

Revelation Revealed

By

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(Emphasis added)



Introduction

Several years ago the Lord spoke to my heart and said, “I want Revelation revealed.” So, I responded by saying to Him, “That’s nice!” He came back with, “I want you to reveal it!” So I said to Him, “Okay. Then you will have to reveal it to me.” Since that time, the Lord has been opening my eyes to the truth about the book of Revelation in a way that I have never seen before. Therefore, in this teaching we will look at the truth about the book of Revelation as the Holy Spirit has revealed it to me in these end times.

Why the Book of Revelation?

The book of Revelation mainly reviews the final plan of God in the earth. Since God is a God of *order*, He created the heavens and the earth in *perfect order* long ago, (see Genesis 1:1 and I Corinthians 14:33). Long before He created man, God created the archangel Lucifer and placed him in charge of the earth, (see Isaiah 14:3-23, Ezekiel 28:11-19, Matthew 4:8-10, Luke 4:5-8, John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, I John 5:19). We understand from the Bible that Lucifer became full of *pride* because God gave him so much authority and so many things, (see Isaiah 14:13-14, and Ezekiel 28:1-19). God had Lucifer cast out of heaven and down to the earth, (see Luke 10:18), along with one third of the angels that Lucifer convinced to follow him in his revolt against God, (see Revelation 12:1-13). Lucifer’s name and character changed, (he is now evil and known by various names, such as... Satan, prince or king of Tyre, king of Babylon, the Devil, Beelzebub, Belial, prince of the power of the air, god of this age, serpent of old, the enemy, father of lies, deceiver, murderer, evil one, wicked one, ruler of this world, etc.). When Satan fell, he fell like lightning, (see again Luke 10:18). The surface of the earth was destroyed and became full of *confusion and chaos*, (*i.e.*, ‘without form and void’, see Genesis 1:2). This set the stage for the rest of the ‘re-creation week’.

The creation events are described in Genesis chapters 1 and 2. The Devil was jealous and wanted to thwart God's plan for man, because God created man 'a little lower than the angels', (see Psalm 8:5), but gave man dominion over all the earth, (see Genesis 1:28 and Psalm 8:6-8). The dominion over the former earth, before the fall of Lucifer, had been Lucifer's, (see again Ezekiel 28:11-19 and Matthew 4:8-11). Therefore, I believe that God was essentially shoving it into Lucifer's face, by creating a mortal being like man, (Lucifer = Satan, is himself immortal), and giving this weak, mortal man dominion over the very planet that Lucifer used to rule. Not only that, but ***God had a plan for man's redemption which would allow man to attain 'son-ship' with God and become a part of God's family. Man could therefore be elevated by God to a higher level than Lucifer could have ever attained,*** (see Psalm chapter 82, Daniel 12:1-3, John 10:31-42, Romans 8:12-30, I Corinthians 15:12-58, Revelation 20:6, 21:9-27, and 22:1-5).

Prior to the renewal of the earth, the creation of modern man, the other creatures, plants, etc., God had this plan for redemption of man through His Son, Jesus the Christ, (see Ephesians 1:3-14 and I Peter 1:1-12). Therefore, God *allowed* Satan to re-enter the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve were living, (and later the garden of Gethsemane where Jesus liked to visit) and betray them. Eve and Adam, (out of order), walked into the temptation, but ***Jesus resisted all of Satan's temptations*** in the wilderness, the garden of Gethsemane and everywhere (see Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15). God knew that man would be led into temptation in the beginning. *It was part of the plan.* Therefore, when Eve, and then Adam, sinned by going against God's command and eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, it did not surprise God as Satan probably thought it would. Once *sin* entered the world through a woman, God had to send ***righteousness***, (*i.e.*, Jesus) into the world through a woman, (*i.e.*, Mary, see Galatians 4:4). ***Through God's Son, Jesus, we can all be delivered from the consequence of sin, which is death and one's removal from God's Book of Life,*** (see Exodus 32:33, Ezekiel 18:4 and 20, Romans 6:23, 7:6, and 10:6-13, I Corinthians 15:50-58, II Corinthians 4:12-21, Galatians 3:10-29, Colossians 2:11-14, and Revelation 20:15, 21:27 and 22:14-15). This is ***THE PLAN OF SALVATION*** for the whole world, (see Romans chapter 5). ***THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO GOD EXCEPT THROUGH JESUS CHRIST,*** (see John 6:41-71 and 14:6). This is why we believe in Jesus the Christ for the forgiveness of sins and restoration of a right relationship between God and us. God made Jesus a propitiation, (*i.e.*, a substitute sacrifice or an appeasement to God on our behalf) for our sins (see the above scriptures and Romans 3:21-26, Hebrews 2:14-18, I John 2:1-2, 4:7-11).

As other scriptures give us a glimpse into how things of the previous earth age under the rule of Lucifer came to an end, so the book of Revelation reveals the end of this current earth age as we know it. It tells of great calamity soon to come upon the earth and its inhabitants as God allows Satan to have his way with the world, and God Himself begins to bring a final judgment on the earth, through Satan and His own angels and people. Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:21 that there will be 'great tribulation' that will come upon the earth during the end time events that He discussed in the rest of that chapter. He says that nothing like it has ever happened to that time or would ever happen again. ***I BELIEVE THAT THE REASON THAT GOD HAS REVEALED THE THINGS CONTAINED HEREIN IS THAT THERE IS VERY LITTLE TIME LEFT BEFORE***

THESE END TIME EVENTS BEGIN TO UNFOLD AS REVEALED IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION!

What is the Great Tribulation and what is its purpose?

The term '*great tribulation*' is often used by Bible scholars to refer to a series of events that will occur during the last few years around the time that Jesus returns to the earth to set up His kingdom. Jesus spoke of *tribulation* and ***GREAT tribulation***. The term TRIBULATION is mentioned during Jesus' description of events that come with the opening of the first five seals, (see below and Revelation 6:1-11). The fifth seal is the martyring of the saints. I believe that this is the tribulation that Jesus is speaking of in Matthew 24:9...

Matthew 24:1-14 -

¹Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ²And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

³Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" ⁴And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸"All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. ⁹"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. ¹⁰"And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. ¹¹"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. ¹²"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³"But he who endures to the end shall be saved. ¹⁴"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.1

The 'beginning of sorrows' mentioned in verse 8 is wars and rumors of wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes in various places. These are the first four seals in Revelation 6:1-8, (*a.k.a.*, the four horsemen of the Apocalypse). I believe that Jesus also tells us in the following verses in Matthew 24 that the 'great tribulation' is different from the 'tribulation', (see Matthew 24:21-22)...

Matthew 24:15-22 -

¹⁵"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶"then let those

1The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷“Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸“And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. ¹⁹“But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰“And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹“For then there will be *great tribulation*, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²²“And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.²

The ‘*great tribulation*’ will be a time of trouble that the world has not yet known, and will never know again, (see Matthew 24:21, Mark 13:19). It follows the ‘*abomination of desolation*’ that the prophet Daniel speaks of, (see Daniel 11:31 and 12:11). Although, there is no specified time in Matthew for the ‘great tribulation’, I believe it is about 3 ½ years long according to several scriptures, (see Daniel 7:25, 12:11-12, Revelation 11:2-3, 12:6, & 14, and 13:5-8). The tribulation for Christians may be longer than 3 ½ years, since the antichrist will make a peace treaty with ‘many’ for 7 years, (see below), but he will break it in the middle with the last 3 ½ years being the great tribulation, (see Daniel 9:27 and the above scriptures). It will come during a time that people believe that there is going to be lasting peace. The fifth seal, which is the martyring of the saints or the ‘tribulation’, appears to lead into the time of the abomination of desolation that initiates the ‘great tribulation’, (see Matthew 24 above). We Christians are supposed to know these times, and be prepared by walking in the Spirit, and be ready to suffer, (see Luke 21:29-36, I Thessalonians 5:1-11 and the whole letters of I and II Peter). However, the Church at large is asleep because they largely believe the fairy tale of a ‘pre-tribulation rapture’. However, the tearing down of the temple that Jesus speaks of in Matthew 24:2 above is not only the Temple of Solomon that was destroyed in 70 A.D. when the Romans sacked Jerusalem, but it also refers to the spiritual temple of the end times, which is to say God’s Church, see I Peter 2:5-12...

I Peter 2:5-12 -

⁵ And now God is building you, as living stones, into his spiritual temple. What’s more, you are God’s holy priests, who offer the spiritual sacrifices that please him because of Jesus Christ. ⁶ As the Scriptures express it,

“I am placing a stone in Jerusalem,
a chosen cornerstone,
and anyone who believes in him
will never be disappointed.”

⁷ Yes, he is very precious to you who believe. But for those who reject him,

“The stone that was rejected by the builders
has now become the cornerstone.”

⁸ And the Scriptures also say,

“He is the stone that makes people stumble,

²The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

the rock that will make them fall.”

They stumble because they do not listen to God’s word or obey it, and so they meet the fate that has been planned for them.

⁹ But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are a kingdom of priests, God’s holy nation, his very own possession. This is so you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ “Once you were not a people;
now you are the people of God.
Once you received none of God’s mercy;
now you have received his mercy.”

¹¹ Dear brothers and sisters, you are foreigners and aliens here. So I warn you to keep away from evil desires because they fight against your very souls. ¹² Be careful how you live among your unbelieving neighbors. Even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will believe and give honor to God when he comes to judge the world.³

This scripture, among others, tells us that we need to live a careful life guided by the Holy Spirit.

I believe that one of the things that Jesus was referring to in Matthew 24:2 is the last days’ literal destruction and scattering of the ‘spiritual temple’, (*i.e.*, the Church of God). It will be carried out not by the Roman Empire of old, but the remnant of that empire in the earth in conjunction with the Muslims.

Even as God’s judgment on the earth through the flood of Noah’s day caught most of the world by surprise, or when He rained down fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, most of the inhabitants were not forewarned, so will be the return of Jesus and probably even these preceding events, (see Matthew 24:3-44 and Luke 17:20-37). As in these two examples of God’s judgment on unrighteous people, God gave a few righteous people forewarning just in time to escape, so He is doing with the tribulation. This teaching will serve to warn you that the end of this earth age is at hand. ***Most people will not heed this warning though, and will therefore NOT be spared these events!*** Even many teachers of God’s word will be killed and put in prison. However, this also is in the plan, because they need to be perfected, (see Daniel 11:33-32, 12:10, Revelation 11:9-17, 13:5-10).

Judgment from God is designed to destroy sin and those who habitually sin, (even some who call themselves Christians). ***I believe that the purpose of the tribulation is to help bring the body of Christ into unity and perfection, so that Jesus can come back, (see Ephesians chapters 4 and 5, and Revelation 19:7-9).*** This tribulation will deal with rebellion in God’s people. It will usher in the Day of the Lord and the end of the age, so that the plan of God for the earth can be finished on time. I Peter chapter 4, (especially verses 16-19), tells us of this judgment on the Church as a whole...

Chapter 4

3Holy Bible, New Living Translation, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

¹Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. ³For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. ⁴In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. ⁵They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

⁷But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. ⁸And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” ⁹*Be* hospitable to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹²Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. ¹⁶Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. ¹⁷For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

¹⁸Now “If the righteous one is scarcely saved,
Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.⁴

When Christians, most of whom are disobedient, evil, lukewarm and comfortable, (see Revelation chapters 2 and 3), are faced with the decision, to either receive what is referred to in Revelation 13:16-18, 14:9-11 and 19:20 as the ‘mark of the beast’ or die, I believe that they will quickly reconsider the way they have been living and acting. Many Christians will die during the great tribulation and their enemies will be members of their own families. There will be wholesale slaughter of Christians around the world during this tribulation, (see Daniel 7:21 and 25, 8:24-25, 11:32-35, 12:7-10, Matthew 24:9-13, Mark 13:9-13, Luke 21:12-19, Revelation 6:9-11, 7:9-17, 12:13-17, chapter 13, 14:12-13 and 20:4-6). Only a small number of people, (144,000 at first), will be set aside as ‘firstfruits’ of God and spared, (see Revelation 7:1-8, chapter 12, especially verses 6 and

⁴*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

13-16, and 14:1-5). When these things start happening, I believe that the remaining Christians will straighten up and get perfected quickly. These people who are forever giving in to their fleshly desires will desperately be searching for a way to get to the right place with God and out of harms way. Then many will 'come out' of the great tribulation and into the 'place of safety' in the wilderness, (see Isaiah 66, especially verses 19-21, Jeremiah 31:2, Daniel 11:33-35, and Revelation 7:9-17). ***Unfortunately, most Christians, especially the leaders, will not heed a message like this until it is too late and they will be put to death.***

I believe that one of the popular means by which the Antichrist and his followers, (who I believe will be Muslims) will put Christians to death is by beheading, (see Revelation 20:4). Recently on international television, videotape has been played that showed Muslims beheading people in the Middle East as 'revenge' for America being in the Middle East, especially Iraq. I believe that this is symbolic of what is about to be unleashed on the world, especially Christians and Jews, through the Islamic movement. This is in the plan as well and will have to be carried out, as God's word cannot be broken.

Why are there so many women in the Church?

As an aside, I believe that the key to understanding why there are more women than men in the Christian Church today, is found in Isaiah chapter 4. God allowed sin to come into the world through a single woman, (*i.e.*, Eve). God also says in His word that He will repay seven times vengeance and that a thief when caught must repay seven times, (see Genesis 4:15 and Proverbs 6:30-31). I therefore believe that God is preparing all these Christian women, (*i.e.*, seven *righteous* or *obedient* women for every *righteous* or *obedient* man, Isaiah 4:1) for the ultimate seven times, (multiplied) 'payback' to the Devil for bringing sin into the world through a single unrighteous or disobedient woman, (*i.e.*, Eve) per one unrighteous or disobedient man, (*i.e.*, Adam).

Avoiding the great tribulation

Having said that... I believe that we Christians must become ***absolutely obedient to God, in order to be spared the tribulation.*** It is by our ***FAITH, or belief, in Jesus Christ through God's GRACE,*** (*i.e.*, in this case 'unmerited favor') that ***we are SAVED,*** (see above and Romans 10:6-13). ***HOWEVER, IT IS BY OUR OBEDIENCE TO GOD THAT WE STAY IN A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND MAY BE SPARED THE TRIBULATION!*** This may be hard for some to accept, but it is true nonetheless, (see the handout 'Obedience – the Key to Righteousness' and review Romans chapter 6, especially vv. 16-23). This concept will become progressively more evident as we see the end time events begin to unfold over the next few months to years. ***I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT ONLY THE TRULY UPRIGHT CHRISTIANS WHO ARE STRICTLY OBEDIENT TO GOD WILL BE SPARED THE TRIBULATION THAT IS DESCRIBED IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION AND ELSEWHERE!*** Many people of God would argue this point, but this concept lines up with the WHOLE BIBLE, not just one or two scriptures taken out of context, as does the teaching of a pre-tribulation rapture.

I believe that anyone who subscribes to a pre-tribulation rapture theory is deceived and needs to prayerfully study the scriptures, as the Bible does NOT agree with this concept. *I further believe that the teaching and belief in a pre-tribulation rapture is one of the things that is currently leading more modern Christians astray than any other wrong doctrine that has been accepted by the Church down through the ages! This too is in the plan of God though, and thus cannot be changed, no matter how sad it seems.* AGAIN, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT GOD IS GOING TO ‘RAPTURE’ OUT OF THE EARTH A BUNCH OF DISOBEDIENT BABY CHRISTIANS. I will repeat that this is a nice idea, but goes against what the Bible says, and it even goes against the very character of God. *I believe the reason that most Christians subscribe to this ‘theory’ of a pre-tribulation rapture is that most people are looking for an ‘easy way out’, and not every person is supposed to know the ‘hidden’ things of God as Jesus tells us in Luke 10:21-24 when He says...*

²¹In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, “**I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.**”²²“**All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.**”²³Then He turned to *His* disciples and said privately, “**Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see;**”²⁴“**for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.**”⁵

Therefore, we must put our FAITH in the Bible and the end times revelation from God to the prophets of this age, and we must NOT put our faith in the doctrines and traditions of men, such as the pre-tribulation rapture concept, (see Amos 3:7, Matthew 15:1-20, Mark 7:1-23, Colossians 2:6-10, I Peter 1:16-25).

Believing God, and DOING WHAT HE SAYS, NO MATTER WHAT, shows our true and living FAITH, (see James 2:14-26), as well as our *love for God*, (see John 14:15 and 15:14). In addition to **ABSOLUTE OBEDIENCE TO AND FOLLOWING JESUS**, it is also important that **WE HAVE PURE HEARTS AND SPEAK ONLY THE TRUTH IN LOVE AT ALL TIMES**, in order to be among those who will be spared the Tribulation, (see Psalm chapter 15, 18:16-27, 24:3-4, 27:4-5, 31:18-19, 32:6-7, chapter 39, chapter 91, Zephaniah 2:1-3, Luke 21:7-36, Ephesians 4:9-23, Revelation 3:7-13, 7:1-10, 12:13-17 and 14:1-5). It is the rare Christian today who meets these criteria. I do not know of even any church leaders who do not follow their own agenda at least to some degree. **Jesus did NOTHING that He did not receive a command from God, or at least consult with God concerning**, (see John 5:19, 30, 8:28). **And apart from Jesus, we can do nothing worthwhile either**, (see John 15:5). The Christians who do obey God, (and Him alone, even exclusive of their own desires), and live a righteous and upright lifestyle through the grace and power of God in the Holy Spirit, are the ones that I believe are described in the book of Revelation chapter 3:7-13, (*i.e.*, the ‘Philadelphia church’), chapter 7:1-8, and 14:1-5. I believe the Philadelphia church is the same as the 144,000, who will be sealed

⁵The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

by God and protected from most or all the events of the time of the tribulation. **THEY ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO WILL LIKELY BE SPARED THE GREAT TRIBULATION!** *Everyone else, even other Christians, will go through at least some of the tribulation*, (see Daniel 11:33-35, chapter 12, especially vv. 7-10, I Peter 4:12-19, Revelation 7:9-17, especially verse 14, 9:1-12, and chapter 12 especially vv. 6, & 14-17). **As I said before, I believe that the great tribulation is primarily for the CHURCH in order to grow it up in Christ, so He can come back, (see Ephesians chapter 4).**

The characteristics of the people of the Philadelphia church are described in many verses, (see Psalm chapter 1, 15, 24:3-4, chapter 91, Isaiah 58:6-14, I Corinthians chapter 13, Revelation 3:7-12, 14:1-5). These are people who are 'spiritual virgins', who will be presented as 'firstfruits' to Jesus, (see II Corinthians 11:2 and Revelation 14:1-5). **Just believing is not enough to reach this place of 'perfection' in Christ. Many people teach that God does not expect us to be perfect, but this goes against what Jesus taught**, (see the handouts, *Life in Christ* and *The Path to Perfection*, the book, 'Who Said That You Should be Perfect?', Psalm 101, Matthew 5:43-48, 19:16-24, John chapter 17, esp. v. 23, I Corinthians chapter 13, esp. v. 10, Ephesians 4:9-16, Colossians 1:24-29, 4:12, Hebrews 2:10-18, 7:14-28, chapters 9 & 10, James chapter 1, 2:14-26, chapter 3, I Peter 5:6-11, I John 4:7-21, and Revelation 3:1-6). **The Philadelphia church is not a localized group or denomination. You cannot join the Philadelphia church.** I believe that there will only be 144,000 men, not counting their wives and children, (as the only men are ever counted in the Bible) worldwide who will become part of this church before the great tribulation begins. I also believe that there will be multitudes that will either die, or become a part of this church after the great tribulation begins, (see Revelation chapter 7).

You must become **perfect** in order to be called by God into the Philadelphia church, (see Matthew 5:43-48). This perfection comes at the price of suffering because that is the main way we are tested and come into perfection, (see the handout *The Path to Perfection*, and Isaiah 48:10, Hebrews 2:10 and 5:8-9). Even if you do get called into this church, you must hold fast to your perfected walk, so that someone else does not take your place, (see Revelation 3:11). Also, even if you become perfected, you can only pray that God will find you worthy to be a part of the Philadelphia church and 'escape all these things', (see Luke 21:7-36 and Revelation 2:8-11). You cannot simply read the scripture in Revelation chapter 3 about the Philadelphia church and decide you will call your church 'The Philadelphia Church', as some have done. These people are in for a rude awakening, along with the rest of the body of Christ, if they have not fulfilled the requirements of being a part of the Philadelphia church, (see Revelation 3:7-13, 14:1-5). **If you want to be called into the Philadelphia church and escape the tribulation, you must become perfected and walk in love.**

The word **perfect** in the New Testament is translated from the Greek word *teleios*, [see Strong's 5046. *teleio*" **tēlēiōs**, *tel'-i-os*; from 5056; *complete* (in various applications of labor, growth, ment. and mor. character, etc.); neut. (as noun, with 3588) *completeness*:— of full age, man, perfect.6]. Therefore, when Jesus says that we should

6James Strong, *New Strong's dictionary of Hebrew and Greek words [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1996.

be perfect, He is referring to our spiritual maturity, and from this perfection our behavior should flow. Even though most people would tell you that becoming perfect is impossible, it is not only *possible* but also *necessary*, or else Jesus would have said that we are not expected to be perfect. Instead, Jesus said that ***we should be perfect, just as our Father in heaven is perfect***, (see Matthew 5:48). From this, we must surmise that it is our duty to seek perfection.

How do we become perfect?

The key to becoming perfect lies in John chapter 17 especially verses 20-26. In these scriptures, Jesus is praying for our perfection. ***The KEY to perfection is our sharing in God's GLORY***, (see verses 22 and 23). However, I have often heard it preached by powerful people of God that 'God will share His glory with no man'. I believe that this wrong teaching is based on a misinterpretation of the scriptures in Isaiah 42:8, 48:11 and I Corinthians 1:29. If you read these scriptures in their respective contexts, you will see that in Isaiah 42:8, God is saying that He will not share His glory with another *god*. In Isaiah 48:11, God is saying that He will not give His glory to another *people*, other than His people, the 'house of Jacob' or Israel, (see Isaiah 48:1-11). We become Israelites, (*i.e.*, children of Abraham and heirs to the promise) through Jesus, (see Galatians 3:6 and 29). In I Corinthians 1:29, Paul is saying that 'no flesh' should glory in His, (*i.e.*, God's) presence'. We are not supposed to be walking in the flesh, but according to the Spirit of God, (see Romans chapter 8, esp. v. 1, and Galatians 5:16-26, esp. v. 25). ***Therefore, according to the Lord's prayer in John 17, it is necessary that we share in God's glory in order to move into perfection.*** The glory of God in this sense is really the same as obtaining the KNOWLEDGE of the Father, (see the handout, *KNOWLEDGE – The Key to Perfection*). Having the knowledge of God will help us KNOW intrinsically what is right and wrong and with the help of Jesus and the Holy Spirit actually have the *grace*, (in this case the POWER) to actually do the right thing. This is also the principle that Paul taught when he said that we should be transformed by the Holy Spirit into the image of Jesus 'from glory to glory', (see II Corinthians 3:18). ***When the Church as a whole wakes up and begins to believe this concept, then they will also begin to grow up and move toward PERFECTION. EVERY MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST MUST BECOME PERFECT AND BE IN UNITY OR JESUS WILL NOT COME BACK! Anyone who teaches anything different does not understand the plan of God as is laid out in the Bible***, (see Ephesians chapter 4, especially vv. 9-16, 5:22-32, especially v. 27, and Revelation chapter 19, especially vv. 7-8).

How do we know when we have reached perfection?

The answer to this question is found in I Corinthians chapter 13, James 1:2-4, and chapter 3:4, I John 2:5-6, and 4:12 and verses 17-18. ***If we walk in LOVE, then we have become perfected.*** If we do not walk in love, then we are lacking. The litmus test of perfection is *fear*. If there remains in a person fear of anything except God, then they have not been perfected in love. The only fear that we are to have is the reverential ***fear of the Lord***, (see Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 1:7 and verse 29, 2:5, 8:13, 9:10, 10:27, 14:26-27, 15:16 and verse 33, 16:6, 19:23, 22:4, 23:17, Isaiah 11:2-3, 33:6, Acts 9:31). ***Everything that we do***

must not put the devil or anything he stands for above the fear of the Lord! If we fear God and love Him, and each other, then we have come to the point of perfection. This is the message of the cross – love God and love our fellow man. We show our love for God by our obedience, (see John 14:15, and 15:9-10 and 14, and I John 2:3-6), and our love for our fellow man, especially the brethren in Christ, by the way we treat them, **especially in the way we speak**, (see John 15:9-17, James 1:2-4, 3:2, and 4:11, I Peter 1:22, I John 2:5-11, 3:10-24, and 4:12). Unfortunately, the only way most people, even Christians, will gain the fear of the Lord and become perfected in love, is to be subjected to intense persecution during the great tribulation. The rest of the inhabitants of the earth will still not fear God, and will be subjected to the intense destructive power of God during what is known in the Bible as ***The Day of the Lord***.

The Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord are not the same

We must begin to dissect the scriptures with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and pray to get it right! ***I believe that the great tribulation and the Day of the Lord are two different things. I believe that they are probably contiguous, but different.*** We must also consider that time is relative when it comes to an eternal God. Therefore, the times that are spoken of in the Bible regarding the end of the age may not be exactly as we think of them. There is symbolism in the Bible and we must take that into consideration as well. Also, the Hebrew calendar that was in use during the writing of the Old Testament was based on 360 days in the year, whereas our current Roman calendar is based on 365 days. Finally, the Antichrist will ‘intend to change times and law’, (see Daniel 7:25). Having said that, let us look at the period that most refer to as the ‘great tribulation’, (but if one reads the scriptures carefully, they will see that **the great tribulation is really only 42 months or 3½ years of time before Jesus returns**). Let us see exactly what the Bible says when taken as a whole.

It is possible that the 7 year time frame just before Jesus comes back that Bible teachers usually ascribe to the ‘great tribulation’ is really two 3½ year time periods with the first part being the great tribulation and the second being the Day of the Lord, (see Daniel 7:25, 9:27, 12:7-13, Revelation 11:3, 12:6 and 13-17, and chapter 13). I believe that the first half of the seven years will be the activity of the Devil and his children, (*i.e.*, the antichrist spirit) as he takes out his wrath on the earth, (see Revelation chapter 12). This will take about 1,260 days of the Hebrew calendar, or ‘a time, times and half a time’ which is roughly 42 months or 3½ years, (see above, and Daniel 4:16, 12:7-10, and Revelation 11:2, 12:6 and 13:5). We might rather refer to this time frame as the ‘day, (or more appropriately – *evening or night*) of the Devil’.

This tribulation which occurs at the hands of the Antichrist, (a.k.a., the ‘Beast’), and the false prophet, will separate the true from false Christians. Anyone who fears the Antichrist/Beast, more than they fear the Lord will accept what is called the ‘mark of the beast’, in their right hand or their foreheads, (see Revelation 13:16). Revelation 13:18, tells us that the number of the Beast is 666. This ‘mark’ in our modern terms is likely a computer chip that will actually be implanted under the skin with a small injection. Contained in the chip will be the person’s identification, banking information, etc. Every bar code that exists has embedded in its code the number 6 at the beginning, a symbol

like the 6 in the middle of the code, and another 6 at the end. Only the computer can 'see' this code when it is scanned, and it identifies the bar code as 'authentic'. Other numbers can then be placed into the code to transfer other important information, such as prices, etc. The tiny computer chips that will be imbedded into people will contain similar, although more detailed, information. These chips are already being implanted into animals and people around the world! This chip can also allow people to be tracked anywhere in the world by satellite. Without this chip, no one will be able to buy or sell anything during the great tribulation, (see Revelation 13:11-18). This is why people will have a difficult time deciding what to do since they will likely have to accept martyrdom in Christ and receive eternal life, or receive this mark of the beast and eventually suffer eternal destruction in the 'lake of fire', (see Revelation 14:9-13).

Most Christian leaders do not understand that God designed the great tribulation to test the Church, and they are therefore teaching the false doctrine of a pre-tribulation rapture of the Church. These church leaders and their followers, (which comprise the majority of the Christians around the world), will NOT be prepared for this tribulation and will be caught unaware since they refuse to believe anything other than the pre-tribulation rapture. Because of this false teaching, the great majority of the body of Christ will be attacked so severely, that many will become offended and fall away from their faith in Jesus, (see Matthew 24:9-10, Mark 13:24-27, Luke 21:7-19, and II Thessalonians 2:3). Following this great tribulation, the Day of the Lord will come, and God will bring judgment on the rest of the world, (see Matthew 24:29-31, II Thessalonians 2:1-12). The great tribulation is necessary, as I mentioned before, so that the body of Christ can come into perfection and learn to walk in love, (see again Ephesians chapters 4 and 5, and Revelation 19:7-9).

The first, and most important characteristic of love, (see I Corinthians 13:4), is PATIENCE. The book of Revelation states that the 'patience and faith of the saints' will be found during this time of tribulation, (see Luke 21:7-19, and Revelation 13:1-10, 14:6-13, especially verse 12). I would like to draw particular attention to the following scriptures in Revelation 14:6-13:

6Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—
7saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."
8And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."
9Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10"he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." **12Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.**
13Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* the dead who die

in the Lord from now on.’ ” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”⁷

Again, I believe that the first 3½ years of the last 7 years before the millennial reign of Christ is the Devil’s time of wrath through the Antichrist and his spirit, (see Daniel chapter 8, especially verses 13-14 and 26, 12:7, Revelation chapter 11 and 12, especially verses 13-17, 13:1-10).

Following this, God will answer with the ‘Day of the Lord’. Though the Bible does not specify the time frame of this ‘Day’, it may possibly be roughly the last 3½ years before Jesus comes back, (see I Thessalonians 5:1-11, II Thessalonians 1:3-12, and chapter 2, II Peter 3:1-13). However, it is possible that the Day of the Lord will be only about a year in length because the Bible gives an example where God may exchange the concept of a day for a year, (Ezekiel 4:6). Since we are NOT appointed to God’s wrath, (see I Thessalonians 5:9) I believe that the Church as a whole will either have been martyred, (see Revelation 6:9-11, 7:9-17, 13:1-10, 14:6-13 and 20:4), or will be taken out or harms way, though they will still be *in the earth and not in Heaven as most people teach*, (see Revelation 3:10, 7:1-8, chapter 12, and 14:1-5). The great tribulation is also known as the time of ‘Jacob’s trouble’. The pattern of events is also described in Jeremiah chapter 30...

Chapter 30

¹The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ²“Thus speaks the LORD God of Israel, saying: ‘Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you. ³‘For behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,’ says the LORD. ‘And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.’ ”

⁴Now these *are* the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah. ⁵“For thus says the LORD:

‘We have heard a voice of trembling,
Of fear, and not of peace.
⁶ Ask now, and see,
Whether a man is ever in labor with child?
So why do I see every man *with* his hands on his loins
Like a woman in labor,
And all faces turned pale?
⁷ Alas! For that day *is* great,
So that none *is* like it;
And it *is* the time of Jacob’s trouble,
But he shall be saved out of it.
⁸ ‘For it shall come to pass in that day,’
Says the LORD of hosts,
‘That I will break his yoke from your neck,

⁷The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

- And will burst your bonds;
Foreigners shall no more enslave them.
- 9 But they shall serve the LORD their God,
And David their king,
Whom I will raise up for them.
- 10 ‘Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,’ says the LORD,
‘Nor be dismayed, O Israel;
For behold, I will save you from afar,
And your seed from the land of their captivity.
Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet,
And no one shall make *him* afraid.
- 11 For I *am* with you,’ says the LORD, ‘to save you;
Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you,
Yet I will not make a complete end of you.
But I will correct you in justice,
And will not let you go altogether unpunished.’
- 12“For thus says the LORD:
‘Your affliction *is* incurable,
Your wound *is* severe.
- 13 *There is* no one to plead your cause,
That you may be bound up;
You have no healing medicines.
- 14 All your lovers have forgotten you;
They do not seek you;
For I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy,
With the chastisement of a cruel one,
For the multitude of your iniquities,
Because your sins have increased.
- 15 Why do you cry about your affliction?
Your sorrow *is* incurable.
Because of the multitude of your iniquities,
Because your sins have increased,
I have done these things to you.
- 16 ‘Therefore all those who devour you shall be devoured;
And all your adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity;
Those who plunder you shall become plunder,
And all who prey upon you I will make a prey.
- 17 For I will restore health to you
And heal you of your wounds,’ says the LORD,
‘Because they called you an outcast *saying*:
“This *is* Zion;
No one seeks her.” ’
- 18“Thus says the LORD:
‘Behold, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob’s tents,
And have mercy on his dwelling places;

The city shall be built upon its own mound,
 And the palace shall remain according to its own plan.
 19 Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving
 And the voice of those who make merry;
 I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish;
 I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.
 20 Their children also shall be as before,
 And their congregation shall be established before Me;
 And I will punish all who oppress them.
 21 Their nobles shall be from among them,
 And their governor shall come from their midst;
 Then I will cause him to draw near,
 And he shall approach Me;
 For who *is* this who pledged his heart to approach Me?’ says the LORD.
 22 ‘You shall be My people,
 And I will be your God.’ ”
 23 Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD
 Goes forth with fury,
 A continuing whirlwind;
 It will fall violently on the head of the wicked.
 24 The fierce anger of the LORD will not return until He has done it,
 And until He has performed the intents of His heart.
 In the latter days you will consider it.⁸

Thus we see that God will exact His judgment on His people, (both Christians and Jews = ‘Jacob’) through the ‘enemy’, which is Satan acting through the Antichrist and his armies. This judgment is as a result of their many sins. Then when this great tribulation is over, God will deliver His people out of harm’s way and answer the wicked with ‘fury’, and like a ‘whirlwind’ in the Day of the Lord. During the tribulation, the Antichrist will work along with a false prophet, and a false or counterfeit church, (see Revelation 13:11-18, 16:12-16, 19:17-21). What is the false or counterfeit religion?

Islam is the ‘Church’ of the Antichrist

The keys to understanding that the Islamic movement is of the demonic antichrist spirit are found in the books of Genesis, chapters 12-50 and chapter 41 of the book of Jeremiah. Three characters discussed in chapters 12-50 of the book of Genesis, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, (the latter whose name God changed to Israel and whose descendants would as the ‘dust of the earth’), are respectively symbolic of God the Father, Jesus the Son of promise and the Holy Spirit, (who is everywhere). When Abram listened to his wife Sarai, and made Sarai’s Egyptian handmaiden, Hagar, pregnant since God had promised Abram and Sarai a son but was delayed in delivering on the promise, a son was born to Hagar and his name was Ishmael.

⁸The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

Studying these names will help us to understand the symbolism here. Abram means 'Father', whom God later named **Abraham**, meaning '*Father of a multitude or Father of a multitude of nations*', is a type and shadow or symbolic of God the Father. Sarai means 'Dominative' and God later renamed her Sarah, which means 'Princess', 'Queen' or 'Power'. Hagar means 'Flight', 'Turning' or possibly 'Murmuring or Complaining' and she was Egyptian, (Egypt is representative of pride, which was what caused Lucifer to fall, see above). **Isaac**, whose name means '*Laughter*' or '*Joy*', was the *son of promise* and is symbolic of **Jesus**. In Nehemiah 8:10 the Bible tells us that the 'joy of the Lord is your strength'. In John 15:5, Jesus tells us that 'without Him, we can do NOTHING'. Therefore, Jesus *is* our joy and our strength. **Ishmael**, which means '*God hears*' was *not allowed by God to receive the inheritance or promise of God* that He had given to Abraham, (see Genesis 21:8-21). In Genesis 21:9, we see that Ishmael scoffed or laughed at Isaac. This verse, as well as the pattern laid out in the lives of these people, shows that Ishmael was against, (or 'anti-' to) Isaac. Thus the pattern of Jesus the Christ and the Antichrist is established in the book of Genesis.

Jacob, Isaac's son, whose name God later changed to Israel was the grandson of Abraham and heir to the promise of God laid out in Genesis chapter 12:1-3 and verse 7, chapter 13:14-18, chapters 15, 17 and 18. The promise was later reconfirmed to Jacob in Genesis 27:27-29 and chapter 28:10-22, especially verse 14. God changed his name from Jacob, which means 'Supplanter' or 'Deceitful', (see Genesis 25:21-28), to the name **Israel**, which means 'Prince with God', or '*Power of God*', (see Genesis 32:22-32). God told Jacob that his descendants would be as the '*dust of the earth*', (Genesis 28:14). **Jacob**, or **Israel**, therefore represents the **Holy Spirit**, who is the *power of God*, and is *everywhere*. The Ishmaelites did become a great nation with twelve tribes as did the nation of Israel. Therefore, the Ishmaelites will always be a copy of what God is doing with the Israelites in the earth, just as Satan copies or mimics God. *The true will be in Israel and the false in Ishmael. This is the pattern that God established and still holds today. It does not mean that all descendants of Ishmael are evil, or that all descendants of Israel are good. It is however the pattern that God is using to predict how His plan in the earth will unfold, and we can use this pattern in order to understand what groups of people that God will do certain things through.* Any descendant of Ishmael may accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior as we see in Isaiah 49:6, that Jesus is also sent as a light to the Gentiles. I believe that many Muslims will be converted. I further believe that not all who call themselves Christians will be saved, (I John 2:18-19).

Finally on this point, in Jeremiah chapter 41, there is a story of how a man named Ishmael, (not the original, but obviously a descendant and namesake of the son of Hagar), tricked and killed the Governor and some of the remnant Jews who were left in Jerusalem after the takeover and captivity by Babylon. I believe that this story has a hidden meaning about the hatred that the Ishmaelites have for the Jews and other Israelites, due to their disinheritance by Abraham, even though they were technically the 'firstborn' to Abraham. The history of the Ishmaelites is described in the Nelson's new illustrated Bible dictionary...

ISHMAELITES [ISH may el ites] — descendants of Ishmael, Abraham's first son. His mother was Sarah's Egyptian servant, HAGAR (Gen. 16:1-16; 1 Chr. 1:28). The

Ishmaelites, like the Israelites (Abraham's grandchildren through Sarah), were divided into 12 tribes (Gen. 25:16). Out of respect for Abraham, God made a great nation of the Ishmaelites, even though Ishmael was not Abraham's promised son (Gen. 21:12–13). Ishmael's 12 sons had many descendants who lived as nomads in the deserts of northern Arabia.

The Old Testament eventually used the term Ishmaelite in a broader sense, referring to all the Arabian merchants (Is. 13:20; Ezek. 27:20, 21). Any wild and warlike peoples of the desert could claim to be descendants of Ishmael (Gen. 16:12). This wider use of Ishmaelites is illustrated by an event in the life of Joseph. His older brothers sold him to some caravan traders who were called "a company of Ishmaelites" (Gen. 37:25) as well as "Midianite" traders (37:28). They were probably a minor clan of the larger Ishmaelite tribe. Muhammad claimed Ishmael as his ancestor, as do most Arabs.⁹

Muhammad, (as noted above claimed to be a descendant of the original Ishmael), started the Islamic religion in the middle ages. The main theme of the Islamic religion denies Jesus as the Son of God, and therefore by definition is controlled by the antichrist spirit, and is demonic in origin, (see I John 2:21-23, 4:1-6 and II John 7-11). Islam is a religion of bondage and goes against the very liberty that comes through faith in God through Jesus Christ, (see Galatians 2:4, 5:1-6 and verse 13). Most of the Arab people follow the demonic Islamic religion today. Again, it is in the plan of God and they cannot help it.

The beasts of the book of Revelation and of the book of Daniel

Islam as a religion is rapidly spreading across the world, especially into the oriental races, (who use the dragon as their symbol). This pattern of expansion of Islam as a religion allows us to better understand the beasts described in Revelation chapter 12, 13 and 17. The beast of chapter 17 is one and the same with those described in chapters 12 and the first beast described in chapter 13, with some exceptions. By reviewing the characteristics of all of them and the explanation given by the angel to John as recorded in chapter 17, we will see the order of these end time world events and people. The color of the beast of Revelation 17 is scarlet, (and the beast of chapter 12:3, is a fiery, red dragon) which represents blood. The Islamic movement has been, and continues to be, a violent religion. Muhammad himself was a violent man. The teaching of Muhammad and of the most vehement Muslims is that whoever will not convert to Islam must be killed. The beast, (which represents the Antichrist and his followers), is Islam, and Satan as well, (see Revelation chapter 12, especially verse 9). The seven heads of the beasts are seven 'mountains on which the woman sits', (see Revelation 17:9). These are Islamic countries under the control of the world's banking system, (*i.e.*, Mystery Babylon sitting on the beast). There are also seven leaders or 'kings', which will have their reign, (see Revelation 17:10).

⁹Ronald F. Youngblood, general editor; F.F. Bruce and R.K. Harrison, consulting editors, *Nelson's new illustrated Bible dictionary: An authoritative one-volume reference work on the Bible with full color illustrations [computer file], electronic edition of the revised edition of Nelson's illustrated Bible dictionary, Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1995.

The beast is an eighth leader, and 'is of the seven, and is going to perdition', (see Revelation 17:11). The eighth leader is the most important one and will be the Antichrist himself, also known as the 'man of sin' or 'lawless one', (see II Thessalonians 2:1-12). He will suffer a mortal wound, and his deadly wound will be healed. This will cause many people of the world to follow him, (see Revelation 13:3). There will also be ten leaders, (probably Muslim), who will have authority for a short time, *i.e.*, 'one hour' as 'kings with the beast', (see Revelation 17:12). Three of these 'kings' will be subdued by the Antichrist, or the beast, thus it appears that there will be an alliance of 11 leaders for a short time, but the Antichrist will do away with three of them, (see Daniel 7, especially verse 24). God has 'put it into the hearts' of these leaders 'to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled', (see Revelation 17:17). They will be against the woman, or Mystery Babylon, (*i.e.*, the world's banking system – see the handouts, *Coming Out of Babylon* and *The Real 666*), will 'hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire', (see Revelation 17:16). An example and type and shadow of this took place on September 11, 2001, when radical Muslims attacked the World Trade Center, and burned the twin towers with fire, though some believe and there is some evidence that the rich elite of the world helped this attack to be carried out to rid themselves of the old World Trade Center buildings. The final major attack on New York will likely be a major nuclear attack, and thus New York City, the world's economic center, (*i.e.*, Mystery Babylon, or the woman riding the beast, Revelation 17:18), 'shall not be found anymore', (see Revelation chapter 18, especially verse 21).

Christian leaders do not usually discuss the other 'purpose' of God that these Muslim leaders and the Antichrist will fulfill, since the meaning is hidden. However, the second purpose that will help 'fulfill the words of God', (see Revelation 17:17), will be to kill Christians. This is clearly outlined in Daniel 7:19-25, 8:22-26, 11:33-35, chapter 12, (especially verse 7), Jeremiah chapters 42-43, (especially 43:11), Revelation 12:17, 13:1-10, 14:1-13, 16:4-6, and chapters 17 and 18. One of the main ways that these Muslims will kill Christians is by beheading them, (see Revelation 20:4). Therefore, it did not surprise me when recently Muslim radicals began capturing and beheading people. This will separate true Christians from the liars, who will have their portion in the lake of fire, which is the second death, (see Revelation 21:8).

Again, the very unfortunate situation in the Church today is that many leaders are teaching people on a grand scale that they will be 'raptured' out of the earth *before* the tribulation. The problem with this concept is that it does NOT line up with the Bible when taken as a whole. One scripture that is used to support this concept is I Thessalonians 5:9. In this verse Paul states that God has not appointed us to wrath. However, you must read the surrounding scriptures and see that we are supposed to be living a certain lifestyle and be prepared for these upcoming events. In these scriptures, Paul tells us that we are supposed to know 'perfectly' by the 'times and seasons' that the Day of the Lord is approaching, because we are living in the 'light'. Jesus told us to 'watch' and be prepared when we see the 'fig tree in bloom' we will know that the Day of the Lord is at hand, (see Matthew 24:32-51, Mark 13:28-37, Luke 21:29-36, and Revelation 6:12-16). God can change our 'appointment', if we do not live a righteous

lifestyle and the wrath of God is to be brought forth during the *Day of the Lord* and NOT the *great tribulation*, which as we mentioned above is the *wrath of the Devil*.

The book of Daniel has important information and holds some of the keys to understanding the Antichrist, the great tribulation, the last days before Jesus returns, and beyond. Daniel had dreams and visions of several animals and 'beasts' that are described in his book of the Bible. The whole book and life of Daniel are representative of how we must live our lives of holiness before God. If we will do this, we will be protected from the Devil, who is our enemy and like a roaring lion seeking to devour us, as God protected Daniel from the lions when he was thrown into their den, (see Psalm chapter 7, Daniel chapter 6, I Peter 5:8, and Revelation 12:13-16).

In Daniel chapter 7, he describes in verses 1-8, four beasts coming out of the Mediterranean, (*i.e.*, 'Great') Sea after the four winds of heaven stirred up the sea. In Revelation 7:1-8, the four winds of the earth are held back by the four angels at the four corners of the earth, until the 144,000 people of God, (*i.e.*, the 'Philadelphia church'), are sealed and protected from the damage that the winds will do through the beasts, (*i.e.*, the Antichrist). The wind represents the Holy Spirit, and in this case 'terror' that comes at God's command through the Devil, or Antichrist, (see Job 30:15 and John 3:8). The fact that these beasts were shown coming out of the Mediterranean Sea is indicative that most of the events of the end time will be focused in and around this geographic location. The first beast was 'like a lion, and had eagle's wings'. Daniel 'watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it'. This beast represents Great Britain, (*i.e.*, the lion) and its alliance with the United States, (*i.e.*, the eagle's wings). At some point the wings are 'plucked off', meaning in the near future, the alliance between England and the United States will probably be separated due to the Antichrist. The two feet and the heart of a man represent the Christian foundation of these two countries, (see meaning of the number 2 below). The second beast in verse 5, 'like a bear', represents Russia. The third beast in verse 6, 'like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird' and 'four heads and dominion was given to it', represents Africa and some related nations. The fourth beast in verses 7-8 and 19-20, which is 'dreadful and terrible', has 'huge iron teeth', 'nails of bronze' and 'was different from all the beasts', represents Islam and its various links and countries around the world, especially to the remnants of the Greek and Roman Empires, (represented by the nails of bronze = Greece, and teeth of iron = Roman Empire, see Daniel 2:28-45, esp. Vv. 39-40 and the historic details related to these scriptures). It is also the same as the beasts of the book of Revelation discussed above.

The Greek element in the final beast will represent the antichrist and the Muslims. Alexander the Great spread the Greek Empire across Asia and mingled the races. The Greek Empire was divided into four weaker empires after his death. These kingdoms encompassed much of the Middle Eastern/Arab world and the peoples who were the originator of the Islamic religion, even Egypt and some of the Far East. Therefore the Antichrist himself will have a Greek bloodline, (see Daniel 8:17-26). It is the Archangel Gabriel, (and not the Church or the Holy Spirit as is commonly taught), who is the force that currently is restraining the antichrist spirit, (*a.k.a.*, the spirit prince of the kingdom of

Greece). In the near future, God will order Gabriel to stop restraining this spirit, and to ‘step out of the way’, so that the Antichrist himself, along with the false prophet, may emerge in power on the world scene in order to deceive many, even many who call themselves ‘Christian’, (see Daniel 10:20-21 and II Thessalonians 2:1-12).

Daniel 10:20-21 -

²⁰ He replied, “Do you know why I have come? Soon I must return to fight against the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia, and then against the spirit prince of the kingdom of Greece. ²¹ But before I do that, I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (There is no one to help me against these spirit princes except Michael, your spirit prince. I have been standing beside Michael as his support and defense since the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede.)¹⁰

II Thessalonians 2:1-17 -

And now, brothers and sisters, let us tell you about the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered together to meet him. ² Please don’t be so easily shaken and troubled by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Even if they claim to have had a vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us, don’t believe them. ³ Don’t be fooled by what they say.

For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. ⁴ He will exalt himself and defy every god there is and tear down every object of adoration and worship. He will position himself in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God. ⁵ Don’t you remember that I told you this when I was with you? ⁶ And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes.

⁷ For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and ***it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way.*** ⁸ Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will consume with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. ⁹ This evil man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. ¹⁰ He will use every kind of wicked deception to fool those who are on their way to destruction because they refuse to believe the truth that would save them. ¹¹ So God will send great deception upon them, and they will believe all these lies. ¹² Then they will be condemned for not believing the truth and for enjoying the evil they do.

Believers Should Stand Firm

¹³ As for us, we always thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation, a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and by your belief in the truth. ¹⁴ He called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on everything we taught you both in person and by letter.

¹⁰Holy Bible, New Living Translation, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

¹⁶ May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loved us and in his special favor gave us everlasting comfort and good hope, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and give you strength in every good thing you do and say.¹¹

The Roman element, I believe, will be a connection to the Roman Catholic Church. The beasts of Daniel chapter 7 are combined, to an extent, in the first beast described in Revelation chapter 13:1-10. One difference in the beasts is that the United States is not represented in the first beast of Revelation chapter 13. The first beast of Revelation 13 looks like a leopard, so Africa will be its body. The feet were like that of a bear, so Russia will give him mobility in some fashion (probably by its oil production, since Russia produces more oil than Libya who is a member of OPEC). This beast's mouth will be 'like the mouth of a lion', so England will speak for this beast, (*i.e.*, the British Broadcasting Corporation, or BBC, will be this beast's mouthpiece). 'The dragon gave him his power', so this beast will have China and the orient, (as well as the Devil himself), behind it for power.

The second beast described in Revelation 13:11-18, represents the 'false prophet', (see Revelation 16:13, 19:20 and 20:10). He will be able to carry out ***false signs and wonders that will deceive many people***, including being able to make 'fire come down from heaven on earth in the sight of men', (see Matthew 24:24-25, Mark 13:22-23, II Thessalonians 2:1-12, and Revelation 13:13-14). These will be opposed to the true signs and wonders of the people of God, especially the two witnesses, (see Mark 16:17-18, and Revelation 11:6). This second 'beast' or false prophet will look like a Christian, but will speak with the mouth of Satan. It will be a leader such as the Pope. He will tell people that it is a good thing to receive the mark of the beast.

Daniel states that the first three beasts described in chapter 7 will have 'their dominion taken away', though 'their lives were prolonged for a season and a time', (which probably is about 15 months, see Daniel 7:12). The fourth beast that Daniel saw and described in chapter 7:7-8 and verses 19-25, was 'dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong' and 'was different from all the beasts that were before it'. It also says that this fourth beast in verse 23 represents a 'fourth kingdom on the earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.' I believe that this speaks of the 'kingdom' or 'Nation of Islam'. The reason that this kingdom is different from all other kingdoms is that ***the Nation of Islam is the only 'nation' to have no true country or homeland***. The Hebrew word that is translated 'devour' here may have a second meaning, as it can also be translated as 'accuse'. This is what the Muslims are doing, accusing the whole world of conspiring against them, since their goal is to rule the whole world. They will 'trample' or tread on the earth, because they will have no respect for any authority, except their own selfish desire. They will 'break it in pieces', because through their evil, destructive acts, they will terrorize every nationality, and drive a wedge between nations. This will be the Devil's plan to divide and conquer, or truly 'devour' the whole earth. *The order of these end time events at the hand of the Antichrist and how this will take place is outlined in Daniel 11:21-45.*

¹¹Holy Bible, New Living Translation, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

Suffice it to say that the beasts described in both Daniel and Revelation will operate in the power and under the direction of the Devil and the 'antichrist spirit'. The main group of people who will be the source of this anti-Christ activity will be Muslims and followers of the false religion of Islam. However, the Antichrist, or main 'beast' will not be a pure Muslim in the true sense of the word. This is revealed in the scripture in Revelation 17:8 and 11, which says that, "The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition." I believe that in one sense, this tells us that he 'was' a Muslim, yet 'is not' a Muslim, but will follow in the pattern of seven evil rulers who precede him. This beast and his associated leaders, (seven mountains representing seven countries, see Revelation 17:9), will be controlled by the woman, 'Mystery Babylon', which is the world's banking system, especially the United States and what some call the 'rich elite'. These rich elite are people who control a large majority of the wealth of the world and control the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, (IMF) and through these control the beast, (see Revelation chapter 17). These countries are like Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Afghanistan, which are controlled by the United States and its allies. However the beast will eventually bring destruction to this system and its people, (*i.e.*, the 'woman', see Revelation 17:16), because the Muslims secretly hate the USA and its ways and will eventually rise up against it.

This is why God is telling us as His people to 'come out of her', lest we 'share in her sins', and 'receive of her plagues'. This is why we **MUST GET OUT OF DEBT** and disassociate ourselves from this way of life. The concept of 'have it today and pay for it tomorrow' is the wisdom of Babylon and is bondage. The word 'mortgage' is derived from the same word as morgue and implies death. The word 'bond' is the same as 'bondage' and is just that. Getting something, ANYTHING, through credit is the 'Babylonian way', since the modern banking system was started in Babylon in about 1,400 B.C. This mentality is the opposite of love, which is first and foremost PATIENT. The United States exemplifies this lifestyle. It is the throne, if you will, of Babylon. That is why the Muslims and the Dragon, (*i.e.*, China and the oriental countries, such as North Korea), will burn the U.S. with the fire of nuclear weapons. Even the first president of the United States, George Washington, reportedly saw this nuclear World War III in an open vision. The attacks will be from both east and west coasts. He saw the people of the country driven into the central U.S. 'like a wedge'. He also saw towns and cities across the land of the United States on fire. ***God has put these destructive things into the hearts of the Muslim people in order to fulfill His purposes in the earth, (see II Thessalonians 2:11 and Revelation 17). We must 'come out of Babylon' as it is the opposite of patience and the opposite of love.*** The reason that the Church must suffer this tribulation is that they refuse to walk in love as is outlined in Zechariah chapter 7...

Chapter 7

¹Now in the fourth year of King Darius it came to pass *that* the word of the LORD came to Zechariah, on the fourth day of the ninth month, Chislev, ²when *the people* sent Sherezer, with Regem-Melech and his men, *to* the house of God, to pray before the LORD, ³and to ask the priests who *were* in the house of the LORD of hosts, and the prophets, saying, "Should I weep in the fifth month and fast as I have done for so many years?"

⁴Then the word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying, ⁵“Say to all the people of the land, and to the priests: ‘When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh *months* during those seventy years, did you really fast for Me—for Me? ⁶‘When you eat and when you drink, do you not eat and drink *for yourselves*? ⁷‘*Should you not have obeyed* the words which the LORD proclaimed through the former prophets when Jerusalem and the cities around it were inhabited and prosperous, and the South and the Lowland were inhabited?’ ”

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah, saying, ⁹“Thus says the LORD of hosts:

‘Execute true justice,
Show mercy and compassion
Everyone to his brother.
¹⁰ Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless,
The alien or the poor.
Let none of you plan evil in his heart
Against his brother.’

¹¹“But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. ¹²“Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts. ¹³“Therefore it happened, *that* just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen,” says the LORD of hosts. ¹⁴“But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known. Thus the land became desolate after them, so that no one passed through or returned; for they made the pleasant land desolate.”¹²

The plan of God in the earth, symbolism and hidden meanings in the Bible, including times and numbers

If you read II Peter 3:8, you will see the concept of time relativity when it comes to God. Here we find the symbolism of ‘one day’ being the same as ‘one thousand years’ with the Lord. Therefore, we can look at the creation week as being symbolic of the current time of the earth as we know it. Some Bible scholars would put current human existence at about 6,000 years or so from the creation of Adam, (even though the earth is millions of years older than that as we saw above). This would mean we are finishing the ‘sixth’ day of man and are on the threshold of the ‘seventh day’ of the earth, as we know it. The ***number 7 is the number of God and represents completion***. This would mean that the thousand-year time after the return of Christ as described in Revelation chapter 20:4-10, (a.k.a., the millennium reign), would represent the ‘seventh day’ of the earth, since God restored the earth during ‘creation week’ as described in Genesis chapters 1-2. This millennial reign of Christ and the saints would symbolically represent God’s ‘Sabbath’ or His ‘rest’ that is represented by the Sabbath Day, (see Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5:12-15, and Hebrews chapters 3 and 4). Therefore by this line of thinking, we can see that we are living in a time that the tribulation should be ‘at hand’.

¹²*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

The **number 8 represents newness**. I believe that the overall plan of God is that of eight thousand years, (*i.e.*, '8 days'). The 'eighth day', (or eighth one thousand years after the creation of Adam), will start after the millennial reign of Christ and the saints. It will be a 'new day' for the earth beginning after the **Great White Throne Judgment** of the inhabitants of the earth, (see Revelation chapter 20)...

Chapter 20

¹Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ²He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

⁴And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

⁷Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. ⁹They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

¹¹Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.¹³

After the Great White Throne Judgment everything that is not meant for eternity, (including the devil and his fallen angels or demons) will be thrown into the lake of fire, then the old heaven and old earth will be destroyed by fire, (see Isaiah chapter 34, II Peter

¹³*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

3:7 and 10-13). Then there will be a new heaven and earth, and the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven, (that is the 'new' heart of the earth, See Matthew 12:40). This will begin the eighth (or 'new') day for the earth, (*i.e.*, the eighth one thousand years from the creation of Adam, and the first 'day' of the rest of eternity) as described in Revelation chapters 21 and 22. When you turn the number 8 on its side, it becomes the symbol for infinity: ∞ , (*i.e.*, eternity)...

Chapter 21

¹Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ²Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." ⁵Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." ⁶And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷"He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. ⁸"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

⁹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God. Her light *was* like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ¹²Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: ¹³three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. ¹⁴Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ¹⁵And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. ¹⁶The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. ¹⁷Then he measured its wall: one hundred *and* forty-four cubits, *according* to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. ¹⁸The construction of its wall *was of* jasper; and the city *was* pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹The foundations of the wall of the city *were* adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation *was* jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, ²⁰the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. ²¹The twelve gates *were* twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city *was* pure gold, like transparent glass.

²²But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. ²⁴And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. ²⁵Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). ²⁶And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. ²⁷But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Chapter 22

¹And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ²In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. ³And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads. ⁵There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

⁶Then he said to me, "These words *are* faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. ⁷**"Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."** ⁸Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. ⁹Then he said to me, "See *that you do not do that*. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." ¹⁰And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. ¹¹"He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

¹²**"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³"I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*" ¹⁴Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. ¹⁶"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."** ¹⁷And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

¹⁸For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

²⁰He who testifies to these things says, “**Surely I am coming quickly.**” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! ²¹The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen. 14

The **number 9 represents judgment**. In Daniel chapter 9, we see by Daniel’s prayer, why God brings judgment on His people. It is for their disobedience. We see also in this chapter that Daniel refers to ‘weeks’, or really the meaning in Hebrew is ‘sevens’, (similar to our use of the word ‘dozen’ when referring to twelve of anything, see especially verses 24-27). Many Bible scholars would agree that the ‘sevens’ could represent seven ‘years’ as well as ‘days’. Therefore, each ‘day of the week’, or each one of the ‘sevens’ could represent a year. That is why most Bible scholars view the ‘great tribulation’ as being seven years in length.

However, the word ‘tribulation’ is used by Jesus in reference to the events leading up to the heavenly signs that we know are the sixth seal in Revelation 6:12-17, (see Matthew 24:3-51, Mark 13:3-37, Luke 21:7-38). It is also referred to in Daniel 12:1. Now we know that ‘the abomination of desolation’ is an event in which the Antichrist sets himself up in the temple in Jerusalem, calls himself God, and stops the daily sacrifices, (see Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11, and Revelation 13:5-6). The one caveat in this though is that the temple mount, (Mount Moriah) is currently occupied by a mosque. Therefore, the Jewish temple will have to be rebuilt if the Antichrist is to go into the temple. This is what most Bible scholars say must happen BEFORE the great tribulation can take place. However, if one studies the scriptures carefully a secret becomes evident that gives an opening for the abomination of desolation to take place WITHOUT the temple being rebuilt. Currently the Jewish people are carrying out daily sacrifices. So this piece of the puzzle is already in place. They are even planning to rebuild the temple, but there is no way that will happen as long as a mosque sits on the temple mount. If one reads the scriptures referring to the abomination of desolation and goes back to the original languages that the word ‘temple’ is translated from, one will see that it could just as easily refer to a ‘sanctuary’. Jesus calls it ‘the holy place’ and the scripture says in parentheses, (whoever reads, let him understand...suggesting there is a hidden meaning – see Matthew 24:15 above). The secret, hidden meaning is that it is the **temple mount that is the holy place and NOT the temple itself. Therefore, the abomination of desolation can take place WITHOUT the Jewish temple ever being rebuilt!** I do not know of anyone who teaches this concept. Everyone who is looking for the Jewish temple to be rebuilt will miss the timing of this event, if indeed the temple never gets rebuilt. However, the 144,000 will know these things and they and their families will be well out of harm’s way before this event occurs. Everyone else will scramble to find refuge when the abomination of desolation takes place and many will be killed, tortured and put in prison. Those who escape will do so with only the clothes on their backs.

It says in Daniel 9:27 that the abomination of desolation occurs in the ‘middle of the week’. This would represent the point at about 3 years and 6 months into a 7 year peace treaty that the Antichrist will make with ‘many’, (see Daniel 9:27). Most Bible scholars believe that this peace treaty, or covenant, will be made with Israel. *However, the Bible does NOT say this.* It says that he, the Antichrist/Beast, will make a covenant or treaty

¹⁴The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

with MANY, (see Daniel 9:27). It does not specify who the ‘many’ are. We have to stop making assumptions about the word of God! What will motivate people to make a covenant with the Antichrist? Muslim extremists have recently carried out terrorist attacks on various countries. These terrorists have come out recently with a request to offer a ‘peace treaty’ to any country that will pull out of Iraq and the Middle East, and become separated from alliance with the United States. I believe that this is more likely the type of event that the Bible is referring to here in Daniel 9:27.

The last seven-year timeframe is symbolic, as again the *number 7 is God’s number of completeness*. I believe that it will be the last seven years of the first 6 thousand years of the earth, as we know it, or the end of the ‘sixth day’ of the earth. It will be the eve of the dawning of the ‘seventh day’. Thus it will be a time of *darkness*. This seven years, or ‘week’, will finish the sixth ‘day’, (*i.e.*, 6th thousand years) and usher in the seventh ‘day’ of God’s plan in the current earth, (*i.e.*, Jesus’ return and the millennial reign of Christ and the saints, see Revelation 20:4-6).

I believe it is possible that each 3½-year time frame of the last 7 years before the return of Jesus may correspond to a twelve-hour portion of the 24-hour day. For example, in Genesis 1:1-5 we see that the darkness was present before God said, ‘let there be light’. God called the darkness ‘Night’ and He divided the light from the darkness, and God called the light ‘Day’. Jesus said in John 11:9, “Are there not twelve hours in the day?” This would mean that there are twelve hours for each half of a 24-hour ‘day’ as we know it. Thus, the ‘day of Satan’ if you will, could be represented in the first 3½-years of the 7 years just prior to the return of Jesus, (according to the scriptures as stated in Revelation chapter 19). This is my speculation, but the last 3½-years or so, *could be* what the Bible refers to in many passages as the ‘Day of the Lord’. The ‘day of Satan’, as we will call it, would be represented by the 12 hours of ‘evening’ and the Day of the Lord, would be represented by the 12 hours of ‘light’, even though the Bible says that it will be a day of thick darkness, as described in the book of Zephaniah, especially chapter 1:14-18...

- 14 The great day of the LORD *is* near;
It is near and hastens quickly.
 The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter;
 There the mighty men shall cry out.
- 15 That day *is* a day of wrath,
 A day of trouble and distress,
 A day of devastation and desolation,
 A day of darkness and gloominess,
 A day of clouds and thick darkness,
- 16 A day of trumpet and alarm
 Against the fortified cities
 And against the high towers.
- 17 “I will bring distress upon men,
 And they shall walk like blind men,
 Because they have sinned against the LORD;
 Their blood shall be poured out like dust,
 And their flesh like refuse.”

18 Neither their silver nor their gold
 Shall be able to deliver them
 In the day of the LORD's wrath;
 But the whole land shall be devoured
 By the fire of His jealousy,
 For He will make speedy riddance
 Of all those who dwell in the land.¹⁵

God typically does things in sets of 3. For example, Jesus was in the tomb for 3 days and 3 nights, (*i.e.*, one each for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit). This would represent 36 hours of darkness and 36 hours of light, even though it was all 'darkness' and was symbolic of Jesus taking on the judgment of God for us. This was His time of going through the 'tribulation' and 'Day of the Lord' for us, if you will. Therefore the 3 years and 6 months of the time of the Devil and the 3 years and 6 months of the time of the Lord, were represented in the 3 days and 3 nights, (*i.e.*, 36 hours each; 3 and 6 for each which adds up to 9, the number of judgment, and even 3+6 twice for 'double' judgment). Another way to see the symbolism is to look at the 1,260 days of each half of the seven years as the 12 hours, (*i.e.*, 12 hours x 60 minutes) of 'evening' and 12 hours of 'morning' of the 'last day' of the earth as we know it now, before Jesus returns to set things in order once again. The digits here, (*i.e.*, 1+2+6+0) also add up to 9, or judgment. Also, the 'time, times and half a time', that is each 3½ -years of the last 7 years before Jesus comes back, can be listed as 'time' = 1, 'times' = 2, 'and half a time' = ½. If you multiply these rather than adding them, (*i.e.*, 1 x 2 x ½ = 1), you will see that ***each 3½-year time frame represents '1 day'***, one '12-hour' evening for the Devil, and one '12-hour' morning or day, (although it will be a day of darkness) for God to have the 'final word'.

Now, as an aside, the Hebrew word for '99' in the Old Testament is the last, (or 'ultimate') word in the Old Testament, (that is not a proper name). It is derived from the word just before it, which means 9. Both imply a 'turning' to the next number, (*i.e.*, 100 or 10, respectively). ***Therefore, we can think of 9, the number of judgment, as being symbolic of repentance, or turning from sin.*** Thus we can also see that judgment, through Christ, is a good thing for us to go through BEFORE the day of the 'Great White Throne Judgment', since the 'second death' will have 'no power over us'. That is, we will become immortal, (see I Corinthians 11:23-34, 15:50-58, and Revelation 20:4-15). That is why we need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and ***fire***, so that the 'spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning', or the Holy Spirit of God, can clean up our hearts before the time of judgment of the earth and everything that is not of God will be burned up in the lake of fire, (see Matthew 3:10-12, Luke 3:15-18, Acts 1:4-5, Isaiah 4:4, II Peter 3:10-13, and Revelation 20:15).

The number 10 symbolizes the body of Christ, or the Church. Israel also represents the body of Christ, or the Church, that is why God separated 10 tribes of Israel from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and some of the Levites, (total number 3) in the Old Testament, (see I Kings chapters 11 and 12, especially 12:19-24). 'Israel' and the 'house

¹⁵The Holy Bible, New King James Version, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

of David', (*i.e.*, Judah and Benjamin) have been separated since that time, (see I Kings 12:19). Historically in the Old Testament, the 10 tribes of the 'house of Israel' were scattered into the whole world after they were released from their captivity by Assyria. The tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and some of the Levites went into captivity to Babylon for 70 years, and when they came out of Babylon settled in and around Jerusalem, and became known as the 'Jews', and are so to this day. *Therefore, all 'Jews' are Israelites, but not all 'Israelites', (or 'Hebrews'), are Jews.* Spiritually speaking, the Christian Church represents modern day 'Israel' through Christ, (see Galatians 3:29). So therefore, the **number of Jesus is 13**, [*i.e.*, the number of God, or 7, 'in' or '+' a man, the number of a man is 6, would add up to 13; *i.e.*, 7 (God) + 6 (man) = **13 (Jesus)**]. The number **12 represents government**. That is why there were 12 tribes of Israel, 12 disciples of Jesus, 12 months in the year, etc. There were 12 disciples + 1 Jesus = 13. *Thirteen is the best number you can have, because it represents Jesus, the Son of God. That is why the Devil wants you to be 'superstitious', and fear the number 13!*

The number **24 represents 'full government'**. That is why there are **24 elders on 24 thrones** sitting around the throne of God described in Revelation 4:4. I believe that these will be 12 high people of God from the Old Testament, (such as Moses and David), and 12 Apostles from the New Testament, (see Matthew 19:23-30, especially verse 28). **The number 4 refers to the earth and anything having to do with the earth**. That is why there are four points on the compass, four 'corners' of the earth, four winds of the earth, (see above and Revelation 7:1), and the four living creatures that are before the throne of God. These four living creatures listed in Revelation 4:6-9, represent the characteristics of Christ in the earth, and the four gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The first was 'like a lion'. Jesus is the 'Lion of the tribe of Judah', (see, Revelation 5:5), and this represents His royalty as a King, (see Revelation 19:16). The second creature was 'like a calf'. This represents the nature of a gentle servant that Jesus brought to earth, as the 'Lamb of God', (see John 1:29 and 36, Revelation 1:12, and 7:14). The third living creature 'had a face like a man'. This represents Jesus as the 'Son of Man', (see Daniel 7:13, the four gospels, Acts 7:56, Revelation 1:13 and 4:14). The fourth living creature was 'like a flying eagle'. This represents Jesus as a prophet, and everything prophetic in the Bible pointing to Jesus as the Christ, (see Revelation 19:10).

The number 2 represents Jesus and the Holy Spirit as they work in the earth, and the 'duality' of God in the earth, which is His 'footstool', (*i.e.*, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are essentially the 'two feet of God resting' on the earth, His footstool, see Isaiah 66:1, Matthew 5:34, Acts 7:49). Israel, (*i.e.*, the Church, or the 'House of God'), is also referred to as God's footstool, and are His enemies as long as they are 'of the world', (see I Chronicles 28:2, II Chronicles 9:17-19, Psalm 99:5, Psalm 110:1, Psalm 132:7, Lamentations 2:1, Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:42-43, Acts 2:34-35, Hebrews 1:13, 10:12-13 and James 4:4). That is why there are **2 covenants**, the first is an Old Testament, or covenant, (represented by Jesus in the flesh under the old law of Moses, *i.e.*, 'law of sin and death'). The second is a New Testament, or covenant, (represented by the resurrected Jesus under the new 'law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus' that sets us free from the old law of sin and death, see Romans 8:1-2). Each relates to one half, or 4 thousand years, of the overall 8 thousand year plan of God in the earth, (the earth = 4,

divided by 2 covenants = 2, *i.e.*, Jesus and the Holy Spirit). That is why Jesus came at the four thousand year mark and split the time of eight thousand year plan of God into 'half', or two sets of four thousand years. This 'splitting of time' is why Jesus was cut off 'half way' through His life and ministry. (See the handout on 'The Two Covenants'.)

Forty is the number of testing, that is **4, the number of the earth**, times **10, the number of the body of Christ = 40**. That is why Moses, the Israelites, Elijah and Jesus all had to be tested for some timeframe that was related to the number 40. The people of the earth will go through double testing, plus, (*i.e.*, 42 months times 2 = 84 months total), or seven years is 40 days times 63 = 2,520 days. The 63 or 6 and 3, add up to 9, and 2+5+2+0 also = 9, which is judgment. With 63, the 6 represents the number of man and the 3 represents the triune God, bringing final judgment on the earth. So with the numbers, there are all sorts of hidden meanings. This is why the Bible says in Revelation 13:18 that, "Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666." You must pray for the most important foundational thing, which is wisdom, and believe that God will give it to you, (see Proverbs 4:7, and James 1:5-8). According to Proverbs 4:7, you must get understanding while getting wisdom. In order to get an understanding of God and what He is doing in the earth, you must get to know Him by spending time with Him and in His word, the Bible, (see Proverbs 9:10). The Antichrist will be a man setting himself up in the 'holy place' in Jerusalem saying that he is God, this is the meaning of 666, because the number of a man is 6 and the number of God is 7, and there is one 7 for each of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Therefore the number of God is 777 or 21. The number of the beast is 666, or 18, which is double judgment, (*i.e.*, 9+9). This is the 'abomination of desolation' that is spoken of in Daniel, (see Daniel 9:27, 11:31 and 12:11). Jesus warns us that this is the true 'beginning of the end', and that anyone still in Jerusalem and Judea should flee immediately, (see Matthew 24:15-22, Mark 13:14-20, and Luke 21:20-28).

We are therefore looking to world events to give us clues as to the times. I believe that the time of the beginning of these events and the end is coming soon. ***As these events unfold, we need to be watching the news, praying and working toward perfection, so that God may 'count us worthy to escape all these things', since there are only 144,000 men and their families in the whole world who will escape the entire great tribulation. Everyone else will go through at least some of the tribulation and suffer accordingly, (see Luke 21:36).***

How and where will this escape take place?

If we read Revelation chapter 12, beginning in verse 1, we will see the story of a woman who is, 'clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.' This 'great sign in heaven' that John saw was similar to the dream that Joseph had about the sun, moon and eleven stars bowing down to him in Genesis 37:9-11. We can use Joseph's dream to help us understand the symbolism of this vision that John had. The woman represents God's people, Israel, or the Christian Church. Her clothing is the sun, or the brightness/glory/righteousness of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, (see also Malachi 4:2). The moon under her feet represents the rest of God's people, who are not completely obedient to God, (see also Revelation 3:9). The garland of twelve stars

represents the government of God, and the twelve tribes of Israel, especially the obedient 144,000, (*i.e.*, the Philadelphia church, see also Revelation 7:1-8). The woman is pregnant and gives birth to a male Child, who is Jesus, (see verses 2 and 5). In verse 3-4, John sees another sign in heaven, this time it is of a 'fiery, red dragon having seven heads and ten horns'. From the other scriptures that we have already studied, we know that this dragon is the Devil, and the 'beast' or the Antichrist. John says in verse 4 that the dragon 'drew a third of the stars, (or angels) of heaven and threw them to the earth', and 'stood before the woman...to devour her Child as soon as it was born', but the birth took place and the Child was caught up to 'God and His throne.' In verses 7-9, John tells us that a war broke out in heaven, and that Michael and his angels fought with the Devil and his angels, and that the Devil was 'cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.' These events have already happened, but may be repeated.

We see in verses 5 and 13-17, that the woman, (*i.e.*, the obedient Church), will be 'given two wings of a great eagle, (probably an airplane such as a Boeing 767 or similar), that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished' for 3½ years 'from the presence of the serpent.' The dragon will spew water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, (which I believe will be an army of Muslims; since water represents people, see Revelation 17:15), but the earth will help the woman by opening up, and swallowing the flood. This will make the Devil/Antichrist angry, and he will go after the rest of the Christians and persecute them. This will be the time of the *great tribulation*. I believe that only the Philadelphia church will be spared this onslaught. Many of the keys to understanding the wilderness are found throughout the Old Testament, especially the Psalms and Isaiah. The word 'Zion', which is where God dwells, means 'wilderness'. Therefore, any time you see the word Zion, you need to think of the wilderness, which is the 'secret place of the Most High' and safety from evil, (see Psalm 91). Proverbs chapters 1-9, reveals the pattern of how we can walk in the wisdom of God and escape the judgment of God. Virtually the entire book of Isaiah speaks about the wilderness escape, (see especially Isaiah 48:20-22 to see how this will take place 'spiritually and symbolically speaking', see below).

The judgment of God on the earth and the scroll

In Revelation 5:1, John sees that God has a 'scroll' in His hand, which has seven seals, as we find out in chapter 6 and 8:1. This scroll is the same scroll that is spoken of by Ezekiel in chapter 2:9-10 and Zechariah in chapter 5:1-4. It is the written word of God's judgment on His people, (*i.e.*, Christians and Jews), and the rest of the people of the earth. The books of Ezekiel and Zechariah are very important in helping us to understand these things.

The first 5 seals are probably already opened. They are described in Revelation 6:1-11. The first four are the riders of the four horses, (a.k.a. the four horsemen of the Apocalypse). These are explained by Jesus in Matthew 24:4-8, and Mark 13:5-8. They describe what Jesus called 'the beginning of sorrows':

1. The rider of the white horse is the antichrist spirit of deception, (which is running rampant in the Church of Christ today). He has a 'bow; and a crown was given to him', and he goes 'conquering and to conquer.' This seal will become fully manifested with the coming of the *Antichrist*.
2. The rider of the fiery red horse who takes away peace from the earth, and makes people kill one another, is *wars and rumors of wars*.
3. The rider of the black horse with scales in his hand, and the voice from heaven saying a 'quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages', is famine. However, the voice from heaven also says 'do not harm the oil or the wine', which means the anointed of God under the blood of Jesus, will not be touched by this *famine*.
4. The rider of the pale, or dapple horse is named Death, and Hades followed with him, is *pestilence*.

These four are given authority to kill a fourth of the earth's population 'with the sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.'

The fifth seal is described in verses 9-11, which is part of the judgment of the Church, (that is the tribulation or the martyring of the saints at the hands of the Muslims and the Antichrist, see Matthew 24:9-28, Mark 13:9-23, and Luke 21:12-24).

All of these events of the first five seals have been going on for some time now. God spoke to me in mid-2003 and told me that 'the beginning of sorrows has begun'. However, they will intensify as we enter the time frame of the first 3½ years, or the great tribulation. In May, 2009, God spoke to me and told me that things would settle down through June and then begin to escalate as we round the curve of the sorrows in the earth and head into the great tribulation. He showed me that things will begin to multiply so as to increase at a much more rapid pace. The culmination of the fifth seal will be the great tribulation and it is coming soon.

When the sixth seal is opened, events will unfold in which the earth will be hit by natural disasters, such as a great earthquake, and possibly an eruption of what is called a 'super' volcano, and meteor strikes. The sun will be darkened and the moon will not give her light. People will be very distraught at the coming of this event, and it is the prelude to the judgment of God through the 'Day of the Lord'. The Yellowstone National Park in the western United States is one of these 'super' volcanoes. The scientists estimate that it is ready to erupt at any time. When it does, it will start as an earthquake, and the resulting blast will destroy about ½ of the United States, and send the world into a 'volcanic

winter', the likes of which no one has ever known, (see Isaiah 13, especially verses 9-10, Joel 2:30-31, Matthew 24:29, Mark 13:24-25, Luke 21:25-26, and Revelation 6:12-17).

The seventh seal is opened in Revelation chapter 8:1. This verse says that there will be 'silence in heaven for about half an hour'. The final judgment of God will be unleashed on the earth after this. There will be seven trumpets that will be sounded by the angels of God. With each of these trumpet blasts, more of God's judgment will be unleashed on the earth. The silence for half an hour represents a week or so of peace in the earth. Just when the people of the earth are probably thinking that the worst is over, is when disaster will truly strike.

The first four trumpet blasts described in Revelation 8:7-12 are mainly meteors and the resulting destruction. Many people will die as a result of these events. The fifth and sixth trumpets, (these are also the first two of three woes), are described in Revelation 8:13, and chapter 9. The star, or angel, who is 'fallen' from heaven to the earth in Revelation 9:1, is traditionally thought by Bible scholars to be Satan, since he was fallen from heaven. This angel is given the key to the bottomless pit. And when he opens it, smoke comes out, and the sun and the air become darkened. The word 'fallen', in the New King James version of the Bible, comes from the word 'fell' in the original King James. This word 'fell' comes from a Greek word that implies 'to alight'. Therefore, the star, or angel, comes from heaven and 'alights' on the earth. Contrary to what most Bible scholars teach, this angel is the same angel who is spoken of in Revelation 20:1-3. He has the key to the bottomless pit, because he is the one in charge of it. This is an angel of God and NOT Satan. It tells us in Revelation 20:1-3, that this angel will lay hold of the Devil and cast him into the bottomless pit and set a seal on him to keep him in check for the millennium reign of Christ, during the 7th thousand years following His return that is described in chapter 19. ***It makes absolutely no sense to think that God would give the future prisoner of the bottomless pit, (i.e., the Devil) the key to his own prison!***

I believe the 'locusts' described in Revelation 9:1-12, are NOT demon spirits descending out of the bottomless pit as most Bible teachers say, but are the people of God who will be speaking of God's judgment before anything further is carried out. In Revelation 9:3, the Bible says that the locusts came 'out' of the smoke that is emanating from the bottomless pit. This word 'out' comes from a Greek word that can mean 'through'. The scripture does NOT say that the locusts come out of the pit, but 'out' of the smoke. Therefore, if we say rather that the locusts came 'through' the smoke, it will make more sense. Again, these are NOT demon spirits as most would have you believe, but I believe that these are the people of God that are referred to in Joel chapter 1. They will be speaking the word of God's judgment to the rebellious people, possibly even Christians. This will torment the people of the earth, but they will not be able to find death. This will go on for 5 months. ***The number 5 is the number of grace, so this will be the last chance for repentance before more people will die on a large scale.*** The angel who is in charge of these 'locusts' is the destroyer angel, (i.e., in Hebrew his name is Abaddon, and in Greek his name is Apollyon). This is the same angel that dealt the deathblow to the firstborn of Egypt when in the day of Moses, (see Exodus 12:23). ***It is an angel of God, and NOT a demon spirit.***

The sixth trumpet and the events following, especially the 200 million person army, are going to be carried out by God's people from the wilderness. I believe that the 200 million person army that is spoken of in Revelation 9:13-21, is God's army and is composed of God's people, and NOT demon spirits as is usually taught, (see Isaiah 13:1-5, Joel chapter 1 and 2, and Zechariah chapter 9, especially verse 8). I believe that this army of God will be stationed in the wilderness, along with those people of God who will escape, (see Isaiah 66:19, Ezekiel 6:8-9). The members of this army wear the breastplates that have the same three colors as the breastplate of judgment that the priest Aaron wore in the days of Moses, (see Exodus 28:15-30). **Therefore, I believe that this army of God will be carrying out the judgment of God on the unrepentant.** They will kill 'one third of mankind', which is symbolic of the one third fallen angels who direct the lives of these rebellious souls.

All three of the things of the 5th and 6th trumpets follow a similar pattern established when God struck Egypt with the eight, ninth and tenth plagues of locusts, darkness and death of the firstborn by the destroyer angel, (see Exodus chapters 10, 11 and 12). The numbers of the plagues in Exodus is symbolic as well: $8 + 9 + 10 = 27$, **the number of fullness of judgment, (i.e., 3x9).**

The seventh and final trumpet is discussed beginning in Revelation 11:14. I believe that this is the 'last trumpet' that Paul refers to in I Corinthians 15:52 and is the third and worst 'woe'. This will set up the final events that will lead to the return of Christ. We know that these final events will be very destructive and symbolic of God's final judgment on the unrepentant. The final events are described in chapter 16, and consist of 'seven bowls' of God's wrath. In these, the wrath of God will be complete, and the angel says when he pours out the seventh bowl, "It is done!", (see Revelation 16:17).

The rainbow angel, two witnesses and the intervening chapters of Revelation

Ezekiel holds the keys to understanding chapter 10 of the book of Revelation. In Chapter 10 of the book of Revelation, John sees a vision of what Bible teachers sometimes refer to as the 'rainbow' angel. Most people do not believe that this is Jesus, but I believe that it is. He has many of the characteristics of Christ, including the appearance as Ezekiel describes the LORD in Ezekiel 1:26-28. Also, the rainbow represents Christ and God's covenant with living creatures of the earth, that He will never again destroy all flesh with a flood, (see Genesis 9:11-16, and Psalm 89:34-37).

One of the reasons sometimes given by Bible teachers for saying that the rainbow angel is not Christ is that he raises his hand toward heaven and swears by God. According to the Bible, God is the only one allowed to swear, (see Matthew 5:33-37). He has been known in the word to swear by Himself, (see Hebrews 6:13). This only confirms that it is Christ. When the angel cried out in verse 3, 'seven thunders uttered their voices.' As John was about to write down what the seven thunders said, a voice from heaven said to him, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them." This was one of the first things that I asked God to reveal to me when He told me He wanted

Revelation revealed. I expected Him to take some time to tell me, but He told me immediately. The seven thunders are seven ‘woes’ to the Church, and are outlined in Isaiah chapter 5. In Revelation 10:7, God tells us that in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished. I believe that this is another confirmation that we are living in those final days, since we are receiving the fullness of understanding of the book of Revelation from the Holy Spirit.

In Revelation 10:8-11, John describes an act of obedience where he took the ‘little book’ from the hand of the rainbow angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in his mouth, but bitter in his stomach. This same thing was required of Ezekiel, (see Ezekiel 2:9-10, 3:1-14). This tells us that the little book that the rainbow angel was delivering was a word of judgment to the Church. It was *sweet as honey*, since it was a *word from God*, (see Ezekiel 3:3). However since it was a *word of judgment*, it was *bitter in the stomach*, (see Ezekiel 3:14). In Revelation 10:11, God told John that he must prophesy about many different kinds of people. This would represent the different churches throughout the world.

In Revelation chapter 11, John describes a vision of the temple of God, the alter and those who worship there. John states that he was given a ‘measuring rod’, which represents the Bible, or word of God. He was told not to measure the outer court, as it had been given to the Gentiles, and that they would tread the holy city under foot for forty-two months. *This means that this specific forty-two months, which is probably the first 3½ years of the last 7 years, (a.k.a., the great tribulation), is for the judgment, (i.e., the measuring) of the Church, or Christians who ‘walk according to the flesh’.* In Zechariah chapter 2, there is also a ‘measuring’ of Jerusalem going on in verses 1-5. In verses 6-13, God is speaking about the people of Zion, (who are the ones that dwell in the secret place of the Most High, see Psalm 91). They are the ones who will escape from Mystery Babylon, and go into the wilderness, (see Revelation chapter 12). Thus, the ‘measuring’ and the ‘escape’ will occur around the same time. This escape is also described in Isaiah 48:20-22...

20 Go forth from Babylon!
 Flee from the Chaldeans!
 With a voice of singing,
 Declare, proclaim this,
 Utter it to the end of the earth;
 Say, “The LORD has redeemed
 His servant Jacob!”

21 And they did not thirst
 When He led them through the deserts;
 He caused the waters to flow from the rock for them;
 He also split the rock, and the waters gushed out.

22 “*There is no peace,*” says the LORD, “for the wicked.”¹⁶

¹⁶*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

This event has not happened yet. When the Jews left Babylon following the captivity, (about 538 B.C.), no one knows exactly how this took place, but it is believed that they went up along the Euphrates River, and then down to Judea. They did NOT go through the wilderness, or have the same miraculous water coming out of a rock, that the Israelites did when they came out of Egypt. This means that this is a word for those Christians who are currently in bondage to Babylon, (*i.e.*, those who are in debt to the world's banking system and continue in that mindset). Most of God's people are in debt to this system in some way. ***When God leads us out of Babylon and eventually into the wilderness to the place of safety from the great tribulation, we will go singing, and will declare and proclaim it all over the earth!***

In Revelation 11, starting in verse 3, John describes the 'second woe' and God says that He will give His two witnesses power, (or authority), and 'they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, (*i.e.*, 3½ years), clothed in sackcloth.' Verse 4 says that these are 'the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.' The book of Zechariah gives the keys to understanding more about these two witnesses. Zechariah 4:11-14 speaks of these two witnesses with a similar introduction to the prophet Zechariah that was given to the Apostle John, as recorded in Revelation 11:3-4. In Zechariah 5:5-11, these two are shown to deal with Babylon, (*i.e.*, Shinar = Chaldea). In verse 9, we see that these are *two women*. In Zechariah 6:1, we see that these two 'mountains' are *bronze*. ***Because of these scriptures, I believe these two witnesses, (even though they come in the power of Moses and Elijah), are two bronze skinned women!*** The Church is NOT ready for this. They are teaching that the 'two witnesses' of Revelation chapter 11 are two men. However, the Bible does NOT say that they are men. It says that they are 'two witnesses'. Therefore, we cannot assume that they will be men. Remember Isaiah chapter 4 says that 'in that day', (which is *this* day), 'seven women will take hold of one man...' God is preparing to do a NEW THING in the earth, (see Isaiah 43:14-21, especially verse **19**). This is the new thing: 7 righteous women + 1 righteous man = 8 righteous people in a spiritual Christian relationship, working for God, and walking in love, (see the handout, *The New Thing*). Again the number 8 is the number of newness, and the new thing is for more women than men to begin doing the work of the gospel, as well as Christian polygyny.

The two witnesses will preach the gospel for the three and one half years of the great tribulation. They will be given supernatural protection, and they will be able to speak a word and kill anyone who tries to harm them. The people who try to hurt the two witnesses will be killed with fire proceeding from the mouths of these witnesses, (see Revelation 11:5). Verse 6 speaks of the power that these witnesses will walk in. It will be in the spirit and the power of Elijah and Moses. They will torment the people of the world by calling forth drought like Elijah, and plagues, like Moses. Following the completion of their testimony, verses 7-12 speaks of their demise, as the Antichrist will kill them in Jerusalem and will leave their dead bodies in the street for 3½ days. The people of the earth will have a party and even send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented them. However God will resurrect the two prophets after 3½ days. Great fear will come upon those who see the resurrection. Then God will call them to come up into

heaven and they will ascend in a cloud, just as Jesus did. Verse 12 of Revelation chapter 11 says that in the same hour that the witnesses are ascended into heaven, there will be a great earthquake in Jerusalem, and a tenth of the city will fall. Seven thousand people will be killed during this earthquake. The rest of the people will be 'afraid and give glory to the God of heaven.'

According to the current translations of the Bible, the testimony of the two witnesses will be the last recorded human preaching of the gospel. As seen above, Revelation 14:6-7 gives record of an 'angel', preaching the gospel to all the inhabitants of the earth. We do not know for certain if this is an actual angel, since the Greek word interpreted as angel here could mean a 'messenger', even a human. Jesus said that the gospel of the kingdom of God will be preached in all the world, as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come, (see Matthew 24:14, and Mark 13:10). In Revelation 14:8-11, a second angel speaks of the falling of Babylon, (*i.e.*, the world's banking system). And then a third angel will give a final warning to the inhabitants of the earth, NOT to receive the mark of the beast, and what their end will be if they do, (*i.e.*, eternal destruction in the lake of fire). In any case, God will clearly give people one last chance to repent and receive Jesus Christ, before He brings the completion of His judgment on the earth. In Revelation 14, verses 12-13, the saints are told to have patience and faith, as more of them would die. However, this would be a good thing, as then they will 'rest from their labors, and their works follow them', (thus implying that our works are important to our eternity, see I Corinthians chapter 3).

The remainder of Revelation chapter 14 speaks of the harvest of souls from the earth. The first harvest of the righteous souls is described in verses 14-15, and is done by Jesus. The second, in verses 17-20, which is the harvest of the disobedient, non-believers and they will be killed in tremendous numbers.

Revelation chapter 15 speaks of the preparation of the last seven bowls of God's wrath, and verse one tells us that His wrath will be 'complete' in these. Chapter 16 describes the horrible events that result from the angels pouring out these bowls on the earth. You can read these yourself. It is not a pretty sight. ***However, people will still not repent!***

In Revelation 17, the woman, (mystery Babylon), is described, along with the beast that she rides. Chapter 18 tells of the demise of Babylon, and why we must 'come out of her'. I believe that the World Trade Center incident of September 11, 2001, was a small type and shadow of the final event. I believe that the final event will likely be a nuclear strike on Babylon, (*i.e.*, New York City). New York will be utterly destroyed, and no one will ever inhabit it again, due to the residual radiation. It says in Revelation 14:8, and in 18:2, that 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen', and it says in Revelation 18:10 that 'in one hour your judgment has come'. Both of these things would indicate that the final blow to New York City is a quick strike, as was 9-11-01. In fact it only took the twin towers about *one hour* to fall, and it was due to the fire. I believe that this was symbolic of the final event that is described in the rest of chapter 18.

Revelation chapter 19 describes the ready state of the bride of Christ, (*i.e.*, the Christian Church), and the return of Christ. The beast and the false prophet will be captured alive, and 'cast into the lake of fire burning with brimstone'. The rest of the rebellious people are to be killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of Jesus, which is the Word of God, (see also Ephesians 6:17 and II Thessalonians 1:6-10).

Chapter 20 discusses the fact that the Devil will be cast into the bottomless pit for one thousand years. It also discusses the *first resurrection*, (see verses 4-6). The first resurrection occurs *at the return of Christ*, (see I Corinthians 15:50-58, and I Thessalonians 4:13-18). It says in verse 6 that 'blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power...', which means that those who are part of the first resurrection will be granted immortality. We will reign with Christ for the following thousand years, 'as kings and priests of God and of Christ', (see Revelation 1:6, and 20:6). Following this, the Devil is released for a short time, and he goes out into the earth to 'deceive the nations.' These people will come and surround the camp of the saints. However, God will rain down fire from heaven and devour them, (see Rev. 20:8-9, and Ezekiel chapters 38-39). Then the Devil will be 'thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, and will be tormented day and night forever and ever.' Following this, there will be the 'Great White Throne Judgment'. This is described in Revelation 20:11-15. This is the resurrection of all the people who did not take part in the first resurrection, and did not receive Christ at anytime after that. These people will be judged according to the law of sin and death, and according to their works. If their names are not found in the Book of Life, then they will be 'cast into the lake of fire.' Death and Hades will also be cast into the lake of fire. This is the second, eternal death. These people will simply cease to exist. This is the mercy of God toward the unrepentant.

The New Jerusalem

As we discussed earlier, Revelation chapters 21-22 describe the new heaven and new earth, as well as the New Jerusalem. The only certain way to get to the New Jerusalem is by receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, (see Romans 10:8-13). *This is salvation. Anyone who fulfills the requirements of salvation, by repenting of their sins, confessing the Lord Jesus with their mouths, and believing in their hearts that God raised Him from the dead, will be saved, and may take part in the first resurrection. These people will live forever in the presence of God in the New Jerusalem. However, in order to avoid the great tribulation, you must become perfected in Christ.* This means you must learn to walk in absolute obedience to God, and treat your fellow man, (especially the brethren), with respect even as you would like to be treated. We must always speak the truth in love. *This way ALL will know that we are Jesus' disciples, because of our love for one another*, (see Luke 6:27-38, and John 13:34-35). This is the NEW COMMANDMENT, but it is an old one. Amen!