well as the revelation visions of several modern prophets of God. David Wilkerson saw the great cities in America burning in an apocalyptic holocaust.

This vision, and the visions of Henry Gruver and Romanian Pastor Dimitru Duduman, is about to be fulfilled. David Wilkerson detailed the coming judgments of God on America in his 1985 book, Set a Trumpet to thy Mouth. Dimitru Duduman warned of the impending desolation of
America in his book, Through The Fire Without Burning. The Lord led me to both of these books after I had finished the second rough draft of this book. What the Lord revealed when he opened the book of Revelation to me, he had already shown years before to these, and other prophets of God. For me, however, I had to see it in the pages of the scripture before I would listen to anyone else. At the times that the opposition had been the greatest, and my heart was beaten up, the Lord put each of these books in front of my face to show me that he had shown me the future of America, and that I am indeed responsible to sound the alarm. America is going to be judged by the nuclear fist of Russia, soon. If you live through it, and are reading this book, get ready; the worst is yet to come. (See appendix III. The Modern Day Prophets Speak).

The snare of the mystery of iniquity is completely intact and waiting for the button to be pushed. Allow me to explain. Cataclysmic events around the corner will lead to the elimination of national sovereignty all over the globe. The Destroyer will be revealed at the end of an extremely devastating war, which has been long in preparation and is only months away from ignition. This short war begins at the 6th seal. The silence in heaven that happens at the 7th seal, occurs when Satan is cast out of heaven by Michael and his angels. The war in heaven and the war on earth at the 6th seal are simultaneous. When the smoke clears, the man who sits at the helm of the New World Order is the Destroyer himself, the Wicked one whose coming is after the working of Satan. The details of the 6th seal nuclear destruction are seen in the first four trumpets. This war will provide for the judgment of God on the nation that has forsaken him. Russia (Gog and Magog), who has been in preparation for decades, will launch against the United States while they are in the turmoil of martial law, as a result of the manufactured economic collapse of the world bankers at the 3rd seal. Russia will crush the last vestiges of our Christian republic, and make way for the totalitarian phase of the New World Order. This wound unto death to the head of the beast system (Rev 13:3) will result in the 7th world empire of the United States, giving way to the 8th and final incarnation of the beast New World Order (Rev 17:10-11).

The initial attack of short range tactical nuclear submarines will knock out the coastal ports of the United States that have commercial and military significance. The totality of this coastal debris will be “as a great mountain” which will pollute the waters of the seas and knock out a third of the ports and a third of the ships. The retaliation for this act will result in the carnage that is detailed in the first four trumpets. (The modern battle gear pictured in Revelation is detailed in Appendix VI). Out of the smoke of this global thermonuclear war, will come the Destroyer. The focal point of the 5th trumpet is not to describe destructive power of the rotary wing aircraft of the New World Order, even though John was understandably awed by the spectacle. The focal point is the introduction of their “king” or commander. This is the first Woe! The Woe begins when Satan is taken out of his place in the heavens and cast down to the earth, having great wrath because he knows that he has but a short time. This revealing of the Wicked one will commence the worst tribulation and slaughter of human life that has ever, or will ever be. Except for the fact that man’s days on this earth will be shortened by the intervention of Jesus Christ, no one would remain alive.

This final phase of the Illuminist’s Luciferian World Order will seek to destroy the remnant of Israel and the non-compromising Christians. These Christians will be hated and betrayed by those who compromise to save their skin. The compromisers will be the haters and betrayers of Matthew 24:10.
Those Christians who believe that Christ is legally obligated to come get them before there is any tribulation on earth, will be in shock. They will not trust the word of any preacher; preachers won’t trust themselves. People willing to do anything to survive and feed themselves and their family, will capitulate to the New World Order, which will be ruled by the Destroyer. They will worship and obey him as their messiah, the one who will promise peace to the earth, through total obedience to him. **He will expunge the irrational social deviants who wait for another messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

To the unlearned, this coming war will appear as if Armageddon has taken place. The sixth seal global thermal nuclear war and its devastating effects will plunge the world into an anarchist’s nightmare. With millions vaporized and the planet in chaos, it will be reasonable for untrained Christians to imagine that the resurrection has “already passed” and that they have been left behind to endure the wrath of God. The sky is dark at noonday. Out of the ashes of the war emerges “the prince that shall come” and the final phase of the New World Order.

The prince that sits on the throne will be none other than the son of destruction himself. He will appear to establish peace on the earth, enlisting the help of the religious leaders of the world to assist in building a new millennium of peace and good will toward men. To all but the elect of God, it will appear that after “Armageddon,” the “messiah” has appeared to take his throne. All of the world will worship him. This is when “the snare of the false Christ” will take its toll. Those few Christians that are aware of the snare will be wise. By preparing ahead and walking by the spirit, they will be able to do things that would make James Bond cringe in fear.

Daniel 11:32, ...the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. 33 And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. 34 Now when they shall fall, they shall be helped with a little help... 35 And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white...

12:3, And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

**Could This Be a Conspiracy?**

You may well have said, “This sounds like some kind of conspiracy.” You are absolutely correct in that statement. We clearly see from the pages of the Bible and from life itself, that it is bound in the heart of man to agree with others, to do evil for their corporate gain. Organized crime has existed since Satan rebelled and convinced other angels to do so. Conspiracies are commonly seen throughout the Bible. We read in the second Psalm verses 2 and 3:

The Kings of the earth, and the rulers of the earth take counsel together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying: “Let us break their constraints in pieces, and cast their restraints from us.”

This is the specific conspiracy of which we are speaking. Reading the remainder of the second Psalm, we see that the Messiah himself will take revenge on these world conspirators by dashing
them to pieces like a potters vessel. Do I feel compelled to pray for these conspirators? Yes, that this destruction will be swift and their plans to destroy us will be thwarted by the angels. When evil men act alone, they have little power. If there is no premeditation to do evil, there is very little chance of success by the wicked. It would have been very difficult for Hitler to murder tens of millions, had he not taken counsel together with others who were atheist evolutionists. It would have been very difficult to hide the cocaine smuggling operation in Mena, Arkansas, unless crooked politicians were able to conspire with other evil men to have eyewitnesses executed. The nature of Satan is to bribe those who would conspire with him to do evil. Since he is the overseer of the plan to subdue the world in a totalitarian New World Order, it is axiomatic that the plan will continue to move ahead as he planned from the beginning. His co-conspirators follow his plans for the payoff that they will receive from him. There is no disputing the fact. If Satan exists, conspiracy on a world wide scale exists. It is inevitable. Conspiracy? Absolutely!

Moving Targets

There is only one way to claim the promises of being the target of persecution. You must open your mouth! Not in obnoxious defiance, but in love. You must take a stand on one side or the other. There is no halfway, mediocre, fence sitting position that Jesus has ordained in the Church. He did not come to make life peaceful. Jesus came to make a difference, to set at variance, to bring a sword, and to separate the true heart from the facade.

It is disappointing to realize how deeply the false doctrine of the secret rapture has invaded the majority of Christian churches. I hope you will risk yourself, for the sake of your brothers and sisters in Christ, to expose them to the truth of God's Word concerning the mystery of iniquity and the timing and nature of Christ's return. There will be great resistance and denial by your dearest friends. You will find very few people who enjoy being awakened, but many that are thankful after you wake them. You may get a harsh dose of hatred and betrayal, but you are in good company. “They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever.”

Matthew 10:22, And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved...32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. 34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.
37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Τηρησώ Εκ
(Tereso Ek)

There is one scripture that has been isolated to support both the pre-tribulation and secret mid-tribulation rapture. It is found in the third chapter of Revelation. When I mention the secret mid-tribulation rapture, I am addressing the teaching of those who understand that the prerequisite for the gathering together is the revealing of the Wicked one, but still attempt to get us out of here before the revealing of the Destroyer at the 5th trumpet, in the aftermath of the 6th seal nuclear war. For this to be plausible, they generally insist that the abomination of desolation happens between the 3rd and 5th seals, and the rapture occurs between the 4th and 5th seals. The rapture would also take place at a secret time between verses in the early part of Matthew 24. In other words, they are a “secret” within the time chronology. In this way the pre-tribulation rapture is also secret. It is not found in Matthew 24, since this is addressed to Israel only, and must only refer to the Battle of Armageddon. The Rapture is not found in the book of Revelation at all for some dispensationalists who insist that the book is not to be read, as it is addressed to some poor souls in the future who will have to go through what we have been raptured away from. Others say the rapture is “alluded to” when John is taken to the throne room of God to get the revelation about that which is to happen in the future.

In refutation to the above concepts that leave the book of Revelation in a raveled up mess, the abomination of desolation is the most time documented prophetic fact concerning the last days. The Destroyer is revealed when Satan is cast down to the earth 3½ years before Armageddon. It is Woe to the earth when he is cast out, which corresponds to the first woe on earth at the 5th trumpet. That is when the Destroyer himself is revealed as the commander in chief of the New World Order. We have seen that the first resurrection, when Christ returns for his saints and the dead are raised and rewarded, occurs at the last trump in the book of Revelation and I Corinthians. All other interpretations of the events of the book of Revelation have to be reworked to fit those two major, irrefutable occurrences. I know from months of experience that it is a lot of work. It is also not a real pretty picture until the end, but it is the truth.

Now, let us look at the primary verse that both the pre and mid-tribulation rapturists use to support their claim to a secret rapture before the last trumpet.

Revelation 3:7, And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth. 8a I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it…
In each message to an individual church, there is a reference to the things John saw in his vision of Jesus Christ. Each one has special significance. This message is referencing the keys of death and hell (the grave) over which Jesus alone has power.

Revelation 1:18,  I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Jesus was alive, was dead, and is now alive for evermore. God raised his Son from the dead and gave him all authority in heaven and earth. Jesus has the keys to unlock death and the grave. What he locks, stays shut, and when he opens the grave all the power of Satan cannot stop him. As he was victorious over death, so he will make us victorious in him. David is now dead. He is in the grave. Jesus holds the key that will unlock his grave, and David his servant will come forth with a new body. David will reign with Christ in the Millennium. Before us is the same open door. We will escape the grave through the resurrection power and authority of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 3:8b,…Thou hast a little strength, and hast kept <τηρησω> my word, and hast not denied my name. 10 Because thou hast kept <τηρησω> the word of my endurance, I also will keep <τηρησω> thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

The word kept is τηρησω, (terso) which translates:

1. To watch carefully, as in guarding.
2. To observe and do as ordinances.

The condition is set: Because you have kept (watched carefully and observed) my word, I, the Lord Jesus Christ will keep (watch over and guard) you from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world...

Because they had carefully guarded, observed, and lived according to the commandments of God’s enduring Word, Jesus Christ will keep them out of temptation, not take them out of the world. Those who live godly in Christ Jesus, will not endure the same temptations and bitter disappointments as those who have lived for the temporary pleasures of this world. The fleeting promises of peace and prosperity will only be dashed to pieces on the altars of idolatry, and turned to ashes as they are offered to the god of self. But because these have faithfully kept themselves from sin, they are not drawn away of their own lusts and enticed. They are kept by the hand of God.

I John 5:18,  We know that whosoever is begotten of God does not practice sin; but he that is begotten, God keeps <τηρησω> him; and that wicked one does not touch him. (GINT)
John confirms the principle that if Christians meet the conditions through their own self-discipline, God will guard and keep them out of temptation during a time when all of the world will be tried in the fire of adversity. **Jesus will not take them out of the world, but will keep them out of temptation.** Look again at Revelation 3:10:

10...I also will **keep** \(\tau\eta\rho\sigma\omega\) thee **from** \(\epsilon\kappa\) the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

The word \(\epsilon\kappa\) (ek) is a preposition which means **out from** and is described as a line drawn out from the center of a circle. This preposition has been used to give credence to the notion that we are to be taken out from this world before the tribulation that is pictured in this book takes place. However, we have seen in all other scriptures that we will be taken out before the 7 bowls of the wrath of God are poured out. This word \(\epsilon\kappa\) does not indicate that we will be taken out of this world, but that we will be guarded and kept **out** of evil and temptation. Jesus again repeats this desire in his prayer. John was again the penman for the Lord Jesus as he wrote:

John 17:14, I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15 **I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of** \(\epsilon\kappa\) **the world**, but that thou shouldest **keep** \(\tau\eta\rho\sigma\omega\) them **from** \(\epsilon\kappa\) the evil one.

It is clear that Jesus had no intention of taking us out of the world, but that we would be guarded from the evil one of the world, while still living in the world.

16 They are not of \(\epsilon\kappa\) the world, even as I am not of \(\epsilon\kappa\) the world. 17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. 18 As thou hast sent me into \(\epsilon\iota\sigma\) the world, even so have I also sent them into \(\epsilon\iota\sigma\) the world. 20 **Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word:**

Jesus prays that we will be **kept** \(\tau\eta\rho\sigma\omega\), holy and separated from the world and its evil, by the enduring word of truth. When we **keep** \(\tau\eta\rho\sigma\omega\) the Word, and **keep** \(\tau\eta\rho\sigma\omega\) ourselves out of \(\epsilon\kappa\) sin, we are actively **kept** \(\tau\eta\rho\sigma\omega\) by the power of God through Jesus Christ. This prayer and promise is not to his twelve alone, but to all of us that believe until he returns from heaven at the last trump.

Only by disregarding the rest of the scriptures written by the same prophet on the same subject, can we manufacture an “out of this world, early secret rapture.” This is an excellent example of a time worn method of Bible “interpretation.” If a numbered sentence cannot be isolated to prove one’s theology, isolating a few words will work just as well. Either way is twisting the scriptures. Interestingly enough, “twisting” and “wickedness” are from the same root word. Let us look at what Paul tells us about \(\epsilon\kappa\) and its relationship to temptation.
I Corinthians 10:13, There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to endure.

_Eκβανω_ is the Greek **εκ** (ek), out from, and **βανω** (bano), to take in the hand. **Eκβανω** is the Greek **εκ** (ek), out from, and **βανω** (bano), to take in the hand. Amidst the tribulations in life we have the promise that God will always make ekbano. God will take us in his hand to keep us out of temptation, not take us out of the world. **There is no precedent for God to take his people out of this world** to avoid the spiritual and physical warfare that the mystery of iniquity wages against God and man. There is, however, a day coming in which the age of the goodness and longsuffering of God is going to come to a halt at the edge of the sword that divides the soul from the spirit and discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart. The inanity will end. Just as in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, God will send his angels to gather the just to safety, and the fire of God will rain down on those who have rejected his son (Luke 17:28,29).

Christians through the ages have been tortured to death for the witness of their Lord. Some have sung while flames roasted their body. Others had their skin peeled from their flesh, with no evidence of discomfort. Others have cried in agony for death, but refused to recant and deny their Lord for the promise of no more pain. Others yet fell asleep, dying for no apparent reason to the dismay of their would be torturers. The temptation, regardless of its intensity, comes with the promise that he will always make ekbano, a way out, by being taken into the palm of his hand, that we will be able to endure whatever man or Satan throws at us. Jesus is your Lord. He will keep you in his hand. No one and no thing can separate you from his love for you, or his promise to be with you and keep you in the hour of temptation.

Revelation 3:11, Behold, I come quickly: **hold fast** that which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. _12_ Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out.

If you have been teaching the secret rapture, I implore you in the name of Jesus Christ, stop. No matter how much theology you have invested, there will be deep remorse before his throne if you continue to set the snares for others. I was given the space to repent. It is now your decision. Unless ministers dedicate themselves to the truth, the blood of their congregation will be upon their heads.

I know how difficult it is to change. Teaching the secret pre-tribulation rapture of the church was an integral part of my ministry for years. It was cherished as my “Holy Grail.” I was weaned on it. I was sincere, but I was still accomplice to the mystery of iniquity. The same is true for anyone who teaches that the rapture of the church is at any time other than when Jesus told his prophets Paul and John: At the last trump. To teach any other peace and safety gospel leaves your brothers and sisters unprepared emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually for a time that Jesus warned would be darker than any other time in the history of man.
The coming tribulation will bring mankind to the brink of destruction. As he promised, those days will be shortened for the elects’ sake, **but not avoided.** But God will ekbano. He will always make a way out. He will take us into the palm of his hand and we will be able to endure to the very end. We keep his Word and he will keep us, in every situation. We, like our father Abraham, look for a new city and a better resurrection.
Chapter Seven

Conclusion

In closing, I apologize to my readers for two things. First, I cannot paint the future of the world dark enough, nor can I impress upon you how fast it will come upon us and how desperate these days will be. I am unable to paint the sky black enough, but neither can I paint the glory of our walk with the Lord, as beacons of light in a dying generation, bright enough. I cannot give you an adequate glimpse of the treasures and glory that we will inherit. I cannot show you either end of the spectrum within the pages of this book. (The seminar, From Here . . . To Eternity provides a more complete picture). Ask the Lord to show you these things personally. Diligently ask and apply your heart to know and do his will each day.

Jesus leaves us with this promise at the close of his revelation to us: He is coming again, and soon.

Revelation 22:12, Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city of New Jerusalem...20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen.

Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Appendix I

The Chronological Outline of the Book of Revelation

**Introduction**  1:1-3
  John’s authority  :1-2
  John’s promise   :3

**Greeting**  1:4-6
  John           :4
  Jesus          :5-6
  The promise of John :7
  The authority from Jesus :8

**Background**  :9-10
  Appearance of Christ :10-20
  Instructions to John :19

**The Letters to the Seven Churches**  2:1 - 3:22

  **Ephesus**  2:1-7
  The Authority :1
  The Praise    :3-6
  The Grievance :4
  The Warning   :5
  The Promise   :7

  **Smyrna**  2:8-11
  The Authority :8
  The Praise    :9
  The Grievance :9
  The Warning   :10
  The Promise   :11
Pergamos 2:12-17
The Authority: 12
The Praise: 13
The Grievance: 14-15
The Warning: 16
The Promise: 17

Thyatira 2:18-29
The Authority: 18
The Praise: 19
The Grievance: 20-21
The Warning: 22-23
The Authority: 23
The Promise: 24-29

Sardis 3:1-6
The Authority: 1
(No Praise)
The Grievance: 1
The Warning: 2
Few Praised: 4
The Promise: 4-6

Philadelphia 3:7-12
The Authority: 7
The Praise: 8
(No Grievance)
The Counsel: 11
The Promise: 9-12

Laodicea 3:14-22
The Authority: 14
The Grievance: 15
The Warning: 16-17
The Counsel: 18
The Promise: 19-22

The Revelation: as seen from heaven 4:1 - 22:6

The Throne Room of God 4:2 - 5:14
The Glory of God’s Throne 4:2-11
The Title Deed Impossibly Sealed 5:1-4
The Lamb of God Prevails 5:14
The Seven Seals Stripped from the Deed  6:1 - 8:5
Seal #1  6:1-2
Seal #2  :3-4
Seal #3  :5-6
Seal #4  :7-8
Seal #5  :9-11
Seal #6  :12-17

(Parenthesis  7:1-17)
(144,000 sealed  7:1-8)
(Innumerable Multitude  :9-17)

Seal #7  8:1-15

The Seven Trumpets  8:7 - 11:18
Trumpet #1  :7
Trumpet #2  :8-9
Trumpet #3  :10-11
Trumpet #4  :12

WOE to the Earth Announced  8:13

Trumpet #5  9:1-12
The Destroyer Revealed  :11
First Woe Executed  :12

Trumpet #6  9:13-21
200 Million Man Army  :15
The Battle Horses  :17

The Seven Thunders  10:1-10
The Last Trumpet Declared  :5-7
Seven Thunders Explained  :8-10

(Parenthesis  10:11 - 11:14)
(Temple Measured  10:11 - 12:2)
(The Two Witnesses  11:3-13)

Second Woe Executed  11:14

The Seventh Trumpet Sounds  11:15-18
The Shout of Victory  :15-17
First Resurrection, Saints Rewarded  :18
The Wrath is Now Come  :18
Third Woe is Now Executed  :14
The Temple in Heaven is Now Opened 11:19 (15:5)

(Parenthesis 12: - 15:4)
(Israel’s Promised Seed 12:1-2
Satan’s Original Rebellion :3-4
Messiah’s Triumph :5)
(Last 3_ years of the Age 12:6
War in Heaven :7-8
Satan Cast Down :9-10
WOE to the Earth 12:12
Invasion of Israel :13-17
Persecution of the Church :17)
(The Beast Government 13:1-4
The Big Mouth’s Rebellious Stand :5-7
The Promise to Christian Believers :8-10
The Deceiving “Lamb” :11-15
The Mark of the Beast :16-18)
(The 144,000: The Firstfruits Before the Throne 14:1-5)
(Babylon’s Judgment Declared 14:6-13
Final Judgment Proclaimed :8
Vengeance Proclaimed :9-11
Justice Proclaimed :12-13)
(The Day of the Lord 14:14-20
The Harvest :14-16
The Wrath :17-20)
(The Wrath Prepared 15:1
The Sea of Fire and Glass “Judgment” :2
Followers of Moses and Christ Harmonize :3-4)

The Temple in Heaven is Now Opened 15:5 (11:19)
The Seven Bowls of Smoking Wrath are Carried from the Throne :6-7
The Declaration: No One Enters until the Wrath is Poured Out :8
The Wrath Poured Out 16:1-17
Bowl #1 :2
Bowl #2 :3
Bowl #3 :4
Bowl #4 :8
Bowl #5 :10
Bowl #6 :12
(Satan and His Minions Prepare for Armageddon 16:13-16)
Bowl #7 :17-21

It Is Finished 16:17
(Parenthesis 17:1 - 18:24)
(Judgment of the Whore is Announced 17:1-17
  Description of the Whore :1-6,18
  Description of the Beast :7-17)
(The Whore is Judged 18:1-24
  Judgment is Proclaimed :1-3
  Warning to Evacuate :4-6
  Method of Judgment :7-24)

Praise for the Lord’s Judgment 19:1-4
Praise the Lord: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is Now Come 19:5-8
The Angel Honors Attendees :9
John is Humbled by the Spectacle :10

Jesus et al Dress for His Return at the Battle of Armageddon 19:11-16
Feast of Leviathan is Proclaimed :17-18
The Battle Begins :19
The Battle Ends :20
The Birds Eat the Feast :21

Satan Bound 1000 Years 20:1-3
The Martyrs Reign with Christ 1000 Years :4-6

Satan Released 20:7
Satan’s Final Rebellious Stand :8
Satan Defeated and Judged by Christ :9-10
The White Throne Judgment 20:11-15
   The Earth and Heaven Consumed :11
   The Judgment Set :12-13
   Final Judgment :14-15

   New Jerusalem :2
   God and Christ Tabernacle with Men :3
       The Benefits :4-7
       The Exclusions :8
   The Home of the Bride Described 21:9 - 22:5

Closing 22:6-21

By the Angel :6-11
By Jesus :12-19
       The Spirit’s Work :16
       The Bride’s Duty :16
By John :20-21
Appendix II

A Letter to the Thessalonians

The Second Letter of Paul the Apostle, to the Thessalonians

From: Paul, Silas, and Timothy,
To: The church of the Thessalonians in God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3We are constrained to always thank God for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your
faith grows greatly, and the love of every one of you abounds toward each other. 4We
glory in you (among the churches of God) for your endurance and faith in all the
persecutions and tribulations that you are enduring. 5Your endurance and faith being
a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that you may continue to be considered
worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are now suffering. 6Seeing it is a righteous
act for God to recompense tribulation to those that tribulate you; 7And you who are now
tribulated with us, will suddenly be relieved of the strain and pain when the Lord
Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8In flaming fire taking
vengeance on them that do not know God, and on those that do not obey the gospel
of our Lord Jesus Christ, 9(who shall in the end, be punished with everlasting
destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.) 10When he
shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in those that believe,
IN THAT DAY (because our testimony among you was believed). 11Therefore we always
pray for you, that our God would consider you worthy of this
calling, (by your endurance
unto the end)and fulfill in you, the pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with
power: 12That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in him,
according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2:1Now we implore you brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
and our gathering together unto him; 2Do not be shaken up or troubled, (not by a
spirit, nor by dissertation, nor by a letter as if it were from us), thinking that the day of
the Lord is imminent. 3Let no man deceive you by any means: Because that day
shall not come, except first there come the rebellious stand, and the man of sin is
revealed, the son of destruction 4who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called
by God, or is venerated; so that he, as God, sits in the temple of God, proclaiming that he
is God. 5(Remember, when I was with you, I told you these things?) 6Now you already
know what holds fast to his position in heaven as the accuser> that he <the son of
destruction> might be revealed in his own time, 7because the mystery of iniquity <the
accusers exercised authority before the throne of God, and clandestine attacks on the brethren below> is already at work. But, he now holds fast <to the authority and dominion delivered to him> only until he is taken out of the midst <of the throne room, by Michael and his angels>.  

8Then shall the Wicked one be revealed, (whom the Lord shall, at Armageddon, consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming,)  

9Then shall the Wicked one be revealed, (whom the Lord shall, at Armageddon, consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming,)  

9He whose coming is after the working of Satan: With all power and signs and lying wonders,  

10with full ability to deceive utilizing the unrighteousness that is in them that perish; because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.  

11For this reason, God shall let them go to a working error, so that they will believe the lie:  

12That they might all be damned who do not believe the truth, but had pleasure living in unrighteousness.  

13But we are constrained to always give thanks to God for you, brethren, beloved of the Lord. Because God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth;  

14Whereunto he called you (by our gospel), to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.  

15Therefore brethren, stand fast, and hold fast the traditions which you have been taught by us, whether by dissertation, or epistle.  

16Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us, and gave us everlasting consolation and a good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work. (MIV)

The Church in Tribulation

The context of the first and second chapters of II Thessalonians gives us a picture of a persecuted but courageous Christian church. They are being encouraged to endure and told that they will be relieved of the strain of persecution when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his angels, taking fiery vengeance on those who have been tribulating them with torture and death. That day when they will be relieved of the strain and pain of tribulation is the Day of the Lord. Paul instructs them not to be shaken up by anyone who indicates that the day of the Lord gathering his church, and taking vengeance on the world, is imminent. Paul sets the absolute prerequisite for that day as the rebellious stand of Satan, when he is cast down to the earth. The result of this rebellious stand is that the man of sin is then revealed (apokalupto, suddenly uncovered), the son of destruction who exalts himself as God. This will happen prior to the gathering together.
No Christian is to be deceived by anyone who teaches that the Lord could return at any moment, even though they mean well. Also, no Christian should be deceived into thinking that the Day of the Lord does not refer to the day that the Lord gathers together the elect, both living and asleep, and takes them to the reward of their inheritance. They are one in the same.

We can now see that over the last 1,900 years the Lord’s return was never imminent. He could not have returned 100 years ago. The revealing of the Destroyer, spoken of by Daniel, Jesus, John, and Paul, must occur first. Paul then reminds them that what he is saying refers back to what he taught them while he was in Thessalonica. They were aware of the mystery of iniquity that was already at work. Satan has been holding fast to his position in heaven, until the future war with Michael and his angels results in his being cast down to the earth. When that takes place, the Wicked one will be revealed, whose coming is energized by the power of Satan. That man of sin will be destroyed by Jesus Christ when he returns to establish his kingdom, at the Battle of Armageddon. Those who love this world more than they love the truth will be allowed to go to a working error of the mystery of iniquity. They will believe the lie of which Paul again tells them not to be deceived. The deception concerns the timing of the gathering together of the church in relation to the abomination of desolation, when the man of sin, the son of destruction is revealed.

The more excited the church becomes in its expectation of the imminent return of Christ, the greater will be the shock and disappointment when the pleasantries of life are reduced to daily survival. Jesus Christ clearly stated that the abomination of desolation would commence the Great Tribulation and that he would return after that takes place. This clarification came in response to John, Peter, and his other disciplined followers’ questions about when he would return to gather them and take them to where Jesus said he was going to prepare a place for them.

There is absolutely no context for “that which is now holding fast” to be considered as anything other than Satan holding fast to his position before the throne of God, as the accuser. This section of scripture is telling the Church that the prerequisites for Jesus Christ returning to end the pain of tribulation are the events laid out in the book of Revelation, when Satan is cast out of heaven and the man of sin is revealed. He will not return before then. He cannot. Legally documented prerequisites exist and God cannot break his Word. Praying contrary to his Word will not change anything. Satan must be expelled from heaven and his dominion terminated there before the victory in heaven is complete. Jesus cannot gather us to the sea of fire and glass outside the throne room of our heavenly Father until the mystery of iniquity is conquered and taken out of the midst. Satan’s authority must be stripped from him, legally and permanently. No one goes up, before Satan is cast down. Period!

At the outcome of this war in heaven, Satan is cast down from heaven against his will. His rebellious stand before the throne of God is abruptly terminated. He is taken out of the midst of the throne room and cast down to the earth, where he then takes his rebellious stand on earth. That stand is manifested in the revealing of the son of destruction, a man who is fully complemented with all the power of Satan, replete with lying signs and wonders. This is Woe to the earth. Satan’s expulsion is the direct cause of the Wicked one being revealed, whose coming is after the working of Satan.
Attachment One

THE DAY OF DELIVERANCE
The Acts of Satan in bold underline

The Day of the Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together.
Its timely relationship to the rebellious stand and revealing of the Wicked one.

II Thessalonians 1:4-10; 2:1-12 (MIV sans parenthesis)

To the Church in tribulation:

We glory in you for your endurance and faith in all the persecutions and tribulations that you are enduring. Your endurance being a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that you may continue to be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are now suffering. Seeing it is a righteous act for God to recompense tribulation to those that tribulate you; And you who are now tribulated with us, the strain and pain of tribulation will be relieved when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and on those that do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in those that believe in that day.

Now we implore you brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto him; Do not be shaken up or troubled, thinking that the day of the Lord is imminent. Let no man deceive you by any means; Because that day shall not come, except first there come the rebellious stand, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or is venerated; so that he, as God, sits in the temple of God, proclaiming that he is God. Now you already know what holds fast that he might be revealed in his own time, because the mystery of iniquity is already at work. But he now holds fast only until he is taken out of the midst. Then shall the Wicked one be revealed, whose coming is after the working of Satan; With all power and signs and lying wonders, having full ability to deceive utilizing the unrighteousness that is in them that perish; because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. For this reason, God shall let them go to a working error, so that they will believe the lie: that they might all be judged who do not believe the truth, but had pleasure living in unrighteousness.
THE DAY OF DELIVERANCE
The Acts of the Destroyer

The Day of the Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together.
Its timely relationship to the rebellious stand and revealing of the Wicked one.

II Thessalonians 1:4-10; 2:1-12 (MIV sans parenthesis)

To the Church in tribulation:

We glory in you for your endurance and faith in all the persecutions and tribulations that you are enduring. *Your endurance being* a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that you may continue to be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are now suffering. Seeing *it is* a righteous act for God to recompense tribulation to those that tribulate you; And you who are now tribulated with us, *the strain and pain of tribulation will* be relieved when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and on those that do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in those that believe in that day.

Now we implore you brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto him; Do not be shaken up or troubled, thinking that the day of the Lord is imminent. Let no man deceive you by any means; Because that day shall not come, except first there come the rebellious stand, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or is venerated; so that he, as God, sits in the temple of God, proclaiming that he is God. Now you already know what holds fast that *he might be revealed in his own time*, because the mystery of iniquity is already at work. But he now holds fast only until he is taken out of the midst. Then shall the Wicked one be revealed, whose coming is after the working of Satan; With all power and signs and lying wonders, with full ability to deceive utilizing the unrighteousness that is in them that perish; because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. For this reason, God shall let them go to a working error, so that they will believe the lie: that they might all be judged who do not believe the truth, but had pleasure living in unrighteousness.
Appendix III

The Modern Day Prophets Speak

I Thessalonians 5:20,
Despise not prophesyings.

We listen and we judge the voice of the prophets. Their words must be in alignment with God’s revealed Word. The message that they bring forth from the Lord must come to pass, or they are not to be respected.

The Word that I have been given is a very heavy revelation. A global thermonuclear war is going to transpire at the culmination of the war in heaven, in which Satan is cast out into the earth. The United States is going to be the focus of the assault, with Russia launching against us in a surprise attack. (This war is detailed in Appendix VI, Modern Warfare Technology in Revelation). America will be destroyed, 1st economically, then a few months later, militarily. This will be God’s judgment against the Christian nation who declared to the world: “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal (in) that they are endowed by their Creator with absolute inalienable rights.” America has enjoyed God’s protection and blessing, but has turned away from him and now declares to their offspring and the world: “There is no God.” America is spitting in the face of Almighty God. God is going to judge America. There is no way out.

First, the Lord confirmed his revelation to me by those who refused to listen to the message. That was a two edged sword. They spoke verbatim the words that confirmed that the revelation was from God, and that I was called to deliver this new light. But their refusal to hear the message told me clearly that I must learn to live with outright rejection from my closest friends and family. I sequestered myself while writing this book so as not to be influenced by the disapproval of those I respect. Just before the manuscript was completed, the message was again confirmed to me through the voices of the three prophets represented in the following attachments. You will see that the revelation confirms what each was given by the Lord. This is not a message of peace, safety, and prosperity for America. This is a message of condemnation and repentance. Prepare for the last harvest. Judgment is at hand.

I have quoted and paraphrased their messages and have included information on how to contact these ministries to be apprised of their full messages and subsequent revelations. David Wilkerson needs no introduction to the Christian community in America. Dumitru Duduman was a Romanian pastor who, as a military officer, was a conduit for Bible smugglers into Russia. He was protected by an angel on many occasions. He was caught and nearly beaten to death. He awoke in a hospital where an angel told him that he would be sent to America. Shortly after his arrival, he was given the message that is recorded in the 2nd attachment. Henry Gruver was given the burden of walking through countries and praying for them. After years of faithfully walking with his Lord, he was given a vision to warn America
Set the Trumpet to thy Mouth, David Wilkerson, 1985

America is going to be destroyed by fire! Sudden destruction is coming and few will escape. Unexpectedly, and in one hour, a hydrogen holocaust will engulf America - and this nation will be no more.

God is going to judge America for its violence, its crimes, its backsliding, its murdering of millions of babies, its flaunting of homosexuality and sadomasochism, its corruption, its drunkenness and drug abuse, its form of godliness without power, its lukewarmness toward Christ, its rampant divorce and adultery, its lewd pornography, its child molestations, its cheatings, its robbings, its dirty movies, and its occult practices.

In one hour it will all be over. It’s all over! Judgment is at the door! Our days are numbered! The church is asleep, the congregations are at ease, and the shepherds slumber. How they will scoff and laugh at this message. Theologians will reject it because they can’t fit it into their doctrine. The pillow prophets of peace and prosperity will publicly denounce it.

I no longer care. God has made my face like flint and put steel in my backbone. I am blowing the trumpet with all my might. Let the whole world and all the church call me crazy, but I must blow the trumpet and awaken God’s people. America is about to be shaken and set aside by horrible judgments. Many other praying believers who have been shut in with God are hearing the very same message - “Judgment is at the door! Prepare, awaken!”

Before the great holocaust there will be smaller holocausts - the oil fields of the Middle East will be ablaze, and the smoke will rise night and day as a warning of the greater holocaust yet to come. There will be bombs falling on oil fields, on shipping docks, and storage tanks. There will be panic among all oil producers, and shippers, and upon all nations dependent on that oil.

(Note the 1985 publication date, several years before the Gulf War).

Soon, very soon, an economic nightmare will explode into reality. America is about to face a time of mass hysteria, as banks close and financial institutions crumble and our economy spins totally out of control. Gold and silver will lose their value. The chaos that is coming cannot be stopped by our government. The great holocaust follows an economic collapse in America. The enemy will make its move when we are weak and helpless.

God did not keep the three Hebrew children from the fire - he delivered them in it. Christ went with them through the fire, and, whereas they came back to ruin, we will be translated to Glory.
Attachment 2

Through the Fire Without Burning, Dumitru Duduman, 1984

Suddenly a bright light came toward me. As the light approached, it surrounded me. From the light I heard the same voice that I had heard so many times in prison.

He said, “I brought you to this country because this country will burn.” He showed me California, Las Vegas, New York, and Florida. He said, “These are Sodom and Gomorrah! In one day they will burn. I want to save the Church, but the churches have forsaken me.”

“The people praise themselves. The honor that the people are supposed to give Jesus Christ, they take upon themselves. In the churches there are divorces. There is adultery in the churches. There are homosexuals in the churches. There is abortion in the churches; and all other sins that are possible. Because of the sin, I have left some of the churches. You must yell in a loud voice that they must put an end to their sinning. They must turn to the Lord.”

I said, “How will America burn? America is the most powerful nation in the world!”

He said, “The Russian spies have discovered where the nuclear warehouses are in America. When the Americans think that there is peace and safety - from the middle of the country, some of the people will start fighting against the government. The government will be busy with internal problems. Then from the ocean, from Cuba, Nicaragua, and Mexico they will bomb the nuclear warehouses. When they explode, America will burn!”

I asked, “How will you save the ones in the church that turn toward you?”

He said, “Tell them this: How I saved the three young ones in the furnace of fire, and how I saved Daniel in the lion’s den, is the same way I will save them.”

Dumitru Duduman
Hand of Help, Inc.
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Fullerton, CA 92634
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A Vision of Henry Gruver, December 14, 1985

I was up above the Earth looking down upon the earth like a globe. I saw a massive amount of ships and airplanes. They were coming from up above Norway, out of the inlet of the North Sea. They headed down between the United States and Europe. They literally covered the whole Atlantic. I looked over on the globe, at the United States. Then I began to see all of these submarines emerging from under the surface. They were in our territorial waters! Then I saw the missiles come out of them. They hit the eastern coastal cities of the United States. I looked over across the country where my family was in the northwest and I saw the submarines. I saw the missiles coming out and hitting the western coastal cities.

I cried out, “Oh God! Oh God! When will this be, and what will be the sign of its coming?”

I heard an audible voice speak to me and say, “When Russia opens her doors and lets the masses go, the free world will occupy themselves with transporting, housing and feeding and caring for the masses, and will let down their weapons and cry peace and safety, then sudden destruction will come. Then is when it will come.”

(Glastnost and Perestroika were unheard of at this time in 1985)

Henry Gruver
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Appendix IV

The Witness of the Heavens

Psalm 19:1, 2
The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

For generations, our forefathers sat at the door of their tents on the fertile plains of the Mideast. Under starlit skies they retold the story of Adam’s fall and the redeemer to come, the story passed down to them from the lips of the ancient prophets and patriarchs. The story was recorded in the ancient names and in pictures painted by the constellations that witnessed to them night after night, the story of the redemption of mankind. The greatest handiwork of God is his plan and execution of man’s redemption from the dominion of Satan. From the beginning, God’s prophetic timepiece of the stars in their courses, have told the story of the coming redeemer. Modern man has all but lost their true significance, as the original names have been replaced by astrological signs that bear little resemblance to what God originally revealed in the heavens. Modern astrological interpretation of those signs have no correlation to their original declaration.

The redeemer of mankind is pictured in the constellation of Orion “The Heroic One.” Orion’s heel is bruised by the serpent at his feet, but the serpent’s head is finally crushed in destruction as the redeemer conquers and reigns. What was told from the pages of the heavens, is recorded in the pages of Genesis:

Genesis 3:15
And I will put enmity between thee (the serpent) and the woman (Eve), and between thy seed and her seed (the Messiah); it (He) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

E.W. Bullinger detailed the ancient Hebrew names and meanings of the stars in their courses in his book, “The Witness of the Stars.” In the book, “Voice Crying in the Heavens,” Bob Wadsworth (who I respectfully refer to as “The Star Man”) detailed the incredible astronomical display that signals the impending war in heaven when Satan is cast down to the earth, and the return of the Messiah to establish his throne on earth. The “Voice Crying in the Heavens” is louder during the last half of the 1990’s than it has ever been, or will ever be in the astronomically predicted future. These are indeed the last days.

During a recent lecture, Bob projected several constellations on the viewing screen. I nearly leaped from my chair when he projected the constellations of Perseus and Andromeda. There, in
the heavens, I saw the exact picture that Paul had painted of the day of the Lord as he revealed it to the Thessalonian church:

I Thessalonians 1:6-10

...It is a righteous act for God to recompense tribulation to those that tribulate you; And you who are now tribulated with us, 

rest

when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that do not know God, and on those that do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...IN THAT DAY

As we saw in Chapter Two, the word 

rest

is in the Greek ανεσίν (anacin), from whence is derived the brand name of a famous pain reliever. Άνεσίν is to be suddenly loosed of the tightly stretched cords, suddenly relieved of the strain and pain. The picture the word anacin paints in this context is a person bound and being afflicted by the enemy. The chains holding the body in tension are as tight as a violin string. At the point of loosing consciousness, when there seems to be no hope, the avenger breaks through the door, slashes the chains that bind, and destroys those who have been torturing his beloved. This is the Day of the Lord. (See Plate 2, Perseus and Andromeda).

For thousands of years the voice of the stars have cried out from the heavens declaring the redemption of mankind. The ancient names and pictures of the constellations of Perseus, which is in the Hebrew language, “The Breaker,” and Andromeda, “The Bound and Chained,” have been speaking from the portals of heaven. They speak of the time that the bridegroom will deliver his bride from the chains and strains of a world in rebellion against him. “The Breaker” of our bondage, our deliverer, Jesus the Messiah, will sever the painful straining bonds of this earth and take his bride to the marriage supper that he has been preparing. At that feast, Jesus will taste the fruit of the vine for the first time since he told his beloved that he would not touch a drop again until he drank it with us in his Father’s kingdom. “The Bound and Chained” bride will be released when the Captain of our salvation breaks through in all of his glory and takes vengeance on those who have caused his bride pain. While all the world denies his existence and rejects his authority, she has not. In the darkest hour when there seems to be no hope, the deliverer will bust through the heavens and rescue his bride, who has dressed herself in white and waits expectantly for his return…
…If someone wrote a play
just to glorify what’s stronger than hate.
Would they not arrange the stage
to look as if the hero came too late?
It’s almost in defeat.
It’s looking like the evil side will win.
So on the edge of every seat,
from the moment that the whole thing begins…

Now the stage is set.
You feel your own heart beating in your chest.
This life’s not over yet.
So we get up on our feet and do our best,
and play against the fear.
We play against the reasons not to try.
We’re playing for the tears
burning in the happy angels eyes.

For it’s love who mixed the mortar.
And it’s love who stacked these stones.
And it’s love who made the stage here,
though it looks like we’re alone.
In this scene set in shadows
like the night is here to stay.
There is evil cast around us,
But its love who wrote the play.
For in this darkness love will show the way.

From the song by David Wilcox,
Show the Way.
Plate 1

Perseus and Andromeda
The Breaker and The Chained Bride
Appendix V

The Souls Under the Altar

There are three occurrences where souls slain for the testimony of Jesus Christ appear in the book of Revelation. All of these occurrences show these souls “resting” until the first resurrection. If these scriptures are isolated from their context, one can come up with a theory to prove any number of illegitimate conclusions. These verses have been used to prove that the pre-tribulation or secret mid-tribulation rapture has resulted in these souls being held in an area under the base of the altar, and told to be quiet until their Jewish brothers are killed. They have also been used to prove that we are already in the millennial reign of Christ. Isolated sentences can be irrational and misleading when separated from the context of the whole, but paint a perfectly logical picture within the framework of the context.

Any scriptures that are isolated to prove that the church will be taken out before the revealing of the man of sin at the time of the abomination of desolation, are twisted scriptures. The legal parameters have been set and God will not contradict himself. Any paragraphs that are isolated and construed to say that the gathering of the church will take place before the last trumpet, when the dead are raised and rewarded at the 1st resurrection, are twisted scriptures. Both will mislead to destruction. Any handling of numbered sentences that has us already living in the millennial reign of Christ, has allegorized the Bible to the point at which it can never be depended on to communicate reality; past, present, or future. Outside of their context, these scriptures are impossible to interpret, and so it is with everything in life. We cannot take difficult verses, hatch our personal theology, and disregard the volumes of scripture that they contradict. The context is there and the big job is to read the whole book, the whole New Testament, and the whole Bible until the whole thing fits and paints a complete picture. I know that it is hard work, but books about The Book will not do the job. You must read, and seek, and knock, and ask.

We will look at each of the occurrences that show these martyred souls “resting” until the first resurrection. The first picture describes the focus of the New World Order exterminations (see Appendix VI), which happen at the 4th and 5th seal:

Revelation 6:9-10

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar of sacrifice, 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?

“The souls of them” is a usage of words peculiar to the Book of Revelation. The phrase is used twice, and can be accurately understood as “the lives of those” who were slain on the altar for their testimony. “The souls of them” always refers to those who have laid their lives on the altar as a living sacrifice, to live for their Lord (Rom 12:1). They have, in living for the Lord, been killed by Satan through his followers. These martyred saints are described as crying out from
under the brazen altar of sacrifice, for vengeance. This cry out from the grave for vengeance was first recorded in the book of Genesis.

**Genesis 4:10**

> And God said _unto Cain_, What hast thou done? **the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.** (KJV)

Was Abel’s voice literally crying out from the ground where Cain had hidden his body? No, but nothing is hidden from the eyes of God. The acts of righteous Abel, who had offered an acceptable sacrifice, did not go unnoticed by God. Abel was righteous. He had offered himself as a living sacrifice, and his burnt offering was ignited by God to show his approval of Abel’s heart and life. Throughout the ages God has required his people to present themselves as living sacrifices, putting our lives on the altar before the throne of God. All that Moses and John were shown concerning the temple in heaven, when on Mount Sinai and Patmos Isle respectively, declares the spiritual reality of life. From the tabernacle that Moses built, we see an exact replica of what Moses and John saw in heaven. Presenting our bodies as living sacrifices (laying our lives on the altar of sacrifice) is not a vague figure of speech, but rather a solemn and righteous act before our Lord. This is truly our only reasonable response.

**Romans 12:1**

> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that **you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**

Paul, a former Pharisee, was no stranger to living his life as a sacrifice to God. When he was killing Christians, he thought he was performing a Godly service; that is until Jesus got a hold of him. When he described our reasonable response to the sacrifice of Jesus, the lamb of God who was slain on the altar, he was, as a Hebrew, very familiar with the altar of sacrifice. He was communicating the total, irrevocable, commitment of our lives to live for the Lord Jesus Christ. That is only reasonable. Should the offering of our living bodies result in our physical bodies being slain, as has been for millions of our forefathers in the faith, our sacrifice will not be in vain. He promised us that we will be hated and killed for the sake of his name. He said that we will be blessed when this happens to us. If our death is for the testimony of Jesus, our sacrifice will be handsomely rewarded.

This first occurrence of souls who were martyred for the witness of Jesus is found at the 5th seal, before the great tribulation takes place. It seems disrespectful to say that this is not great tribulation, as tribulation never gets any “greater” than when tribulation is happening to you personally. But here we are using the criterion that Jesus, Daniel, Paul, and John used to denote the last 3 years of “great tribulation.” The revealing of the Wicked one, the Destroyer, at the time of the abomination of desolation. Even though wholesale persecution has not yet reached our shores, millions of Christians have been exterminated in the atheistic regimes of totalitarian governments around the world. From Abel to Zechariah and Stephen to the present day, these saints rest and their works of righteousness follow them. The entire section reads:
Revelation 6:9-11

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar of sacrifice, 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.

Yes, things are looking bad at this point in the narrative, but the worst is yet to come. The righteous indignation and furious wrath of God are not yet full. The harvest of the latter rain is not yet complete. There are others that will be killed before all things are fulfilled. However, numbers of dead saints murdered at the hands of the 7th empire, the atheist/socialist New World Order, or its 8th and final Luciferian-totalitarian incarnation, is not what must be fulfilled. What must come to pass is the coming war in heaven, when Satan is stripped of his authority to stand before the throne of God as the accuser, and his subsequent casting down to the earth. That is “his time,” when Satan’s wrath will be unleashed at the hands of the Destroyer and those who blindly follow him.

Satan, through his minions, will be the one who kills the Christian. God is not the one who slaughters those who lay their lives on the altar of sacrifice before his throne. Jesus was the Lamb of God who was offered on the altar of sacrifice. His blood was poured out on the altar and his body was at rest in the grave for three days and nights. Satan was the one who literally shed Christ’s blood, but not without authorization from God. So it is with those who follow their Lord. They lay their lives on the altar to the Lord. If Satan takes our lives, as he did the life of Christ, we will rest from our labors and wait for Jesus to raise our bodies from the grave, just as God the Father raised him. Figuratively, our souls will cry out for vengeance. We will cry out from under the altar of sacrifice, where our lives and souls were poured out. And figuratively we are given white robes, because our righteous acts will follow us to the other side of the grave; to the resurrection and eternal life. These martyrs for the witness of Jesus rest from their labors, but their acts of righteousness follow them. They rest until the resurrection at the last trumpet, but their reward is sure. Abel, too, cries out from under the altar of sacrifice. His blood, or life, also cried out from the ground in which Cain attempted to hide him. These are pictures, figures which paint the pathos of God. The Love, the commitment, the sacrifice, the horror, the grief, the vengeance, the timing, and the reward are all here in this painting of the brazen altar of sacrifice before the throne of God.

The next occurrence of the souls of the martyrs is found after Jesus’ return at the battle of Armageddon to set up his throne on earth for 1,000 years.
Revelation 20:4-5

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them. And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, (and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands); <these are the fellowservants and brethren of those who were being martyred before the great tribulation> and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished). This is the first resurrection.

Here John described the thrones, the authority, and the power delegated to those who overcome as they enjoy their reward in the millennial kingdom of Christ. This is the fulfillment of the promise that Jesus makes in Revelation 2:25-27:

...Hold fast till I come. He that overcomes and keeps my works unto the end, to him will I give authority over the nations; He shall rule them with a rod of iron...

This description of the reward of those who endure to the end of their own martyrdom is not indicating the timing of the event of the first resurrection, which happens at the time of the dead in Christ being raised and rewarded at the 7th and last Trump. This is describing their reward. Does this scripture say that only those who were beheaded for the witness of Jesus will be raised at the first of the remaining two resurrections? No. The emphasis here is the pay back to those who have remained faithful through the darkest hour of man’s days on earth. It also indicates that those who are not faithful will not see the resurrection until the great white throne judgment at the end of the thousand years. I would much rather have a part in this 1st and “better” resurrection. Those who have a part in this 1st resurrection will not have any possibility in experiencing the second death. It behooves us to be found faithful to the end.

The next occurrence of those who are blessed because they have endured to the end of their shortened lives, appears in one of the parentheticals after the last trump is sounded:

Revelation 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. From henceforth (yea, saith the Spirit), they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. (KJV - GINT)

From the moment that we die in the Lord, we rest from our labors and our works follow us. This statement appears after the condemnation of those who give in to receiving the mark of the beast. The statement also appears at the beginning of the scene where Jesus is seen on a cloud, thrusting in his sickle to harvest the earth. After his harvest, the angels are shown harvesting the grapes of wrath to be crushed in the winepress of the wrath of God (Rev 14:14-20). This is a perfect picture of the last trump, when the righteous are gathered, their pain is relieved, and vengeance is to be taken out on those who have tribulated his saints, with the culmination of that vengeance at his return at the battle of Armageddon. However, in verse 13 we see the complement of chapter 6 verse 11:
Revelation 6:11...and white robes were given unto those slain souls, and it was said to them, “rest... until...their fellowservants and brothers are killed and...all is fulfilled.”

White robes are the righteousnesses of the saints (Rev 19:7-8). Those who have died in the Lord and have made themselves ready by keeping his words and works, rest from their labour. They know that their works of righteousness follow them past the grave to the resurrection. No one can take away their reward. It is over and they have endured to the end. They have kept his works. They have overcome. They have not taken the easy road, but now they rest. And we see at the end, that it is all worth the effort:

...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

When the spirit of God leads into all truth, it all fits from beginning to end. When the spirit of man, the spirit of academic competition, or the spirit of being right leads, the result will be error and confusion. Where the spirit of worship and obedience resides, the Spirit of the Lord is there to lead into all truth. Has God called all men to be his spokesmen in every area of life with equal inspiration and authority? Has God called every minister to give “his take” on the prophetic fulfillment of the scriptures or to censure those who God has called to reveal these truths? Is everyone the hand, or foot, or ear? Has not the Lord set those in the body as it has pleased him? Are pastors too proud and self-protective of their positions and “their” flock, that they cannot hear the voice of the Lord’s prophets? Are teachers so enamored with themselves that they cannot step aside when the Lord provides the heart of an evangelist to reach his lost flock? Can the modern church hear the voice of an apostle, or has the entire church swallowed the world’s definition of what we are as the body of Christ, rather than seeing a living dynamic body that cannot be incarcerated within the four walls of any one denomination, cult, or local ecklesia?

I am authorized to criticize the church, as I am constructively criticizing myself as a member of this church, the body of Jesus Christ. When we see spots and wrinkles in the garments of the bride, we are required to wash them out with the Word of God. If we close our eyes to the dirt and pretend everything is OK, we are in dereliction of our duties. The dirt will only get deeper and the stench heavier, until those outside of our stinky circle will not want anything to do with us. Go to church with you? No thank you. We too often become religious nerds. When we get inside of the official “church” building, we become the epitome of what Jesus reviled the religious leaders of his day: Hypocrites; actors. We act out a part that is not really us. We are actors, and nobody wants to come see our show. Maybe if we convince them that they will go to hell if they don’t come watch our show, we might get them there. Maybe if we make it entertaining with a lot of “special” music, they will be enticed into coming to our building. But just maybe if the Word of God is taught and people could see the reality of life expounded from the scriptures; maybe if they see real love and enjoyable fellowship as a part of daily living; maybe then they will see the real Jesus.
Religion abounds in our “churches.” There are very few who are confident in the Lord and willing to be led by the Spirit of God. We who warm the seats of the church are more comfortable being led by our own denominationally appointed messiahs, than the Spirit. Listening to the man we pay to tell us what we want to hear is mindless, compared to listening carefully and prayerfully to the voice of the Lord. He has set some in the church as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers; so that the church may eat from a full plate, carefully chew the meat, and spit out the bones. The ministries are set in the real church, not man’s made up denominational enclaves. The church is not a building. The church is not non-denominational, it is trans-denominational or no denomination. If you want a full satisfying meal, look outside the walls of your church building and certainly outside the walls of your denomination. If you don’t, you are in a cult. Wake up. Open your eyes. God’s people do not need to live anemic spiritual lives, their bellies bloated with a tainted one course meal. Come, eat, the Word of the Lord is full, rich, and satisfying. Eat, and grow up in him. Eat from the several plates that the Lord Jesus has provided for your nourishment and enjoyment!
Appendix VI

Modern Warfare Technology
In Revelation

I mentioned in the body of this book that the Revelation is addressed to, and can only open to those who are servants of Jesus Christ. The last book in the Bible will discourage the casual reader, because a knowledge of the Bible as a whole is the key to understanding what unfolds in the end. Words are used as mathematical descriptions, legal parameters, and pictures that tell a story. In this appendix you will see word pictures that describe what were, in the time of John, technological and physical impossibilities. Revelation, and much of Daniel, could not be understood until today. There are many things that could not be understood in past generations. The technology described, as well as the geopolitical composition of the planet, had not advanced to the state that the Apostle John described. Fanciful, specially created monsters were conjured in the minds of the readers of the Revelation account. The war machinery described by John did not exist a thousand, or even one hundred years ago. These “monsters” can now be seen in a new light. They are common and easily recognizable military hardware. They had been a part of my life in the United States Marine Corps, and are part of the armament systems of the world today.

The interpretations of respected theologians of a past century, who would never live to see the times in which the book of Revelation would be fulfilled, should be completely reconsidered. It was not really written to them, when we consider the fact that they would never see the day of their fulfillment. It was not necessary for the Lord to clarify it for them. He would do so when the hour was necessary. A former generation could only interpret these prophecies in the context of the world and reality in which they lived, just as we do today. The horse and buggy technology of a past generation could not provide the experiential framework to interpret these scriptures as we are now able to do. America was still a Christian society a hundred years ago. No one would have guessed the people of this country would be living in a cesspool of godless depravity within a couple of generations.

Many of us have become so well versed in the inherited misinterpretations of the past that we cannot see the clarity with which the book of Revelation speaks to this terminal generation. For years I did not want to see it. It was frightening to think that the Lord was specifically speaking to my generation about the things that must come to pass before his return. It is the Lord Jesus who opened the Revelation to John, to show his servants. It is the Lord alone who can open it to our understanding, if he finds a meek and obedient heart that will listen to him rather than to the voice of past interpretations.

Before we get into the war machinery, let’s look at a couple of events described in the seals and trumpets, to get a feel of the world as Jesus said it will be in the last generation.
Rev 6:8

And I looked and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with the sword, and with hunger and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

To kill with the **sword** describes the military armament used in John’s time. Today swords are not used by the combat infantryman. However, individual combat armament is still used when the logistics of modern warfare brings infantrymen in close proximity to destroy the enemy. This verse is in parallel with Matthew 24 verse 7:

For nation shall rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...

Today’s weapons of national and ethnic warfare are the military armaments of modern technology. The sword was the most complete description John could have used to designate modern combat weapons.

To kill with **hunger** represents a manufactured famine for the purpose of exterminating the enemy. This method was used by Stalin to exterminate over 7 million professing Christians in the Ukraine. Stalin did so with the full knowledge and financial blessing of the Franklin Roosevelt administration. The turning point in American history began when godless socialists took over the corridors of power in Washington D.C. Many of those in Roosevelt’s enclave were Luciferian Illuminists whose goal has always been a totalitarian global dominion.

All of the mass starvations in the last 50 years have been political exterminations. There has always been enough food to feed the poor. While millions were starving to death in Poland, the food to feed them was purposefully rotting on the ships in their own harbors. Atheist communists murdered these people because they were of an opposing philosophical viewpoint. The parallel of this is also found in Matthew 24:7

...And there shall be famines...

The wars and famines described by Jesus and John are not just random disagreements. They are systematic steps taken by the god of this world and his trusted kosmokrateros to bring about the global government that will dominate the planet in the end times. Daniel detailed the world government’s rise to power through the centuries and John described its final bid for global domination in the last generation. The book of Revelation gives us the play by play account of how the New World Order will come to its full authority over the nations of the world. There are those who watch the myriad of tentacles strangling the sovereignty out of our nation and its citizens and wonder what is going to happen next. The Revelation of Jesus Christ tells us specifically what methods will be employed and in what order they will pull the pins to bring the entire globe under their dominion. There is no guess work for the servants of Jesus Christ. He has given us the details so we will not be taken by surprise.
To kill with **Death**. How do you kill with death? The word “death” in the Greek is θανατοσ (thanatos), which is a sentence of death for punishment. This is wholesale extermination, such as was seen in Rwanda just a few short years ago. What the controlled American and international news media reported as ethnic cleansing, was the planned extermination of entire populations of Christians. There were so many bodies bloating in the rivers that the human “log jam” caused the river to overflow its banks and spread death and disease to hundreds of thousands more innocent victims of the atheist world socialists. On the cover of Newsweek magazine was a picture of one of the largest groups of Christians ever photographed. They were all killed by θανατοσ. The parallel verse is in Matthew 24:9

> Then they shall deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you...

To kill with **the beasts of the earth**. I have heard this explained as an increase in the number of rabid bunny rabbits coming out of the woods and biting people on the buttocks. I don’t think so. The word “beasts” is θεριον (therion) in Greek, which means “the living,” or “that which has life.” It is not a natural occurrence that is bringing the NWO into full authority on the planet. This is biological warfare. The modern day manufacturing of virulent strains of death dealing toxins. This concept has been used since the days that diseased cows were catapulted over the walls of besieged castles. Aids was developed in Fort Detrick, Maryland, as a population control measure under the global 2000 plan contrived by the club of Rome, a world socialist think tank. Deadly Anthrax strains have been cultivated there for decades. The military science of biological exterminations have gone on around the clock for years. I have read several books that detail the development of U.S. and Soviet toxins. The effects are so frightening that I care not to graphically describe their heinous capabilities.

The Product Ingredient Technology (PIT) lab in Boca Raton, Florida, appears to be one of the two laboratories in the U.S. who have been linked to the origination of the Gulf War Syndrome: The “non-existent” disease has now taken the lives of over 8,000 servicemen, their wives, their deformed children, and their household pets. Ishan Barboudie International, known to have terrorist contacts in Iraq before the Gulf War, leased the PIT lab and another building in Houston, Texas, that were both used as toxin warfare plants. Peter Kawaja, a DOD security contractor, was hired by the Barboudies to set up a high level security system for the PIT lab in Florida. He discovered that they were manufacturing Prussian Blue, a deadly hydrogen cyanide compound, and shipping it overseas. Kawaja notified the FBI and CIA. He was asked to secure the evidence necessary to prove the case for the government. The evidence that he secured proved a conspiracy that reached into the corridors of power in the U.S. government and Iraq. The evidence linked the manufacture of deadly biological and chemical warfare toxins to a CIA operation that supplied Iraq with the biological soup that was used against our troops. Kawaja’s place was raided by black masked, unidentifiable Federal Marshals armed with automatic assault weapons and a warrant signed by George Bush under the War Powers Act. All the evidence was confiscated and sealed under the guise of national security.
Less than two years later, our troops were sent into a toxic biological soup that was apparently manufactured in the United States with the full knowledge of President George Bush. Thousands of young servicemen and women are now dying a slow, cruel, agonizing death while their government denies that there is anything wrong with them. These people are all being killed with θερίον. Many people have died over this cover-up, but why should the power brokers of the New World Order care? Millions are expendable in the march toward a global plantation. The parallel verse is found in Matthew 24:7

...and there shall be pestilence...

In the 3rd seal we see that total economic control will have the world citizens working a full day to earn enough to buy the ingredients for a loaf of bread (Rev 6: 5,6). The rich men of this world (James 5) are in full control of the world banking system and international monetary fund. They will eventually pull the plug on the entire house of cards and throw the United States into receivership. Few people realize that the national, industrial, and consumer debt in the U.S. is fully collateralized. The Depository Trust Corporation (DTC) housed in New York City has over 9 trillion dollars in assets which are held against the national debt for the privately held Federal Reserve Bank. The Federal Reserve is owned by eight families. It is not an American institution. It owns America. That is why Baron Rothschild, one of its owners said, “give me control of the nation’s money supply, and I don’t care who makes the laws.” Why? Because they buy and sell the politicians we send to Washington. They are merely pawns in their game.

Those who try to get out from under their system (which both Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy attempted by legally printing Greenbacks and United States Notes respectively) end up dead. Ten days before his execution by the globalists, Kennedy told a group of citizens at Columbia University, “The high office of the president has been used to foment a plot to destroy the Americans’ freedom, and before I leave office I must inform the citizen of his plight.” Kennedy never got to tell us, but his successor gave us a big clue. As soon a Lyndon Johnson was sworn in, he rescinded the printing authorization of the United States Note. The full depravity of this international banking system will be revealed as they plunge the world into the unrecoverable depression that will have us in a death spiral into the New World Order.

The 6th seal begins with a great shaking of the earth, or “seismos” in the Greek. We are not immediately told what causes this shaking of the earth. It could be a geological fault, the thundering hoofs of a thousand chariots, or 10,000 tanks. What is the cause of the earth shaking?

Revelation 6:12

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:

Now we see more detail. Jesus and the prophet Joel predicted that before the Lord returns there will be an incident that will cause the sun and moon to darken. They also prophesied that the stars would not be as bright. What could cause this phenomenon? Does God turn the rheostat down on the lights of the universe? With God this is possible, but is this very realistic? What causes this darkening of the lights in the sky at both daytime and at night?
Revelation 6:13
And stars from heaven fell to the earth...

John saw something happen on the earth that appeared as though stars were falling to the earth. Are they literally stars? Are Alpha Centari and several other distant stars going to come crashing to the earth? No. Even our tiny moon would destroy the entire planet if it fell to the earth. Is he seeing a meteor shower? That is a possibility, but John had probably seen more meteor showers and shooting stars than any of us modern city dwellers will ever see. John then describes the cause of the earth’s shaking and the darkened atmosphere:

Revelation 6:14
And the heaven departed, as a scroll when it is rolled together...

We now have a full picture. The fiery star-like formations were coming toward the earth in streaking, high speed trajectories. As they were detonated, the sky departed and then rolled up on itself as a scroll does when you let the two ends go free. We have been given the perfect description of a nuclear attack and warhead detonation. When the “stars” make their final approach, the warhead splits off into multiple independent re-entry vehicles (MIRVs). Each of these independent warheads are then detonated. Upon detonation, the sky literally “departs.” The fireball from a small one megaton blast departs the detonation point at 275 kilometers per hour. The flash instantly vaporizes the human body, leaving a small pile of white ash about 3/16ths of an inch deep. After about 11 seconds, the blast which caused the sky to depart draws back up on itself to fill the vacuum. The cloud of smoke, dust, and debris rolls back up on itself at over 375 kilometers per hour, nearly twice as fast as the sky departed. The visual effect is that of a giant scroll rolling back on itself, and then continuing to roll up as the pillar of smoke from the mushroom cloud soars 30,000 feet into the stillness of the stratosphere. There it spreads out its black radioactive cloud, blocking out the brightness of the sun, moon, and stars. This thermonuclear attack is further depicted in Joel. (See Plate 1, page 137).

Joel 2:30-33
And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon to blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord come. ...And whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered.

Here we see not only the fireball and the vaporized life’s blood of those under the fireball, but we also see the pillar of smoke that rolls up into the stratosphere and turns the atmosphere dark. Note that here again we see this nuclear nightmare unfold on planet earth before the day of the Lord. Since the evil in the heart of man has devised these weapons of mass destruction, it seems only right that God would allow mankind to experience his own hideous plans before Jesus steps in to right the wrong of man’s evil ways. It is poetic justice, is it not?
Revelation 6:14

...Every mountain and Island were shaken out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth (top political leaders), and the great men (those who tell the political leaders what to do), and the rich men (the world super wealthy who own countries), and the chief captains (top military brass), and the mighty men (military personnel), and every bondman (taxpayers who work half the year to pay for their country’s debt to the rich men), and every free man (both of them), hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

Wait a moment. Do you mean to tell me that Bill and Hillary are going to be out in Potomac Park, north of the CIA headquarters, looking for an unused cave or an abandoned foxhole in which to hide themselves? No, they already have the Crystal Palace and a hundred other fortified nuclear command posts scattered all over the continent. This is not a picture of the world rulers randomly looking for a place to hide. These are the hardened nuclear bunkers that have been prepared for use during the coming nuclear holocaust. The New York times recently reported on the underground nuclear war command center that Russia has been feverishly attempting to finish. The Russians have been working around the clock for the past ten years. While their people are starving, it seems a bit odd that they would be spending billions on this fortified underground den. The underground fortress is larger than Washington DC (including Maryland and Virginia) inside the capitol beltway.

Why is it that the former NATO commander warned the free world that the Soviets were building one new typhoon class, nuclear powered, nuclear MIRV warhead equipped submarine every 60 days? Quite an ambitious project for a peaceful world. For the last three years, the project has been sped up to the rate of one new craft, replete with crew, rolling into the water every 37 days. This well documented military intelligence was also confirmed by a Russian friend of mine who is a defected jet engineer now enjoying political asylum in Canada. The Russians are getting ready for what we read in the 6th chapter of Revelation. This is reality. Get ready!

Revelation 6:16

And (these who were in hiding in their mountain bunkers) said to the mountain and rocks, fall on us and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 For the great day of his wrath is come and who shall be able to stand?

Do these people want the rocks and the mountains to fall on them and crush them to death? No, their desire is to be covered and hidden from the devastation that is happening at ground level. Throughout history, God has used nations to bring judgment on other nations who have forsaken him or have done great evil against his people. This is the scenario here. This is the judgment of God, not by the bowls of his wrath, but by nations rising against other nations. This is the war that ends national sovereignty and brings about the New World Order.

I had a very disturbing problem with this verse indicating that this is the wrath of the Lamb. We are to be saved from the wrath to come, however, these events take place long before the last trumpet when “the wrath of God is now come.” During the wrath of God, those who experience the torment still do not repent, but are hardened against God to the point that they gather together at Meggido to do battle against Jesus when he returns to set up his kingdom and reign on the
I was driving at the time and a whisper in my mind said, “Look who is saying that the wrath is now come.” I immediately stopped the truck and looked. It is not an angel, it is not Jesus, and it is not John. It is the people in the bomb shelters at the onset of the nuclear war that declare that his wrath is now come. It was their explanation of the destruction of their godless civilization, not the Lord’s. This is not God’s wrath. This is a war that man brings about himself. This is more of man’s inhumanity to man that will be initiated by the unleashed power of Satan. Thus begins man’s desolation of the earth that prompts the angels to proclaim at the last trumpet, “Thy wrath is now come and the time...thou shouldest destroy them which destroyed the earth” (Rev 11:18). The war that has just begun, brings vast devastation to the planet. If Jesus doesn’t cut man’s days short, there will not be any survivors. These people in their fallout shelters and nuclear war command posts are speaking out of a heart of fear for their lives and their future. Life on earth will never be the same, and they know it. It is fear that causes them to think that this is the wrath of God and of Jesus. It is not. It is a setup by Satan to make the world think that this is Armageddon and that the Messiah will come at the end of this war to set up his kingdom of peace on earth. The “messiah” who comes to power at the close of this war is the Destroyer. His coming is after the working of Satan, who has been laying the deceptive snares that will cause all but the very elect to be deceived.

The next several trumpets spell out the destruction of life and the environment that is caused by this initial attack at the 6th seal. The silence in heaven at the 7th seal is when Satan is cast out by Michael and his angels. The war in heaven and the war on earth at the 6th seal are simultaneous. When the smoke clears, the man who sits at the helm of the New World Order is the Destroyer himself, the Wicked one whose coming is after the working of Satan. The details of the 6th seal nuclear destruction are seen in the first four trumpets. We will go directly to the 1st trumpet and pick up the action.

Revelation 8:7

The first angel sounded 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.

After the detonation of a nuclear warhead, the first thing to return to earth after the pillar of “scrolling” smoke rises into the stratosphere is 1/2 inch to 1 inch pieces of pulverized rock and concrete that have been swept up into the backdraft of the departed sky. This debris is “dirty” with radioactive particles and presents the first danger to those who have lived through the initial blast. The fire mingled with blood is the flash and fireball that has vaporized perhaps millions of people at ground zero. Nuclear warheads are all detonated by an electronic key before the device impacts the earth. An actual impact would destroy the detonation mechanism and render the missile as ineffective as an empty freight train plunging from a mile high railroad trestle.
Blood always represents the life of the flesh (Leviticus 17:11). These lives are vaporized in the fire that departs from the point of detonation. Millions of lives will cry out in terror, and will be instantly hushed. (See Plate 2, page 139)

The term “the third part” appears ten times in this section. Whereas some have proposed that this third part may be a localized area, verse 12 indicates that the third part describes the level of darkening of the sun, moon, and stars. Since this depicts the global atmospheric conditions that prevail after the war, the third part would seem to indicate a global scope of the other desolations as well. It will be interesting to see what this phrase is indicating exactly. Either way will be no picnic. We may be seeing the reality of this situation in just a few short months. Then the debate will be pointless. A third part of the oxygen producing trees and all of the green grasses will be burned up during this war.

Revelation 8:8,9

And the second angel sounded, 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.

Note that this is not a great burning mountain, but is as it were a great burning mountain. We are seeing the Soviet first strike plan for sub-launched short-range ballistic missiles taking out the coastal military targets, commercial ports, and major coastal cities of trade. This attack will cripple the U.S. military and destroy its economic framework, but leave the heartland intact. The composite of this seething pile of nuclear debris will be dumped into the seas. One third of the ships will be destroyed in this attack, and the resultant fiery radioactive debris from a trillion tons of rubble will poison the waters of the ocean. A third part of the marine life will be killed. The fishing industry will be fruitless from here to the millennium.

Revelation 8:10,11

And the third angel sounded, 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 water; 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.

Up to this point we have seen the smaller sub-launched tactical nuclear weapons launching en masse against the coastal economic and military targets. Now we see the devastation of the great stars, representing intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). To appreciate the power of a great star ICBM, we would do well to recall the picture in our mind of the devastation of Hiroshima. That bomb was the equivalent of 12,500 tons of TNT. It was a 12_ kiloton hydrogen bomb. It would have taken a freight train loaded with TNT over 50 miles long to approximate its explosive power, yet it was compacted to the size of an old Volkswagen “beetle.” The ICBMs of today are a different bug. They pack the whallop of 30,000,000 tons of TNT. It is the equivalent of a freight train loaded with TNT stretched from Los Angeles, California, all the way to New York City, back to Los Angeles, and back again to New York City. All of that is compacted into the size of an old Volkswagen beetle. Several of these stars are aimed at the major cities of the United States. (See Plate 3, page 141).
These man-made great stars will decimate vast areas of the planet surface and turn the upper stratosphere into a dark eeriness all over the world. They will pollute the underground rivers and aquifers. The springs will bubble radioactive debris out of what once were crystal fountains. Much of the fresh water on the planet will be turned to poison, and many millions of people will die because of the poisoned water. I believe it is significant that the word “Wormwood” in the Ukraine translation of the Bible is the word Chernyoble, which was the site of the most deadly nuclear accident in history. Many have died, not only in the initial meltdown, but also in attempting to maintain the concrete sarcophagus that entombs the deadly radiation. I do not think it is coincidence that these two references to wormwood both refer to radioactive poisoning of the environment. God knew 2,000 years ago what would transpire in our generation.

Revelation 8:12
And the fourth angel sounded, 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 the third part of it, and the night likewise.

We see the result of the whole shooting match. The prophecies of Joel and Jesus have now been fulfilled. The great war has ended and the sky is darkened. All before the day of the Lord. It is just as he had stated.

Revelation 8:13
And I saw and heard an angel flying through the midst of the heaven crying out with a loud voice, Woe, Woe, Woe, to the inhabiter of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpets of the three angels which are yet to sound.

Frankly, things were looking bad enough without these Woes. Now we will see the great tribulation begin at the hand of the Destroyer who is introduced at the 5th trumpet. The Woe to the earth is because Satan has been cast down, having great wrath (Rev. 12:12).

Revelation 9:1
And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and unto it (the star) was given the key to the shaft of the abyss.  And it opened the shaft of the abyss and there arose smoke out of the abyss, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke out of the abyss.

This picture could very well be showing us the detonation of one of the great stars. Unto the star was given the electronic key that unlocks the shaft of the missile which creates an abyss when it is detonated. The great furnace of fire and shaft of smoke unleashed by the key is what turns the sun and the air to darkness. Here we see that the darkened atmosphere causes the sun to have the appearance of being a third part as bright as it was before the war.
Revelation 9:3
   And there came out of the smoke, locusts down upon the earth; and their power is comparable to the power of the scorpions of the earth. And their authority was that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither anything that was green, but only those who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads. And their orders were not to kill, but to inflict torment five months: and the torment was similar to the torment of a scorpion striking a man. (GINT)

Out of the smoke and ashes of the war, John sees something that is coming down to the earth that looks like a locust, but does not eat grass like a locust. They have the authority to inflict torment on men, but not on those who are protected by God. John gives further descriptions of these awesome war machines:

Revelation 9:7
   And the likeness of the locusts were like horses that are prepared to do battle..

What did a horse look like when it was prepared to go into battle in John’s day? It was covered with metal armor. John is seeing what appears to be a flying locust which is covered in metal. To this day, this is an almost perfect description of military rotary wing aircraft. I have flown in the Marine Corps counterparts of this NWO air cavalry countless times. (See Plate 4, page 143).

Revelation 9:7
   …and on their heads were as it were, crowns; like gold crowns...

These are not gold crowns but as gold crowns. Each time the phrase as or as it were is seen in the scripture, we have a figure of speech that indicates that there are comparisons that can be made by their similarities. What are the similarities here? On top of the heads of these flying metal locusts, it looked like a crown sitting there. Again, the perfect picture of the spinning rotor assembly that resembles a metal crown on the head of the chopper.

Revelation 9:7
   …and their faces were as the faces of men.

As John looked into the “faces” of these rotary winged aircraft, he saw what appeared to be the faces (plural) of men (plural). This is exactly what one sees as he looks into the face of the metal locust. There are two men in helmets, the pilot and co-pilot, in helmets and battle dress uniform. (See plate 5, page 145)

Revelation 9:8
   And they had hair as the hair of women...

When the blades are spinning, the turbulence causes foliage to bend and swirl under the air pressure of the blades. When one looks up at the blades, it resembles a woman’s long dark hair blowing in the wind. You can see that the hair is wispily stirring in the breeze, and you can see through it as it is whipped by the wind.
When the propellers of a chopper are stopped, one can easily tell that they are very heavy, thick metal appendages with a definite taper. You can see the variable pitch mechanism of the rotor assembly. But while it is running, when you look up through the whirling blades it appears like a woman’s long dark hair blowing in the breeze. You can see through the blades as they rotate, but they are still there in their wispy visual trails.

Revelation 9:8
...and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

What does a lion use to kill and shred his prey? His teeth. His teeth are his attacking armament, not his defensive shield. The armament systems on the AH-64 Apache cannot be better described than as the teeth of a lion shredding its prey. Westinghouse was responsible for the design and implementation of the target acquisition systems for the Apache attack helicopters. When I organized some of the trade shows for Westinghouse, I used a video demonstration of the Westinghouse targeting systems that showed an AH-64 literally shredding a residential structure with its 7.62 mm minigun in a matter of seconds. The air-to-air and air-to-ground heat seeking and laser guided rockets are even more awesome in their destructive power. The teeth of lions? Yes indeed. (See Plate 6, page 147).

Revelation 9:9
And they had breastplates as it were breastplates of iron...

The underside of the military locusts are all metal, with portions reinforced to protect vital areas. The pilot and co-pilot, after all, cannot sit on their helmets as the infantry Marine is wise to do when flying in enemy airspace. The cockpit area is reinforced with iron, and the entire underbelly of the chopper is metal as well.

Revelation 9:9
... And the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

Here we have the unmistakable description of the sound of the wings of the chopper. Two choppers sound like the soundtrack to the chariot race in the movie Ben Hur. The thundering of the wings is deafening. Having made the mistake of flying home for the weekend from Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, to Michigan in a HMH-53 without ear protection, left me with a fractional hearing disability. Hours of thundering hoofbeats will give anyone a headache for days.

Revelation 9:10
And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails...

The eastern scorpion has a long black tail. Out of its tail comes a sting that will put a man down on the ground writhing in agony. The tail that is long and black on a military attack helicopter is the air cooled 7.62 mm cannon that has a sting that will put a man down on the ground writhing in agony. The stings are both in their long black tails.
Revelation 9:10
...and their authority was to hurt men five months

After the desolation of the global thermonuclear war, it will apparently take five months to establish order and have the mark of the beast in full operation. The plan is to subdue the remainder of the world’s populations, but not necessarily kill any more usable people. They will need a lot of slave labor to begin cleaning up the mess and start the new age of peace and prosperity under the NWO.

Revelation 9:6
And in those days men shall seek death, and shall not find it; and they shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. (MIV)

With rampant radiation sickness, disease, starvation, torture, and slavery, it would be so much easier to die than to live in this hell on earth. But they won’t let you die. They will need what little energy can be squeezed out of you before they push your worthless body into the massive grave you have just finished digging for the thousands of rotting corpses around you. This verse does not mean to imply that if you cut off your head you will still walk around with your head under your left arm unable to die. No, we must be realistic here as well. We will not need a supernatural act of God to make life more miserable than godless man will make it.

As awesome as this spectacle appears to John, and as precise the revelation is to those who live at the time of the end and see this incredible military hardware, it is not the point of the 5th trumpet. The 5th trumpet announces that Woe has now come upon the inhabitants of the earth, because Satan has been cast down to the earth. He has great wrath and knows that he has but a short time before his incarceration. The working of Satan yields the coming of the Wicked one:

Revelation 9:11
And they (the military machinery of the NWO) had a commander over them, the messenger of the bottomless pit, whose name is Abaddon in Hebrew, Apollyon in Greek; The Destroyer. (GINT)

Here at last the man of sin, the son of destruction, he whose coming is after the working of Satan, the prince that shall come, the antichrist is revealed in the book of Revelation. He has taken his throne as the consummate ruler over the peoples of the earth. This begins the last three and one half years. Now things are going to get real rough.

Revelation 9:12-15
One Woe is fulfilled, behold two more Woes come hereafter. And the sixth angel sounded and I heard a voice from the four horns of the Altar of sacrifice which stands before God. The voice said to the angel with the sixth trumpet, loose the four angels which are bound, in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed which were prepared for a specific hour, day, month, and year; to slay the third part of men.

These must be some bad, bad angels who had been bound and now are loosed at this particular time to instigate the carnage that is a Woe in itself. At the time of this writing, a third of men is
over 1,000,000,000 (one billion). Perhaps one third will not be as many after the nuclear war at the 6th seal.

Revelation 9:16
And the number of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand (200 million): and I heard the number of them.

Why does John qualify his narrative with “and I heard the number of them?” Because this was not his personal guesswork. There were not 200 million people on planet earth in John’s day and he wanted to emphasize that this is not an indistinct multitude, but an outrageous and exact number that he got directly from heaven. A 200 million man army was impossible until just recently. Right now over 124 million military age Chinese men will never have the opportunity to get married. Never, ever. Why? The Chinese are allowed to have only one child. Period. If it is a girl, they usually murder her.

My daughter’s girl friend is from China. Her parents wanted to keep her, but they wanted a boy also. Since they were both college graduates, they were able to get passage to America where they had another baby girl a few years later. In China, that would never be allowed. In some areas of China where ultrasound techniques are available, if an unborn child is determined to be female, she is carefully killed in the womb, delivered prematurely, and served as a high priced delicacy in progressive restaurants. The net result is that there are over 200 million military aged men in the eastern communist block that have nothing better to do with their lives than to conquer the world and get a woman as booty.

Revelation 9:17
And thus I saw the horses in the vision...

In John’s day, horses carried men and equipment into battle. The horses described here are obviously not of Equine origin.

Revelation 9:17-18
...they (the men) that sat on them (the horses), had breastplates of fire, jacinth, and sulfur (three colors that are native to the terrain in the area). And the heads of the horses where they sat, were as the heads of lions; and out of those heads came forth fire, smoke, and sulfur, and by these the third part of men were killed as it came out of their mouths...(MIV)

These horses had heads like lions, that sat up on their bodies, with a devastating armament system. Out of these heads came the ingredients that propel a 155 mm howitzer: Fire, smoke, and sulfur. Those that sat on top of this battlefield monstrosity were wearing the typical three color camouflage flack jackets and full coverage tanker helmets that are required for all tank personnel. This gear is standard in every modern armored division because one depleted uranium 50 caliber round that penetrates the armor plate of the tank, could ricochet around the interior and kill everyone inside. Three color camouflage is now standard battle dress in every national army in the world. This is another picture perfect description of the battle tanks and the “human wave” forces that are prepared to march into the Mideast from the eastern communist bloc.
Revelation 9:19

For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails; for they had tails that are likened unto a serpent, and these tails had heads, and with these serpent like tails they hurt.

This is the exact position, clothing, and armament that is found on the battle tanks of every major power on the earth. Those who ride on the tank turret that controls the 155mm “mouth” that kills as it belches fire and smoke, are protected by a required issue camouflage flack jacket. The gunner mans a 50 caliber, air-cooled, belt-fed machine gun with a flash suppresser that looks exactly like a snake with a head. Out of this “snake” comes a half inch diameter round that hurts very severely. I saw a man cut down by the Cuban communists with a 50 caliber machine gun while I was on duty at post 20 on the Guantanamo river. His leg was shredded and hanging by a flap of muscle and skin. He didn’t say specifically, but by the screams of agony I deduced that it “hurt.” (See Plate 7, page 149).

Jesus was clear enough in his revelation that we do not need to be ignorant of the times and seasons in which we live. God has been good to reveal these things to us. Do not delay to speak and live for him today.

My thanks and appreciation to John Pezzi, whose personal request would not allow me to finish this book without committing these details in writing. May the Lord continue to bless you.

Revelation 1:3

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: For the time is at hand
Plate 1

One Megaton Nuclear Blast
The “Scroll” Effect
Plate 2

Nuclear Desolation at 12.5 Kilotons
The hydrogen bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, that effectively ended World War II in the Pacific, was equivalent in explosive power to approximately 12,500 tons of TNT. The devastating power was packed into a bomb which was about the size of an old Volkswagen Beetle. Yet it would have taken a 50 mile long train with all of the boxcars filled to capacity with TNT to equal the explosive energy of that one small bomb. Compared to today’s 30,000,000 ton inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), the World War II bombs seem a bit dwarfed. Yet, those 30 megaton bombs are no larger than an old Volkswagen Beetle. In a size comparison of explosive power, a singular ☀️, represents the explosive power of a 12.5 kiloton bomb as a train 50 miles long. The power of the big Soviet and U.S. ICBM’s, several of which will be released on major population centers of the United States, is shown by comparison:

12.5 Kiloton Nuclear Device

☀️

30 Megaton Nuclear Device
Plate 4

A Horse Prepared for Battle
Plate 5

Iron Plated Locusts
Plate 6
AH-64 Apache
with Teeth as Lions
Plate 7

Lion Mouthed Horses with Serpents
Appendix VII

144,000 and the Innumerable Multitude of Revelation 7

The first parenthetical section in the chronology of the book of Revelation occurs after the death, destruction, and persecution that occurs during the first six seals. The souls who were martyred for the witness of Jesus Christ cry out for vengeance from under the altar of sacrifice in heaven. They rest until the first resurrection, which is yet to come. There are others who will be killed as the tribulation comes into full fury at the hand of the Destroyer. The global thermonuclear war initiated at the 6th seal will turn the atmosphere to darkness, just as was prophesied by the prophet Joel. Even as mankind brings himself to the brink of destruction, God shows us that he is still in control. Chapter 7 shows us, in stop action detail, that God will seal 144,000 people from all of the tribes of Israel, to be protected by God through the desolation that will come upon the earth.

Revelation 7:3-5

...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 that were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of Israel. Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand...

These are not 144,000 Jews. The tribe of Judah comprises only one twelfth of those who will be sealed by God. There are 11 other tribes, ten of which have been lost since the carrying away of the northern tribes by Shalmaneser around 606 BC. That carrying away and dispersal helped to fulfill the prophecy of God to Abraham that from his loins would come many nations. The prophecy of Israel over his twelve sons was also expedited by this dispersion. The lost tribes of Israel have been traced all over northern Asia and Europe. Modern archaeological finds in Europe show the migration of the Hebrew people throughout the continent. Many of the royal families of Europe can still trace their roots back to their forefather, Israel. The ten lost tribes of Israel may not have much, if any, pure blood left in their families. The vast majority of them do not even know who they are.

When one analyzes the prophecies that were spoken over Joseph’s two sons, Ephraim and Mannaseh, there are only two nations that fulfill any of these prophecies. In fact, those two nations fulfill every prophecy concerning the promises to those tribes in the last days. The two nations are Great Britain and the United States. When one realizes that the Oracles (Words) of God were committed to his people Israel, one can understand why the Bible houses of England and America have published over 90% of all the Bibles in the world. The promises of God have been fulfilled right under the noses of those who do not even know their ancient origins.
I do not know if the 144,000 will ever know that they are sealed by God for his protection, in fact, I doubt it. They don’t really need to know. They will just be faithful witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ. What we know about them and their “sealing” is that they will be untouched by the global thermonuclear war at the 6th seal. They will also be protected from the gunships of the New World Order air cavalry under the direction of the Destroyer at the 5th trumpet. They are later seen as the firstfruits of the tribes of Israel who will be redeemed from the earth at the last trumpet. These servants of God will be totally committed, and undefiled by the world. They will not prostitute themselves for the favor of the beast system. I do not believe the 144,000 of all the tribes of Israel know who they are. I believe they will just keep ending up alive when so many others around them are dropping like flies.

Picture an angel showing up to break Aaron out of a bus headed for a NWO prison camp in Arizona; an airliner is blown out of the sky and Mark, the lone survivor, ends a 30,000 foot freefall in a soft landing without a scratch; a chemical attack leaves 425,000 people dead in London, but the yellow rain does not even give Mary a blister. When God seals one of his servants for protection, nothing can touch them. Since they obviously don’t love their lives unto the death, they won’t be spending all of their energy on staying alive, but on witnessing for the Lord Jesus Christ.

While we are considering the origins of the peoples of Europe and the United States, it is important to understand where America stands. It is one of the larger repositories of the remnants of the lost tribes of Israel, but also the final incarnation of the vestiges of the Roman Empire. When one looks at the origins of the people who have subdued North America, the roots can be traced back to their European ancestors, the people who made up the Holy Roman Empire. Only by ignoring the fact that America is basically the modern day vestige of that empire, prophecy scholars continue to look at Europe itself as the originator of the beast government of the end times. In an attempt to hold onto America’s godly heritage, hoping that we as a nation will make a 180-degree turnabout, prophecy preachers have sought to turn our eyes from the obvious “Mystery Babylon” to some imagined power in the European economic community. That interpretation may have made sense a hundred years ago, but it doesn’t now. Europe will not become the beast system. America already has.

America, in its last decadent days, has given birth to the atheistic socialism of the New World Order. The nation that was founded on Creator given absolute rights has now thumbed its high technology nose at the God of our fathers. America is the modern day Mystery Babylon who has corrupted the entire world with its godless materialism, having perverted the blessings of God on our nation. The beast system will not come out of Europe, but out of the nation that came out of all the nations of Europe. America is the little horn that subdued three of the first horns, or vestiges, of the ancient Roman Empire. America subdued England, France, and Spain in its rise to power during three separate wars in its infancy. America, the little horn that sprouted up out of the vestiges of Rome, will continue just a short time until it is brought to desolation (Daniel 7). This 7th world superpower will be wounded unto death (Rev 13). Out of the smoke and debris of the 6th seal nuclear war will arise the beast in its most terrible form, as the 8th totalitarian antichrist dictatorship: The New World Order (Rev 17:8-13).
Now, back to Revelation chapter 7. After the vision of the 144,000, we are shown an
innumerable multitude. We pick up the second vision, which is a view in heaven, in the 9th
verse.

*After this I beheld, and, lo, 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;* 10 And cried with a loud voice,
saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all
the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell
before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and
glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, *be* unto our God
for ever and ever. Amen.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in
white robes? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he
said to me, These are they which *come* out of great tribulation, and have washed their
robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

The key to this vision is the word *come* which is in the future tense. The KJV translators
inaccurately handled the translation as *came*, in the past tense. But here we are shown a vision of
the future.

Do not forget the context. We have just seen the beginning of a nuclear war that will decimate a
third of the seas, forests, fresh water, shipping, and seaports of the world. The fallout will poison
the world’s food and water supply and turn the sky to darkness at midday. Jesus said of this time
that unless those days would be shortened, there would be no flesh saved alive. In this context
we see that God will protect a thimbleful of humanity who is faithful to him: 144,000 of all the
tribes of Israel. This means that hundreds of millions of people will die. I do not want to give
you any false hope that your hide will be saved from persecution and death. In fact, I doubt that
very many of us will make it to the end, especially if they are bold in their witness for the Lord
Jesus.

Those who feel they can ignore the warnings of Jesus, thinking that God will protect their
carefree American lifestyle, are wrong. They will be dead wrong. Many Christians think they
can just keep living as if Jesus was lying and that tribulation will never come. They don’t want
to prepare mentally, physically, or spiritually for the times ahead. If they think they are going to
ignore the clear message of scripture and continue to invest in this world as if “all things continue
as they were since the fathers fell asleep,” they will starve to death, or sell their soul to keep their
children alive.

What would have happened if Joseph had told Pharaoh they didn’t need to prepare for the
coming seven years of famine? What if the squirrel does not store up for the long season of
barrenness ahead? What if the ant were to eat all of its goods each day and not store any for the
winter ahead? What if we buy the two door sports coupe with the optional reclining leather
bucket seats and the 24 valve overhead cam turbo package instead of stocking away a few
hundred pounds of beans and rice? The answer to all of the above is starve to death, regretting
our stupidity. But whether we live or die, we remain faithful to the end. Prepare your heart and mind now, and remember that fatigue makes cowards of us all. Hang in there no matter what.

If your plan for the future is to deliberately not prepare and just trust God, perhaps you should start today by not buying any groceries and running your vehicles on water. This will give you good practice, and you can teach the rest of us how it is done. If my tone seems a bit insulting, perhaps it is. I implore you to prepare mentally and physically for the worst. If Jesus is wrong and it doesn’t get as bad as he said before his return, you can watch the whole thing on TV in the comfort of your leather easy chair. If Jesus is right, be faithful unto death and he will give you a crown of life. Stock away some extra beans and rice for your neighbors who haven’t wanted to hear the gospel. After a month of not eating, they will be willing to listen as you read the Bible and serve them a hot meal. The message of hope from the gospel of Jesus Christ will have eager ears when the system of this world fails. Prepare for the latter rain and harvest.

The system of Satan has all of us living on imitation money: Federal Reserve Notes. They will soon be worthless. Most of the world will hold them to the very end, hoping that the system will pay off for them. Our great grandparents could live an entire year on the farm and never go to town to buy food, yet we cannot make it a week without making several hand to mouth trips to the corner store. The system is now ready to make you the absolute slave of the state controlled economy. The rich men of the world (James 5) have the ability to strike and topple the entire world economy (if they haven’t already done so at the time of this reading).

Now that we have set the destitution of the times ahead as the context for this vision, remember that it is a vision in the future to the chronological time frame in which it sets. The multitude will come out of the great tribulation which is yet to occur. The great tribulation will be initiated by the war started at the 6th seal (from which we are now in a parenthetical break). This vision of the future shows us the innumerable multitude, some of which may have lived through the entire tribulation, while others have died as witnesses of the Lord Jesus. They all now have their reward. Whether they were alive or asleep, at the last trumpet they were all changed. The next verse gives us more detail of the vision:

Revelation 7:15
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.

Being before the throne serving him night and day happens after the gathering together at the last trump, and after the 7 bowls of God’s wrath are poured out on the earth. Before the wrath is poured out, no one can enter the temple in heaven. Chapter 15 makes this prerequisite very emphatic.
Revelation 15:1

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. 2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. 5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: 6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. 7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled. 16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

After the last bowl is poured out, the cry goes out from the throne room, “It is finished” (Rev 16:17). Those who have washed their garments in the blood of the lamb are invited into the marriage supper of the Lamb, in the throne room of God.

The vision of the innumerable multitude also indicates that:

Revelation 7:15-16

Therefore are (a) they before the throne of God, and (b) serve him day and night in his temple: and (c) he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, (d) neither thirst any more; (e) 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 (f) lead them unto living fountains of waters: and (g) God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

We find the fulfillment of these promises at the end of the book of Revelation on the new heaven and earth. In fact all of this prophetic vision is referring to this final fulfillment in the New Jerusalem. I cite the reference in the 15th chapter to show that the situation in heaven precludes this scene taking place before the bowls of wrath were poured out; but we will now go to the final scene in the book of Revelation to see when this promised glory will be fulfilled. It is on the new earth that we will witness the reward of those who remain faithful to the end; whether it is death or a new body at his return. The corelations are indicated (a - g) in both sections.

Revelation 21:1

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. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, (c) 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. 4 And (g) 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. 5 And (a) he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. (f) I will
give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Rev. 22:1
And he showed me (f) a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 3 And there shall be no more curse: but (c) the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and (b) his servants shall serve him: 4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. 5 And there shall be no night there; and (e) they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Here we see the fulfilled promises of Jesus to each of the seven churches in Asia (Rev 2:1 - 3:22). Here we see the fulfillment of the vision that John was shown concerning those that would live and die for the witness of Christ during the great tribulation. Here we see the reward of the righteous who come out of great tribulation at the last trump. The message of this vision? Some are sealed by God and will make it to the end; love not your life unto the death, you will be protected by the Almighty. Others will be vaporized in the fireball of a 30 million ton nuclear blast, or be tortured to death in a concentration camp for incorrigible religious misfits. Be faithful until the end, my grace is sufficient for you, I am coming back for you and my reward is in my hand. Be faithful unto death and you will sing with an innumerable multitude on high.

Do not live with the false hope that you can “believe” your way out of death. Our believing doesn’t do a thing for us in this scenario. We do not believe in our “believing,” we believe in the living God. We believe that he is faithful to his Word. We believe that if we lose our life in obedience to God we will have a better resurrection. We do not love our lives, even at the cost of death (Rev 12:11). Living to the end is highly over rated. The martyr’s reward is to be sought by opening one’s mouth to boldly witness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is now abundantly clear that this parenthesis is not depicting a gathering of saints in the heavens before the great tribulation starts at the 5th trumpet. That is a misinterpretation of pre or mid-tribulation secret rapturists. This is a future prophetic vision that is shown at the beginning of the war that will plunge mankind into the great tribulation. It shows us that faithfulness until the end will be rewarded for all of eternity. The vision gives us hope for a time when the world will have no hope, except in the Destroyer himself. This is the reward you and I can cling to in the months and years to come. Commit these pictures to memory. You will want to recall all of the details to those with whom you may be in hiding.
Appendix VIII

The Feast of Trumpets and the Rapture

or

What are Christian Holidays?

So often is heard the complaint that Christmas and Easter have become so commercialized that we have lost their true meaning. The term “Easter Sunday” is used so glibly in churches that you would think that Easter, the goddess of fertility who came down from the “gods” in a giant egg, is somehow related to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The fertility rites and sex ceremonies that were part of paganism for centuries have now become commonly commemorated by Christian churches. Goddess of fertility egg hunts, the proliferating rabbit, and the sunrise service which originally honored the sun god on the venerable day of the sun (Sunday) have all been “baptized” for Christian use. But these holy days were set apart for the worship of the wrong god. The vows to the sun god rituals, the sexual fertility rites of the priests of Baal, and their Greek counterparts who worship the goddess Easter, make strange “Christian” holy days indeed.

Bible scholars and knowledgeable historians concur that Jesus the Messiah was not born at the pagan festival of the Saturnalia, on December 25th, but at the Hebrew/Christian feast of the tabernacles, which is in the fall of the year. The Saternalia originated as the birth date of Tammuz, the bastard son of Semeramis, the widow of Nimrod of biblical evil fame. After Nimrod died, he ascended into the heavens and became the sun god himself. His rays implanted the seed into his widow (long after his death) and presto! The son of the sun god was miraculously conceived, and on the winter solstice Tammuz was born; as were most of the traditions surrounding “the child” mass season. Tammuz, who was the reincarnation of the sun god – Nimrod, was killed in a hunting accident when he was gored to death by a wild boar in his 40th year of life. Those who worshipped the “son of the sun god” then set aside 40 days of weeping for Tammuz – one day for each year of his incarnation - in which they would deny a worldly pleasure for his pleasure in the afterworld (see Ezekiel 8). After many years, his mother Semeramis died. The gods looked favorably on “the mother of god” and sent her back to earth as the spring fertility goddess – always depicted as an exaggeratedly endowed bare breasted queen of sexual desire. Semeramis was “born again” as the goddess Easter (Ashstarte) as she emerged from a giant egg that landed in the Euphrates river at sunrise on the “Sun” day after the vernal equinox. To proclaim her divine authority, she changed a bird into an egg laying rabbit. As the cult developed, the priests of Easter would impregnate young virgins on the altar of the goddess of fertility at sunrise on Easter Sunday. A year later the priests of Easter would sacrifice those three-month-old babies on the altar at the front of the Sanctuary and dye Easter eggs in the blood of the sacrificed infants. The forty days of weeping for Tammuz (“Lent”) starts the Easter fertility season, and the festivities culminate on Easter Sunday, when the priests of Easter slaughtered the “wild boar that killed Tammuz” and the entire congregation would eat the “ham” on Easter Sunday. In later years “Good Friday”, the day that the Philistines did sacrifice to Dagon, the Philistine fish god, also became an integral part of the Easter perversion (if you are over 40 years of age, you will recall eating fish on Friday in the public school system in America). This entire menagerie of Satanic festivities is the pinnacle of the abominations that
God had pronounced through the lips of Moses to the Children of Israel before they entered the Promised Land:

…Do not learn the way of the heathen – how they worship and serve their gods. Do not do the same and say that you are doing so unto me. For all that they do is an abomination (utterly detestable, repugnant, putrid, vile and sickening) to me…but three times a year you are to have a feast unto me in the manner that I shall prescribe… Deut. 12 Paraphrased

The birth of Jesus on the other hand, occurred in the fall of the year at the Feast of Tabernacles. The origination of the Feast of Tabernacles celebrated God dwelling with men in the tabernacle that was built under the direction of Moses. Each year at the feast, Israel would remember the time that they, and their God, dwelt in tabernacles, or tents in the wilderness. In the fall of each year they assembled in and around Jerusalem, living in tabernacles for a week of celebration as they relived the past and looked forward to the future prophetic fulfillment of the feast. Each feast, and the Sabbath itself, have intermediate and a final future fulfillment to which the church looks forward. The Gospel of John pinpoints the first prophetic fulfillment of the feast of tabernacles when the Son of God, Jesus, tabernacled among men.

John 1:14

And the word was made flesh and dwelt <εσκηνωσεν = tabernacled> among us...

The second, or intermediate fulfillment is when the Messiah reigns over the earth from his throne in Jerusalem for one thousand years.

Revelation 20:4

And I saw thrones and they sat upon them…and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

During this period of time, all the nations of the world will be required to go up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (Zech.14:16). The feast is still not fulfilled at this time. During the millennium it remains a shadow or picture of the final fulfillment on the new earth.

Revelation 21:1

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. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell <tabernacle> with them and they shall be his people…and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”

Finally we see the fulfillment of the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. This is one of the holy convocations, or assemblies, which Paul told the Hebrew Christians not to forsake. Even though the blood sacrifices have been fulfilled in the crucifixion of the Lamb of God, these holidays are a celebration of the past acts of God, and what he will do in the future.

Hebrews 10:25
Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is; but encourage each other more and more as you see The Day approaching.

We should be encouraging each other by these assemblies, more and more as we see The Day of his tabernacling with us approaching. Though the blood sacrifices of bulls and goats is no longer acceptable before God at these assemblies, it is still God’s desire that we sacrifice to him with thanksgiving in our hearts until he does tabernacle with us. These are a different type of sacrifice since the cross.

Hebrews 13:15
Through Jesus, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his namesake. And do not forget to do good works, and give to those in need; such sacrifices are well pleasing to God.

I had followed the traditions of my church and family, without questioning their origins, for the better part of 40 years. After years of careful thought and study, I found that the vast majority of my Christian holy day traditions and methods of celebration are directly traceable to the Babylonian and Egyptian roots of sun god worship. I also found that even though the knowledge of these pagan roots is widespread, those who are aware of its occult origins casually compromise with these worldly traditions. We Christians should have dug back to our faith roots long ago. We should have based our holidays on the holidays of our spiritual ancestors, the Hebrew Christians, rather than continuing the occult practices of Babylon. Those original faith roots were “executed” out of the church under the bloody hand of Popes during the dark ages. However, that should not keep the church from challenging the infiltration of the world’s philosophies and traditions from year to year. Too often comfort with the world system holds a higher priority than truth.

The Babylonian black mass developed from the worship of Baal. Jesus exposed Baal worship as the shrouded worship of Satan. It is the mass to the child Tamuz, adapted by the Roman church, that replaced the true celebrations of God’s holy days. The holy days that were celebrated for centuries by Israel, and then the early church. The church let in a little leaven; a little yeast into the dough of their uncompromising stand. Years of stalwart faith had them living in the catacombs under Rome. After years of tribulation under the hand of the Roman government, they accepted Contantine’s compromised paganism to a “new form of Christianity.” That little leaven of compromise eventually leavened the whole lump. The western church forsook all of the assemblies, including the holy days of unleavened bread. They no longer “burned” the “adulterated” loaves of compromise each year. They had forsaken not only the reminder holiday, they had forsaken the act of analyzing their lives and traditions in the light of the scriptures. They no longer burned those compromised activities as an offering to the Lord in an act of obedience, keeping their lives uncontaminated by the world.

The church in Colossi had compromised with the world in the same fashion, as we see in Paul’s letter to them:

Colossians 2:8
Be alert, lest any man capture you as a hostage, through philosophy and self glorifying deceit, by following after the traditions of men and their systematic view of this world; and not following after Christ.

Therefore, let no man judge you concerning your eating and drinking and taking part in a holyday, new moon, or Sabbath; which things are all shadow pictures of things yet to come. Let no man judge you, but rather the body of Christ.

The context is the contrast between following the truth of Jesus Christ and following the perverted philosophies and worldly traditions of men who find their roots in the pantheistic, materialistic paganism of their day. The men of the world who desire to snare you into their godless philosophies, by getting you to follow their traditions, are not to be your judge on what celebrations you are to be taking part. The body of Christ is to judge those things based on the foundation of faith, the Bible (which at that time consisted of the Old Testament). The church is to judge our holy day traditions with respect to what Christ accomplished for us. The body of Christ is alone qualified, by the indwelling spirit of truth, to determine how the holy days are to be kept. Since the blood sacrifices have been fulfilled in Jesus, these holy days should be kept in a manner that differs from the Old Covenant assemblies, although these same assemblies are profitable and encourage us. Verse 17 lost its sense when the King James translators added the word is. It was italicized to show that they added it, but in doing so, they confused the text.

which things are all shadow pictures of things yet to come, but the body is of Christ.

The phrase, “but the body is of Christ,” is completely irrelevant to the context. Reading it in context without adding the word is reads, “Let no man judge you, but rather the body of Christ.” Now the phrase makes sense. The body of Christ, the church, develops our own Christian traditions based on scripture and the accomplished work of our Lord Jesus Christ. We look back at our faith roots and follow after Christ, not the traditions of godless materialism or Satan worship.

It is important to understand that there is the origination of the commanded assembly, subsequent or intermediate fulfillment, and the end fulfillment to which the gentile believers will be party. Jesus has broken down the wall of separation, and made the two (Israel and Gentile) one new body. For the entire body of Christ, Israel and Gentile, to have forsaken the assembly of ourselves together, as the manner of some in Paul’s day, is truly a deep loss for the Christian church. To have adopted the satanic festivals of the Saternalia, Easter, and Halloween, is a travesty. We have not been alert, as we were specifically warned to be. We have allowed men influenced by Satan to sell us their traditions and, unfortunately, we have been captured by their philosophies as well. We have been captured by their deceit. Our eyes have been blinded by the god of this age and we have been taken hostage by their world view and enslaved by their system. We have been brought into their Nicolaian priesthood system as well. The Church had one mediator between God and man, Jesus the Messiah, and we were all brothers. Now we have set up a hierarchy pyramid system of denominational enclaves that exalt those who have climbed the Nicolaian political ladder, and exclude brothers and ministries that Christ gave to the church for edification and maturity.
If we refuse to acknowledge the yeast infections that have begun to grow in the body of Christ, and each year burn the traditions that have stopped our ears to the Spirit of God, denominational inbreeding will have us living in the cesspool of the world system. We will become too sick to comprehend that the stench of our decaying system keeps those who hunger and thirst after righteousness far away from our doors. Open your eyes and look around. No one man, group, or denomination will have all the truth. The truth is too big to be fully explored and expounded by one “universal and correct” denomination. If your denomination alone has the whole and unadulterated understanding of scripture, you are either insane or in a cult (whether you shave your head or not). Open your eyes and question everything. Question especially your own thought processes, your own presuppositions. Go back to the words of God and his proven prophets.

The shadow pictures of things to come can be turned into a prophetic Technicolor picture show by those who God has called to teach. That teaching is a vital part of observing any of the holy days. The reality of future prophetic events will come alive when the body of Christ properly judges how to respect the holidays of our Hebrew/Christian origins. Rather than blindly accepting the traditions of this world which enslave God’s people in the philosophies and world views that concocted them, we should now, as we see The Day approaching, assemble with the family of God, set our hearts on things above, and on the fulfillment of all things that Jesus said, “must come to pass.” The Book of Revelation gives us the picture of the final fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day. It is the fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets that immediately concerns Christ’s coming for his ready Bride.

The origination of the Feast of the Blowing of Trumpets was at the base of Mount Sinai in Arabia. God told Moses to have the people wash, dress, and prepare for his coming. They prepared, but they did not know exactly when the trumpet would sound to call them to the gathering together to meet him at the base of the mountain. They remained ready. They waited. Then trumpets began to blow. They became so loud that over 2 million people began to shake in fear. Then the trumpets got even louder, they “exceeded” loud. This was more awesome than anything they had ever experienced. (And they had just witnessed Pharaoh’s army destroyed in the Gulf of Aqaba as the Red Sea closed over them). They had seen the hand of the Almighty. They were trembling in fear as Moses led them out of the camp to the base of the mountain. The mountain was blazing with lightning, smoke, and thunder. It was like a blast furnace that engulfed the mountain with a fire that consumed everything in its vicinity. Moses spoke out to God, and God answered him in the presence of the congregation. God told Moses to come up into the mountain to speak with him. Moses had all of the credibility that he needed before the people at that moment. Moses went up and received last minute instructions to pass on to the priests and the people. Moses came back down, set the people in order at the base of the mountain, and the thundering voice of God shook the mountain and the people as he spoke:

Exodus 20:2

I AM THE LORD THY GOD WHICH BROUGHT YOU OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT... THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME...
It was there and then that the Ten Commandments were first given in person, by God himself. Later they were carved in tablets of stone. After God spoke to the people, they were extremely shaken by the experience, and pleaded with Moses that they would not be required to go through this trauma again. It was truly a fearful thing to stand in the presence of the living God. (How foolish are those who think they will stand in his presence at the judgment and pretend he doesn’t exist!)

Exodus 20:19
And the people said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will listen to you. But let not God speak to us, lest we die!”

From that point on Moses met with God alone, in private; but God never wanted his people to forget what had transpired on that day. He wanted this record to be told forever. This is just one of the seven feasts (detailed in the 23rd chapter of Leviticus) which will never pass away until all is fulfilled on the new heaven and earth. Then, eternity will be a continual feast and celebration of the presence of God. Leviticus gives us the timing of this Feast of the blowing of Trumpets.

Leviticus 23:24
...In the first day of the seventh month you shall have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy assembly.

The Feast of Trumpets was a commemoration of the time that God came down from heaven in all of his power and glory, and gathered his people together at the mountain of God to give them the Old Covenant. The fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets is when Jesus Christ comes down from heaven in all of his power and glory and sends forth the angels to gather together his people in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. The timing of this gathering together of the dead and living in Christ, is at the first resurrection. This gathering and rewarding was announced by Paul in his first letter to the Corinthian church.

I Corinthians 15:51,52
Behold, I show you a mystery, not all of us will sleep, but we shall all be changed...at the last trump.

Years later, Jesus revealed to John the chronology of events that would unfold in the last generation. He showed him the events that will bring the New World Order into its position as the totalitarian ruler of the earth under the fist of the Destroyer. Jesus showed John the execution of the mystery of the new birth, when at the last trump the dead will be raised at the first resurrection with a new body and the righteous mortal will put on immortality.

Revelation 10:7
In the day that the seventh angel sounds his trumpet, the mystery of God shall be executed...

Revelation 11:15,18
The seventh angel sounded his trump...thy wrath is now come, and the time of the dead that they shall be judged and thou shall reward thy servants the prophets, and the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great...

The seventh trump is the last trump in the book of Revelation. It is the trumpet of God that will be sounded and heard all over the earth as the Lord descends from heaven with a shout.

Matthew 24:27-31
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... 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 (all the tribes of the earth) 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.

I Thessalonians 4:16-17
For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet 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.

We have been told precisely that he will come to gather the church and raise the dead at the last trumpet. But when is that last trumpet going to sound?

Mark 13:32
The day and hour of his coming, no man knows, not the Angels, not the Son; only the Father knows.

Now we have the perfect picture of the Feast of Trumpets and the time of its final fulfillment. It will be fulfilled at the last trumpet gathering of those that are in Christ, those who looked forward in faith to his coming, and those of us living today who look back at his perfect sacrifice. How is this a perfect picture? Look again at the timing of the Feast of Trumpets in Leviticus.

Leviticus 23:24
...In the first day of the seventh month you shall have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy assembly.

The Feast of Trumpets begins on the first day of the 7th month. All of the other feasts begin on days further into the month. The significance of this is marvelous. To reckon the first of the month, the Hebrews looked for the first sliver of the new moon. It took a visible sighting to establish this first day of the month. The sighting confirmed at that moment that it was already the high Sabbath of the Feast of Trumpets. Unless you were prepared ahead of time, your work was finished, and provisions for the feast purchased, you were not ready. Unless you were washed, clothed, and waiting for the sighting of the new moon and the trumpet that would sound at that moment, you were unprepared. You had missed the day and the hour. Just as Israel had to be prepared at Sinai and did not know when they were to be gathered together until the trumpet
of God sounded, so we must be ready. We too must be washed in the Word, clothed in spotless garments, and waiting with expectation, loving his coming more than we love the world.

Last evening I was reposing under a moonless sky. The stars were spectacular in the darkness of the northern wilderness. At 0420 I awoke with a start. The moon, which was unseen the previous evening up until 0130, was beaming the first sliver of the new moon directly into my sleepy eyes. If I were in Jerusalem 3,000 years ago, the trumpet would have sounded, announcing that the Feast of Trumpets had begun. That day and hour, no man knows until the moon is sighted and the trumpet sounds. Will you be ready for the last trump?

Every feast has had its intermediate or final fulfillment on the exact day of the feast itself. I believe that we will not know the day or hour that Jesus will return in all his glory at the last trumpet fulfillment of the Feast of Trumpets, but I believe that it will be fulfilled to the day and hour. I have a strong opinion on the year that it will take place. The day and hour remain a mystery until the moment that it happens. At this point, I could narrow it down to two days that are astronomical possibilities. Do not be too concerned, we have a job to do and the time is short. If you think you can play along with the cares and pleasures of this life and still be ready when he comes, you are not ready, and you will not be ready when he comes. There are yet a few years before he returns, but you may be dead in a year. This is the only moment that you have to get your heart right before the Lord and set your feet on the narrow path. The world is going to be in a state of devastation before the day and hour of his return. Live for the Lord today. Work for the night is coming.

These godly holy days, the commanded assemblies, still remain uncontaminated from the commercialization of the culture in which we live. They also remain a secret to the majority of denominational churches, because they do not fit in with the rest of the worldly traditions that they have adopted. Having a Feast of Trumpets celebration would seem very strange to the majority of church goers in America. We have remained unlearned in the scriptures, even though we may have sat in the same pew for 50 years. Our traditions are never challenged on a regular or thoughtful basis. That is why many of our churches are dying of old age. We cannot reach the younger generation, not because we won’t compromise the truth, but because our traditions are so stale there is obviously no life in them. We really don’t know why we do and think the way we do, we just have always done it that way. When we don’t challenge our wholesale acceptance of the traditions of the world rooted in the occult, there remains little hope that we will ever be alive enough to challenge our old “Christian” ways of being.

Do we really want to separate ourselves from the systematic philosophies of the world, live uncontaminated lives, and boldly profess the Lord Jesus? Compromise is the slickest path to destruction, and it is the native language of Satan. “Has God really said...?” Those who miss the great blessing of celebrating God’s commanded holidays are selling their birthright for a mess of pottage from the table of man’s corrupted traditions. I have personally found obedience to these assemblies to be a joy. I have found God’s holidays to be a refreshment to my soul. There is no “post Christmatic stress depression” that is usually experienced within 24 hours of 0900 December 25. I feel that I have been deprived most of my life for never having known the truth of what these holidays communicate. I now pass it on to you, so that you may enjoy the bounty of the Lord’s provision for these last days.
I have been asked, “Are Christians **required** to keep these assemblies?” I think it is important to consider why one is asking the question. Are we looking to do the bare minimums of obedience, or are we desiring to aggressively obey out of a heart of love? Does the question reveal a heart that is still at enmity against the law of God? The law is just and holy. The law was our schoolmaster, teaching us those things that are well pleasing in God’s sight. By the sacrifice of Jesus, we are no longer under the penalty of the law, which is death. Our righteousness does not come by the law, but do we live in opposition to the law because the grace of God covers our sin? God forbid. Do we commit adultery because we are not under the penalty of sin and will not be stoned outside the city gate? God forbid. God’s law is still holy. We do not transgress those things in the law, because the law is eternal and our transformed heart’s desire is to live in obedience to God. The enmity against God’s law that was in me, Christ has nailed to the cross. He took away the death penalty and took away the rebellion that I had in my soul. I continue to renew my mind by controlling my thoughts to resist contamination by this sinful world. Out of love I now serve him and desire to obey him. I do not desire to sin. We are not looking for minimal standards. We are looking for the heart of our Creator. We are desiring to live for him in a crooked and perverted world.

When you understand what the Feasts commemorate and understand the shadow pictures of what is to be fulfilled in the future, **why wouldn’t you** want to keep these festivals? On the other hand, when you understand the origins of the occult celebrations that have been handed down to us in the spirit of compromise, **why would you** want to celebrate these pagan festivals? When Moses understood the truth, he declined to live in the pleasures of sin in the court of the Pharaoh, turned his back on the culture, and decided to suffer with his own people. He rejected the gods and reverie of Egypt, choosing instead the narrow path of aggressive obedience to the God of his fathers. His Christ-like attitude toward the world is certainly an example for our lives.

No, I will not answer the question for you. You must answer the question for yourself. My denomination will not be standing as a group before the judgment throne of Jesus Christ. You, as an individual, will. You must walk your own path before the Lord. Work out your **own** salvation with fear and trembling. Each day you must decide how you will serve him. I will not judge you, as you are not my servant. Your master is the one to whom you must answer. Listen very carefully. If your heart or the Word of God condemns your actions, change your actions. If the Lord approves your actions, delight yourself in the Lord as you decorate your eggs to Easter.

### Prophetic Panic

Many of you are aware of the prophetic pronouncement that was made by several individuals during the last few years: "Thus saith the Lord, September 13, 1993 was the beginning of the last seven years.” I stated in the first publication of this manuscript, **IF** the Peace and Safety agreement signed by Rabin and Arafat on September 13, 1993 **was** the covenant spoken by Daniel that started the last seven years, we **would** see economic collapse by January 1997 and nuclear war by Passover. For months I pled with the Lord to show me clearly if this was the covenant for which we were to look. I received nothing. But I could not disregard the compelling evidence that suggested that this was the marker. At each of the **From Here To Eternity** seminars I made the following statement:
"I am going to present to you evidence that the last seven years before Armageddon has already begun. You, like I, are going to need to look at the evidence and decide for yourself. You will need to make your own decisions about the course that your life should take. I have been sent to deliver a message to the servants of the Lord Jesus Christ concerning the things which must and will take place in our lifetime. That message I will deliver to you directly from the scriptures. Concerning the timing of the last seven years. There are several men who have spoken, "Thus saith the Lord" concerning this matter. The Lord has never told me one way or the other."

At each seminar some people disagreed with the evidence. Most of the time the complaint was unspoken, but transparent: "I have already made other plans for my life." Some evaded by employing a contrived dispensational prevarication to annul that which Jesus and Paul declared must come to pass before the rapture of the church. Others thoughtfully stated that the incidents that I maintain to occur before Antichrist is revealed seem to require a longer time frame to execute. I was quick to agree with them, especially as the time grew shorter. That was my sentiment exactly. I emphasized cause and effect; life doesn't happen in a vacuum. I knew that we would see nuclear war before the revealing of Antichrist, and I saw problems with the progression of events falling into place to quickly. But I had no authorization or even inclination to label anyone a false prophet. Even though I wanted more time to prepare, I know that God doesn't spin the world around my personal preferences. Certainly a global economic collapse could have accelerated the timetable exponentially. The 1993 time frame did make a lot of sense from the American perspective. Grant Jeffreys had prophesied many years earlier that the rapture would take place in 1993. That, of course, was faulty from it's inception, but it caused expectations for an event of apocalyptic proportions to be emminent for 1993.

By January 1997 it was obvious that the "prophecy" spoken by others was inaccurate and I ceased presenting those evidences for consideration and ceased being influenced by those who were, and at this writing, still maintain this position. Those who said, "Thus saith the Lord..." have sworn falsely in his name. To use the name of the Lord in a vain attempt to stimulate public recognition of one's spirituality or intellectual prowess, and/or in order to gain paying adherents to one's non-prophet ministry, is not an acceptable excuse for violating the third commandment.

There are those of you who were living in a bit of a panic because of this prophecy, just as I was. Instead of being angry about the deception, I became thankful to be awakened early enough to make a difference. The peace agreement did fit the covenant with death of Isaiah 28, but there were no associated time parameters.

**Early Warning Device**

There is no need to torture yourself, or the scriptures by trying to justify the false prophecy that the last "shevua" began in 1993. It did not. It is time to come back and get a tight grip on reality and a loose grip on the world. We still have a little time before the really big stuff hits. We have time to make a difference in this world.

When we get together I will show you precisely where we are on the Biblical timeline, and what the next major prophetic occurrences will be. During our next visit we will be looking at the
prophetic calendar from a Hebrew perspective, rather than a paganized western viewpoint. You will understand more clearly why the timetable is set in relation to Israel, and how the war for which the U.S. is now logistically staging will bring the Russians into the theater. The global economic shakedown began its first major tremors in the Far East during the Feast of Sukkot last year. *I am not telling you to relax,* and that you can expect to live out your days in the manner in which you have become accustomed. I am saying that we have more time to make a difference. We must prepare to minister in an environment that will have both small and great, rich and poor, bond and free, shaking in fear for the things that will be coming down in the not too distant future. But there is nothing to fear, *IF* we as the servants of Messiah are cognizant of what must come to pass in the last days (Revelation 1:1). He has a job for us to do during the final harvest. The Lord has a vested interest in the survival of vital members of his body. Dead wood burns well in a fire (Ezekiel 9, Daniel 3, John 14).

**The Last Trump**

**and the Feast of Trumpets**

On Tishri 1, 5994 (Biblical reckoning) Israel entered into a covenant with the world government of the United Nations, with the United States acting as guarantor. The "Covenant with Death" was signed on the White House lawn in front of about 3,000 dignitaries on September 13, 1993. Israel entered into a covenant that caused them to pledge land to the UN that had been given to Israel by an everlasting covenant with God. That covenant was made in response to the UN's promise for peace and safety from their enemies. God will annul this covenant when the overflowing scourge of troops passes through the land on Tishri 1, 6001 (October 29, 2000). The Messiah will confirm the covenant that was made in his blood, when the Ark of the Covenant is brought forth at the height of the invasion of Israel.

Just as the spring Feasts of the LORD were fulfilled to the day, hour, and moment at his first coming, the fall Feasts will be fulfilled with the same exactitude. The Feasts are all shadow pictures of that which is to come.

As with the Feast of Trumpets itself, we will never know the day or hour that the Messiah will return until it happens, but astronomically we can narrow it down. Why do his servants know in advance? Because he said the Holy Spirit will show us things to come. We can see the finish line and have hope, but it will be too late to do anything but trust in the Lord and do the work of the ministry. We can't change the course of history no matter how hard we try. This is it! When Judah takes Jerusalem and the Ark of the Covenant is brought forth we are eighty-four prophetic months from the Day of Atonement on the sea of fire and glass.

The following schedule will be in effect in fulfillment of the fall Feasts of the Lord at the end of the first seven years of the seventh Millennium.

**1 Tishri, 6008**

**The Feast of Trumpets**

The Last Trumpet Gathering Together
The Judgment Seat of Messiah in heaven
The Wrath poured out on the earth
10 Tishri

**The Day of Atonement**

Judgment is executed, preparation for the marriage supper in heaven. Wrath is finished, preparation for Armageddon on earth.

15 Tishri

**The Feast of Tabernacles**

The Marriage Supper in the Throne Room. Armageddon logistics executed by Destroyer.

22 Tishri

**The Last Great Day**

The Battle of Armageddon

**Millennial Reign Begins**

Aviv 1, 6001 (May 5, 2000 at sundown in Jerusalem) began the Day of the Lord - The 7th Millennium. Tishri 1, 6001 (October 29, 2000) begins the fulfillment of the fall Feasts of the LORD. Tishri 10 will be the confirmation of the covenant by Messiah. That begins the last Shevua (7 years) prophesied by the Prophet Daniel. The Latter Rain outpouring of the double portion of Holy Spirit will occur on Tishri 22, at the time of the water oblation on the Last Great Day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

The coming of the LORD draws nearer and the final harvest is at the door. We anticipate with great joy the return of our Messiah, and we will prepare ourselves as his bride to be arrayed in bright, spotless garments at his return. There are a few violent, bloody years ahead of us, but… it will be worth it all when we see Yahshua. Our trials of life will end when we see him. One glimpse of his dear face, all sorrow will erase. So boldly run the race, till we see Messiah.
“Blessed are they that are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

…and the spirit and the bride say, “Come.”