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"The 144 Thousand Hebrews and The Exaltation of the Lamb of God"

From the beginning of the New Testament era and the ending of the Old, the Lamb of God has been announced by the last Old Testament prophet, John the Baptist, and highly exalted by the the last New Testament prophet, the Apostle John, in his Gospel and his final work, the book of the Revelation where the Lamb of God is mentioned 28 times.

It is this last book of the Bible, that focuses on the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ, which also gives the most information on this the most descriptive title of the Savior of the world. It was John, who, after reviewing the work of the three other Gospel writers, some three decades later, supplied us with the announcement of John the Baptist, 'Behold the Lamb of God' (John 1:29,36), and the many references to the Lamb of God in the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which thoroughly reveals Him as the Lamb of God!

He is introduced as the Lamb having been slain in chapter five of the Revelation, Who is the only One worthy to take the book and to loose the seals, however, He appears in the 'midst of the throne' which is the throne of God and this is the focus as and God the Father on His throne and the Lamb are mentioned together six times in this opening throneroom scene (5:6, 5:13, 6:16, 7:9, 7:10, 7:17).

These six references showing the God the Father on His throne and the Lamb occur in heaven with both God and the Lamb appearing in the throneroom. But the last four references in the book of the Revelation where God and the Lamb are seen together occur after the 'new heaven and a new earth...new Jerusalem' are present (21:22, 21:23, 22:1, 22:3). Now, God and the Lamb are united as they are 'the Temple' and 'the Light', with the throne belonging to both God and the Lamb.

However, the reference to God and the Lamb that provokes the most interest is the one found in (14:4) where the 144 thousand Hebrews appear with the Lamb and are described as 'the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb'. Heaven and earth share this scene as 'the mount Zion'(14:1) is on earth, and the sounds of 'many waters...great thunder...and harpers harping with their harps; And they sung as it were a new song before the throne' (14:2,3) are simultaneously heard in heaven.

This magnificent event occurs at the end of the Seventieth Week of Daniel when the Redeemer comes to Zion (Isaiah 59:20, Romans 11:26) bringing redemption to Israel which is the second act in the Revelation's unfolding story of redemption, the first being the redemption of the saints when He resurrects, raptures and redeems all those who have been saved by grace in history past (7:9-17) and the third when He comes in glory to redeem those who were martyred along with those saved during the Day of the Lord (Daniel 12:3; Revelation 20:4-6) with His final act of redemption being the resurrection of the Millennial saints following the Millennium.

So, these 144 thousand Hebrews who first appeared in (7:3-8) are 'sealed the servants of God...

sons of Israel' with twelve thousand coming from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. But, this title here in (14:4) 'the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb' is unique to this group and must be defined in order to give a clear definition of just who these men are and how they fit into God's plan for the end of the age.

The word 'firstfruits' appears in the Greek New Testament eight times referring to the first in order of a spiritual harvest with one reference showing the Lord Jesus Christ as the 'firstfruits' of those resurrected (I Corinthians 15:23). In the Greek Old Testament, known as the Septuagint, the word appears over seventy times most of which refer to the first of any crop or offspring of livestock which typically was God's portion.

These 144 thousand Hebrew men must then be the beginning of a certain spiritual harvest 'to God and to the Lamb' which in this case refers to the first of those Hebrews who are saved during the Day of the Lord. This conclusion can be easily discerned from the record given in Revelation chapter six and seven.

In Revelation chapter six, six of the seven seals are opened, the first four are grouped with horsemen and riders showing conditions on earth prior to God's Day of the Lord judgment which is also known as the Wrath of God from which the saints are delivered.(I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9)

The last three seals focus on the Day of the Lord as the martyrs in the fifth seal ask 'how long' until God's Day of the Lord judgment comes, and the sixth seal is the well published sign of the Day of the Lord as it appears on numerous occasions in both Testaments (Isaiah 13:6-13; Ezekiel 32:7,8; Joel 2:10, 30,31, 3:14,15; Zephaniah 1:14-18; Matthew 24:30,31; Mark 13:24; Luke 21:25; Acts 2:19,20).

This sign here in Revelation 6:12 ff is fully described displaying to all on earth that God's Day of the Lord's Wrath is impending and will begin when the seventh seal is loosed (8:1), opening the scroll, thereby revealing the trumpet judgments which are the seven first plagues or judgments (Revelation 8-11) that God brings upon the unbelieving world with the seven last plagues or judgments, also known as the vials, following in order (Revelation 15,16).

But, first, the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb, the 144 thousand Hebrews are sealed (7:1-8) providing them with supernatural protection. Then, the dead in Christ rise first and the living saints are raptured (7:9-17). These 144 thousand select servants, sons of Israel are set apart unto God, Old Testament type saints if you will, for the New Testament saints have been removed from the earth, delivered from the wrath of God, raptured into heaven and fully redeemed by the Lamb of God to be with the Lord.

Therefore, the Lamb of God is the focus, and redemption is the continuing theme with the 144 thousand Hebrews perfectly meshing into the plan of God carrying the torch of the Gospel as they 'follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth' (14:4). Ya' gotta' love it!! Amen? For, the Lamb of God is exalted through it all as He continues His march toward the full and complete redemption of believing mankind!

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"The Darkening Cloud of Deception"

Although the Pre-Tribulation Rapture Theory began with the writings of Morgan Edwards in 1788, it wasn't until the now famous dream of a sixteen year old girl named Margaret MacDonald surfaced, by way of her prophesying in the church of Edward Irving in the early 1830's, that this theory began to take hold. J.N.Darby who is said to be the founder of the Brethren movement was involved with Irving and MacDonald and became one of the main proponents of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture Theory [PTRT]. C.I.Scofield who served in the Civil War in the U.S. adopted Darby's positions and formulated his [Scofield] study Bible with the PTRT as his prophetic focus. Through this study Bible, the PTRT was introduced and promoted in the U.S.

This theory, although soundly refuted by Dr.S.P.Tregelles LL.D., one of the most renowned scholars of that day, gained impetus and gradually became the prophetic position of the majority of the fundamental Bible believers in the U.S. Dr. Tregelles was the man referred to by Charles Haddon Spurgeon when he praised the scholarship of Tregelles, especially on the subject of prophecy!

But, even though some of the best students of the Bible during that era made it known through their statements and writings that this new theory was indeed a false teaching, those that formulated it marched on to their own drummer and continued propagating a theory that denies the clear teaching of Scripture and pushed this Darkening Cloud of Deception into the church!

The keystone of the PTRT is the 'At any moment coming of Christ' also known as 'The Imminency of Christ'. This coming, say they, would be Secret, Silent, and Signless! Tregelles refuted them on every count, because the Bible does not support any of these three theories. The trump of God and the voice of the archangel puts away the first two ideas in short order, but the most important one which calls for the Second Coming of Christ to be 'Signless' is our focus.

Tregelles points out the fact of 'intervening events' signs or prophecies found in the Scripture before the coming of the Lord will take place. His book 'The Hope of Christ's Second Coming' containing twenty-four brief but precise chapters is a must for any serious prophecy student as it focuses on the clear

battle for the truth that he waged over a century ago when the PTRT first came into being.

With help from this book, the Bible, and other sources, the theory of a 'Signless' Second Coming will be tested in the remaining paragraphs. First of all, the promise of the regathering of the people of God, the Jews, is found to be necessary before the Lord returns. As we all know the miraculous formulation and duration of the nation of Israel is fact and a clear Bible certainty. As early as the book of Deuteronomy in Moses' final sermon to the people before he went to be with the LORD, this prophecy takes place:

"And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it, and multiply thee above thy fathers. [Gathering of the People of God in the Land] And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. [At the End of the 70th Week of Daniel] And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee. [Day of the LORD Punishment of the Wicked] And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the LORD and do all His commandments which I command thee this day. [Spiritual Millennial Blessings] And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as He rejoiced over thy fathers' [Physical Millennial Kingdom Blessings]" (Deuteronomy 30:5-9)

Ezekiel also prophesied concerning this necessary event: "For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God." (Ezekiel 36:24-28)

Behold I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land, And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one King shall be King to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all." (Ezekiel 37:21,22)

The emphasis Ezekiel makes, here, is the supernatural gathering of the Jews, out of all countries, into their own land,

in one nation, under one King! All of these must occur, and four of the five have already happened...we are now waiting for the King to come, Amen? But, there are more events that must occur before the King will come! By the way, prior to 1948 the first four had not occurred, therefore the Pre-Tribulation Rapture remains in question.

The second event is found in the book of Daniel: "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it: and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up AMONG THEM another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and , behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things" (Daniel 7:7,8)

"Thus he said, the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon the earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise AFTER THEM: and he shall be diverse from the first [ten] and he shall subdue three kings." (Daniel 7:23,24)

The emergence of the Antichrist or the 'little horn' is the focus here with the capitalized words showing WHERE he comes from and WHEN he will rise, with the 'ten horns/kings' believed to be the revival of the fourth beast/ ten nations/kings during the end of the age. The majority of prophecy students agree with this interpretation, but the emphasis that must be seen here, is the fact that the ten nations must be present BEFORE the Antichrist emerges on the world scene.

He will 'subdue [conquer] three kings' during his rise to world power but will not have the necessary political clout to 'confirm the covenant' (Daniel 9:27) with Israel until these 'intervening events' shown above take place. The confirming of the covenant most agree is the event that begins Daniel's Seventieth Week, and the Pre-Tribulation Rapture Theory says that this is when the Rapture will occur! So, the emergence of the Antichrist will not be hidden nor done in a corner, but it is an event that will be obvious and will probably occur after the ten nations are formulated, and three of them are subdued, and before the beginning of Daniel's Seventieth Week.

Daniel chapter nine also reveals another event that must take place: 'Seventy Weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city to finish the transgression...' (Daniel 9:24) Here the prophet is told that not only must his people be a people, which assumes they will be gathered as a nation, but the 'holy city' Jerusalem must be the Jews possession at the

time this prophecy occurs. This possession of Jerusalem did not occur until 1967 when the nation of Israel won the Six Day War with the Arabs, and so, another piece of the miraculous puzzle of God falls into place.

The New Testament reveals more necessary events beginning with the Lord's prophecy to Peter, James, John and Andrew as they viewed the buildings of the temple: 'There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.' (Matthew 24:2) The destruction of the temple had to take place before the Lord returned and so they were not expecting the Lord to come back 'at any moment' before this took place.

Another intervening event was the Lord's promise to Peter: 'Verily, verily I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkest whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee...' (John 21:18) Here, the Lord told Peter that he would live to be old and therefore Peter knew that he had to grow old and die before the Lord would return. He definitely was not a believer in the imminent 'at any moment' return of Christ.

The Lord commanded those present at his ascension to 'Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo I am with you even unto the end of the world. Amen.' (Matthew 28:19,20) They certainly knew they had a great task to accomplish, a task that still is not complete, and therefore, they were not expecting the 'at any moment' return of Christ!

The Apostle Paul was told that he would bear Jesus' name 'before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things he must suffer for My name's sake.' (Acts 9:15,16) Paul, too knew that he had to accomplish much for Christ and therefore was not expecting Him to return 'at any moment'.

His ministry was long and productive as the Lord promised: 'thou hast testified of Me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome. So, Paul did not look for the Lord to return 'at any moment' because he had to go to Rome as the Lord promised. This same thing happened often in the ministry of Paul as the Lord told him of his call to Macedonia, his stays in Corinth and Ephesus, yes, the Apostle Paul had strong confidence in what the Lord was doing with him even up to his death. He knew of many future events that would take place in his life and he therefore never preached or taught that the Lord might return 'at any moment'.

Although, these New Testament 'intervening events' have

already taken place in the lives of the New Testament saints, the fact remains that they were not believers in, nor were they preaching or teaching, the 'at any moment' imminent return of Christ!

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"The Darkening Cloud of Deception"

(Part II)

Although the Bible does not record one verse stating that Jesus could come 'at any moment' many teachers and preachers continue to state this as fact and therefore unknowingly deceive themselves and those that are effected by their ministry. Their basis for their position is the testimony of the experts and not sound exposition of the prophetic Scriptures. Even though these experts call the Pre-tribulation Rapture Theory [PTRT] a 'theory' and not a doctrine of Scripture they too hold to this saint deadening 'doctrine' as their mainstay of prophetic thought.

One of these experts is Dwight Pentecost in his prophetic work called 'Things to Come'. The heading he gives in this book, which is often called 'the bible' of fundamental prophetic study, for the PTR THEORY is just that...a THEORY, pp.193, knowing that the Scripture does not explicitly, that is from proof texts, teach it, yet it [PTRT] is at the very heart of the system of prophecy that he holds. His Dallas Theological Seminary associate, John Walvoord, has stated in his book 'The Rapture Question': "The fact is that neither posttribulationism nor pretribulationism is an explicit teaching of the Scriptures. The Bible does not in so many words, state either" but, he too still holds to this belief and has been a major proponent of the PTRT as fact!

This cloud of deception not only darkens the prophetic horizon by concealing the truth, but denies the truth of prophecy concerning the necessary 'intervening events' as discussed in Part I, our first article. This denial keeps prophecy from being preached or taught in the fundamental Bible-believing churches, at least the ones that we have surveyed over the past twenty years.

Why is this the case? Because there are NO Bible texts to support the THEORY of a PTRT! And I repeat, there is not one Bible text that states that Jesus could come 'at any moment'! It is a hard thing to unfold the key doctrine of this THEORY, the supposed imminency of Christ, and preach on it, unless you have Bible texts to support and prove it.

Therefore, the truth of the Lord's Second Coming is not being proclaimed which unfortunately causes the following effects: First of all there is no Holy Spirit revival of the saints. There is a designed 'Deadening of the Saints'. Revival is the result of the saint's personal holiness without which no man can see the Lord. Personal holiness, according to the following Scriptures, is the result of the saints having the hope of the Lord's return at the forefront of their minds. I John 3:3 states 'He that hath this hope in him purifies himself even as He is pure.' The previous verse gives us the definition of 'this hope' which is the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ, the very blessed hope spoken of in Titus 2:13: 'Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.'

II Peter 3:10,11 also supports this Bible truth when it states: 'But the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with a fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons

ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved and the elements shall melt with a fervent heat?' Peter here is exhorting the saints to live holy lives in view of the coming of the Lord and His end of the age wrath called the Day of the Lord!

Paul too takes up this same subject when in context he gives over twenty exhortations for Godly living in I Thessalonians 5:6-23 in view of the Coming of the Lord, and the Day of the Lord at the end of the age. He concludes this section of Scripture by saying: 'And the very God of peace sanctify [lit. make you holy] you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul also in I Thessalonians 3:13 affirms this truth by stating: 'To the end that He may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.'

And so, the Apostle John, the Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul all confirm that we should live holy lives in view of the coming of our Lord...but, if His coming is not preached, if it is not exposed as it unfolds in the Word of God, then we who are born again will not be exhorted to live holy lives through the Scriptures that are designed by God to bring this about, and therefore, revival of the saints will be hindered until His coming, the Day of the Lord, and the end of the age is rightly divided from the Word of God!

Secondly, it Disarms the Saint and causes a relaxed attitude in the face of the coming tribulation/persecution which even now is growing worldwide at an alarming pace. The PTRT teaches that we, the saints, will be taken from the earth before world conditions and Christian persecution comes upon us, but that is not true! The words of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 24 should be enough to convince anyone that we will go through the 'great tribulation'. Daniel too, in chapter seven, describes the Antichrist's 'war with the saints' as does the Apostle John in Revelation 12, and so it should not be a surprise to any of us that this affliction and tribulation will come upon the saints!

The Bible uses the Greek word 'Thlipsis' which is translated affliction or tribulation forty-five times in the New Testament. Thirty-eight of those are describing the pressures and persecution imposed upon the saint of God! The Lord Jesus Christ used this word in Matthew 24:21 to describe that period of time just before His coming called the 'great tribulation.' Yes, tribulation has always been, and always will be, the lot of the saint of God! However, we will be delivered from 'the wrath to come' (I Thessalonians 1:10) which is authored by God to punish the Gentile and purify the Jew, but not the tribulation that precedes it which is allowed by God but authored by Satan and his Antichrist.(Revelation 12:12)

This truth is found throughout the New Testament, was believed and thoroughly recorded by the Church Fathers [100A.D.-400A.D.], and has been found to be true during the past two-thousand years of Church history. And so it will be as we continue on to the end of the age, God's people will be increasingly persecuted the closer we come to that glorious day of deliverance when Jesus comes again! Here are just a few quotes from the writings of the Church Fathers indicating their belief that the Church would experience the tribulation/persecution of the Antichrist: 'The man of apostasy...shall venture to do unlawful deeds on the earth against the Christian'--Justin Martyr; 'And they (Antichrist's ten kings)... shall give their kingdom to the beast, and put the Church to flight.'-Irenaeus; 'That the beast Antichrist with his false prophet may wage war on the Church of God'-Tertullian

Revelation 20:4 records: 'And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands, and they lived and reigned with Christ a

thousand years.' Here the method of martyrdom is recorded as beheading!

It is significant that the method which the Muslims use to execute their enemies is the same. This has been recorded in world news frequently in recent days and could well be the foreshadowing of the intense persecution that is to come by and through this Satanic religious group, which just so happens to be the fastest growing religion worldwide! And so, as we look to the future days with the coming of the Lord and the end of the age drawing near we must wake up to the reality of the coming persecution and tribulation, and 'Arm yourselves likewise with the same mind' [of Christ](I Peter 4:1) , 'putting on the whole armor of God... that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all to stand!' (Ephesians 6:13)



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"The Darkening Cloud of Deception"

(Part III)

The third major issue that the PTRT brings to the forefront is the false teaching/teachers that it has brought into the church. If there are no Bible texts to support the 'at any moment' return of Christ, and in fact there are plenty of Bible passages that confirm that there are necessary 'intervening events' which need to take place before His coming, as outlined in Part I, then what must be done to correct this conflicting message!

Dr. S.P. Tregelles whom we have referred to earlier, pointed out that two major issues were his great concern, due to the adoption of the PTRT, one being the denial of 'intervening events' and the introduction of 'false teachers' in the church'. It is significant that the PTRT was born during the era of the birth of false religious cults such as the Jehovah's [False] Witnesses-1870, Seventh Day Adventists-1830's the Mormons-1827, the Christian Scientists-1848. It's beginnings, although found in the writings of Morgan Edwards in 1788, the real development and advancement of the theory did not take form until the now famous dream and prophesying of Margaret MacDonald in 1832.

Even though the Scripture forbids women from speaking 'in the churches' (I Corinthians 14:34) her prophesying was accepted as from the Lord in Edward Irving's Pentecostal Catholic Apostolic Church and became the foundation of the PTRT. Her dream, being the source of her prophesying, is also shown to be out of order in that the church age will be characterized by: 'young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams'(Acts 2:17) not young women, and therefore even her dream must be rejected as not being from the Lord. This same verse does authorize prophesying: 'your sons and your daughters shall prophesy' but, the key here is that it is not to be done in the church where women would be in authority over men!

So, a false doctrine was born, much to the dismay of those who knew the Word of God during that time, and men like the great scholar Dr. S.P. Tregelles was at the forefront of battle. Although he was and is a recognized Biblical scholar of the highest degree, having published The Englishman's Greek Concordance, The Englishman's Hebrew and Chaldee Concordance along with six other study volumes including The Greek New Testament with Ancient Readings in full, and Jerome's Latin Version, he was ignored by those who based their PTRT on theories founded primarily on the dream and prophesying of a young women!

However, we are now a full century and a half from that day, and this theory has become 'tradition' not needing the support of the truth of the Word of God, but simply the word of 'great men' of the past. This seems to be the substance necessary to uphold and confirm this grievous error! And so, introducing the truth of Scripture, at a moment like this, is first met with the cry 'heretic', 'Just what does he think he's doing, I've been preaching and teaching this for thirty years' [therefore it must be the truth] they say.

Yes, I remember well when I was first confronted concerning my 'errant prophetic beliefs'. A friend, who still is my friend, came to me to 'straighten me out' on the subject, and after thirty minutes or so of loving explanation, he was 'scratching his head' and considering my position. He was not aware of the relative 'newness' of the PTRT and how it was born etc., etc., etc.

But, the issue that needs to be resolved is this: There are false teachers in the church and they don't have a clue as to the degree and 'doctrine' because, for the most part this 'different from tradition' message of truth concerning the coming of Christ and the end of the age, in the fundamental Bible teaching church, is being ignored or soundly rejected as heretical without a good evaluation of the truth itself!

Therefore, we, who know and hold to this truth, must continue to teach and preach it at all opportunities the Lord provides. We must begin at home with our loved ones and indoctrinate thoroughly those whom God puts under our authority, with the truth of Scripture, so that their minds will not be darkened or deceived by the tradition of the PTRT and therefore make them vulnerable to being unprepared for the fierce and deadly persecution that is coming, yes, even now is increasing, upon us all who believe!



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"Revival of Early Church Prophecy"

The Lord reveals to His beloved prophet Daniel in the twelfth and closing chapter of Daniel's prophetic book a very significant truth that is being played out in our day! This truth is found in Daniel 12:4 & 12:9:

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased"

"And He said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

Since Israel was established as a nation in 1948, and the Jews are returning to the Promised Land in record numbers fulfilling the necessary prophecy of Deuteronomy 31:1-9; Ezekiel:24-36, 37:21ff stating that the Lord will gather the Jews from all the nations and will bring them into the land and He will then circumcise their heart and bring the blessing on them - speaking of the Millennial Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ - we can be assured that we are living in the time of the end.

This miraculous birth and establishment of the nation of Israel was accomplished in 1948. The six-day war of 1967 gave Israel control over the entire city of Jerusalem. These are but two of the necessary ingredients of God's program for the end of the age, for unless Israel is a sovereign nation, able to make treaties and covenants with other world powers, the beginning of Daniel's Seventieth Week, which is initiated by the confirming of a covenant with the Antichrist (Daniel 9:27), the end times can not begin. But, since God has begun to fulfill His prophetic program by regathering His people into the Promised Land, the stage is now set for the unfolding of the necessary events of the time of the end.

Therefore, we can be assured that we are living in what Daniel describes as 'the time of the end' and the unsealing of Daniel's book is well nigh at hand! This is what I call the REVIVAL OF EARLY CHURCH PROPHECY. During the last two decades of the Twentieth Century students of prophecy have labored over the Scriptures bringing to light much new prophetic insight by the harmonizing of all

of the prophetic passages of the entire Bible. This effort has brought about a revival or return to what the church fathers believed as revealed in their writings!

By standing on the foundation of the prophetic teachings of Scripture and examining the interpretation of the church fathers, those leaders of the church who lived during the first, second and third centuries, it is clear to even the casual observer that the Church will definitely experience the presence and persecution of the Antichrist but not the Day of the Lord/Wrath of God! This had been the position of the Church throughout the ages up until the mid-1800's when the pre-tribulation rapture theory was wrested from the Scriptures primarily by John Darby and then popularized in the USA by C.I.Scofield who basically used much of the teachings of John Darby, the founder of the Plymouth Brethren, to formulate his popular study Bible.

The majority of modern-day Bible teachers hold to the pre-tribulation rapture theory. However, since the introduction of Robert Van Kampen and Marvin Rosenthal's books, 'The Sign' and 'The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church' there has been a steady movement of Bible teachers to the Pre-Wrath prophetic doctrine of Scripture. God's unsealing of the prophetic passages continues, coming right on time as always, bringing to light the truth that was taught by the early church and the church fathers, but not necessarily systematized or labeled during the past two millennia!



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Fifteen Consequences & Characteristics of the End Times Evangelists/144K/Saints

1. They will know their God (Daniel 11:32)
[Experiential Knowledge of God and His Ways]
2. They shall be strong (Daniel 11:32)
[Power of the Holy Spirit]
3. They shall do exploits (Daniel 11:32; Revelation 12:11)
[Greater than these shall ye do...]
4. They shall understand (Daniel 11:33, 12:4,9)
[Grasp of End Times Truths]
5. They shall instruct many (Daniel 11:33)
[Preachers/Teachers of the Way/Life/Righteousness]
6. They shall fall by sword/flame/captivity/spoil many days(Dan 11:33;Rev 6:9-11,12:11, 20:4)
[Martyrs]
7. They shall be helped with a little help (Daniel 11:34)
[Support of the Saints]
8. They shall be cleaved unto by many w/flatteries (Daniel 11:34)
[Period of Popularity]
9. They shall be tried/tested/troubled (Daniel 11:35)
[During Daniel's Seventieth Week]
10. They shall be purged/purified thru trials/testing/trouble and made pure/white (Daniel 11:35)
[Holiness]
11. They shall shine as the brightness of the firmament (Daniel 12:3)
[During The Great Tribulation]
12. They shall turn many to righteousness (Daniel 12:3)
[Souls for Jesus is our Battle Cry]
13. They shall overcome the devil by/Blood of the Lamb & the word of their testimony (Revelation 12:11)
14. They shall love not their lives unto the death (Revelation 12:11)
[Love for Christ]
15. They shall give their lives for/Word of God & their testimony (Revelation 6:9,12:11,20:4)
[Martyrs]

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Commands in View of The Lord's Return

1. Watchfulness: Matthew 24:42ff; 25:13; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 12:35-38; Revelation 16:15
2. Sobriety: I Thessalonians 5:2-6; I Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8
3. Faithfulness: Matthew 25:19-21; Luke 12:42-44; 19:12,13
4. Unashamed: Mark 8:38
5. Against Worldliness: Matthew 16:26,27
6. Moderation: Philippians 4:5
7. Patience: Hebrews 10:36,37; James 5:7,8
8. Mortification of the Flesh: Colossians 3:5
9. Sincerity: Philippians 1:9,10
10. Sanctification: I Thessalonians 5:23
11. Ministerial Faithfulness: II Timothy 4:1,2
12. Explicit Obedience: I Timothy 6:13,14
13. Pastoral Diligence & Purity: I Peter 5:2-4
14. Purity: I John 2:3
15. Abide in Christ: I John 2:28
16. Endurance in Trials: I Peter 1:7
17. Rejoice in Persecution as Partakers of Christ's Suffering: I Peter 4:13
18. Holiness & Godliness: II Peter 3:1-13
19. Brotherly Love: I Thessalonians 3:12,13
20. Mind Heavenly Citizenship: Philippians 3:20,21
21. Love His Coming: II Timothy 4:7,8
22. Look for Him: Hebrews 9:27,28
23. Have Confidence in Him: Philippians 1:6
24. Hold Fast unto the End: Revelation 2:25,3:11
25. Separation from Worldly Lusters: Titus 3:11-13
26. Hope of a Reward: Matthew 19:27-28
27. Proclaim at the Lord's Supper: I Corinthians 11:26
28. Comfort One Another: I Thessalonians 4:14-18

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"Daniel Describes the Antichrist"

Daniel 7:8-25

1. He, the 'little horn' will form a three-nation confederacy which are the 'three of the first horns' v.8,24
2. He will speak 'very great things' and will possess a 'look' or appearance which will be 'more stout than his fellows'. v.20
3. He makes war with the saints and prevails against them. v.21 (Revelation 11:7)
4. 'He shall speak great words against the Most High' v.25 (II Thessalonians 2:4)
5. He 'shall wear out the saints of the Most High' v.25 (Revelation 13:7)
6. He shall think to change times and laws and they shall be given into his hand until 3 1/2 years are up. v.25

Daniel 8:23-25

1. He will appear in the latter times (Daniel's Seventieth Week) of Israel's history v.23
2. Through alliances with other nations he achieves world influence v.24
3. His peace program helps his rise to power v.25
4. He is extremely intelligent and persuasive v.23
5. He is characterized by Satanic control v.24
6. He is the adversary of Israel and the Prince of princes v.24,25
7. Direct judgment from God ends his rule v.25

Daniel 9:27

1. He makes/confirms a covenant with the many (Israel) for one week (7 years)
2. In the midst of the week he causes the sacrifice to cease, and sets himself up as god, he himself being the "abomination of desolation" Matthew 24:15

Daniel 11:23-45

1. The covenant he makes with Israel guarantees peace and protection, but in reality is a product of his deception. v.23
2. In time of peace he conquers areas which were not conquered before, distributing the spoils, devising schemes, but his downfall will come. v.24
3. He tries to conquer Egypt "the king of the south" with a great army but without success v.25
4. He will return to Israel and be against the holy covenant he made

- with Israel. v.28
5. He again heads toward the south but a naval power, probably Italy, will come against him. He returns and fulfills the Lord's prophecy concerning the "abomination of desolation." v.30,31
 6. He does according to his will, exalting and magnifying himself above every god, speaking against the God of Heaven, prospering until the appointed time of being rendered useless by The Lord Himself. v.36
 7. He shows no regard for the gods of his fathers, or for the desire of women, many believe he is Jewish and therefore this refers to the Messiah, as women desire to be the mother of Messiah. v.37
 8. He instead honors the god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know, which is in reality Satan himself. v.38
 9. He goes to war with the help of Satan and is successful giving honor to those who worship him, giving them rule over many. v.39
 10. The king of the south (Egypt) and the king of the north (Syria) will come against him with great forces, but he will pass through conquering even though Edom, Moab, and the children of Ammon will escape.v.40,41
 11. He will have success over the land and possessions of Egypt and Libya and Ethiopia will also be under his dominion. v.42,43
 12. But tidings out of the east (Italy) and north (Russia) shall trouble him increasing his fury destroying multitudes. v.44
 13. He will set up his headquarters between Jerusalem and the Mediterranean Sea, but he will be utterly destroyed by the Lord in the end, and no one will come to his help. v.45

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Bible Facts About "The Day of The Lord"

1. Definition:

Time set aside by God to judge the ungodly living on earth (Romans 2:3-9; II Peter 3:7; Revelation 9:20,21), and to purify the nation of Israel (Isaiah 1:24-28; Ezek.7:19 20; Amos 5:18,19)

2. Description:

Zephanian 1:14-18 "The great Day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry bitterly That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but He shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land."

3. Starting point:

Begins after The Rapture, the very same day God's people are delivered, His Wrath will begin. (Luke 17:22-36) The Day of the Lord does not begin at the start of Daniel's Seventieth Week, but does begin at the opening of the Seventh Seal (Revelation 8:1) revealing God's Wrath contained inside the Large Scroll.

4. Signs:

Two Old Testament Prophets and four New

Testament Writers confirm the awesome heavenly signs that will be manifested before the Day of the Lord begins: Isaiah 13:6-13 v.10 "For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine." Joel 2:31 "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible Day of the Lord come." Matthew 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" Mark 13:24,25 "But in those days after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken." Acts 2:20 "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable Day of the Lord come. Revelation 6:12 "And I beheld when He had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood"

5. Includes:

All that is contained inside the Large Scroll, The Seven Trumpet Judgments, The Seven Bowl Judgments and the Battle of Armageddon, but not the Seals on the outside of the Large Scroll. (Revelation 8:1-11:19 & 15:1-19:21)

6. Ends:

The Day of the Lord ends thirty days after the end of Daniel's Seventieth Week culminating with Christ's victorious triumph at the Battle of Armageddon (Daniel 12:11; Revelation 19:11-21)



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The End Times: An Overview

As the Coming of the Lord draws near we must keep our eyes fixed on the world political scene in anticipation of the rise of the Antichrist for he will initiate Daniel's Seventieth Week, the last of Daniels seventy weeks as prophesied in Daniel 9:24-27. This last week or seven years will begin when the Antichrist 'shall confirm the covenant, with many for one week'. However in order to confirm this covenant with Israel, he will have to become a powerful world leader with the clout to be able to offer Israel the peace that the covenant promises. Therefore, there must be a rise to power by the Antichrist, when he, the 'little horn' will gather 'three of the first horns' (Daniel 7:8), referring to the three nation confederacy he will form. Ezekiel 38:2,3 gives the names of these three first horns: 'Son of man, set thy face against Gog [Antichrist], the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophecy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog [Antichrist] the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal'. These nations are believed to be from the eastern Europe i.e. Russian area of the world. This is the next event on God's Prophetic Program.

Concurrent with the confirming of the covenant at the beginning of Daniel's Seventieth Week is the opening of the First Seal as described in Revelation chapter six. The Lord Jesus Christ is 'the Lamb' in Revelation 6:1 who sequentially opens all Seven Seals. However the results or effects of the first Five Seals being opened are not authored by Him, but are instead the work of the Satanically energized Antichrist. The results of these seals being opened as described in Revelation 6 will be played out during Daniel's Seventieth Week bringing about these events: "many shall come in My name, saying , I am Christ, and shall deceive many; 'wars and rumors of wars', 'nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows". (Matthew 24:5-7) Here, the Lord describes the events of the first 3-1/2 years of Daniel's Seventieth Week, which coincides with the results of the opening of the first Four Seals of Revelation 6:1-8.

The opening of the Fifth Seal is next: 'the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they held' (Revelation 6:9) describes the fierce persecution of God's people beginning at the mid-point of Daniels Seventieth Week after the Abomination of Desolation (Matthew 24:15) takes place. This event, the Abomination of Desolation, initiates the Great Tribulation, "For then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the

world to this time, no, nor ever shall be, And except those days be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake; those days will be shortened." (Matthew 24:21,22)

The shortening of those days for the sake of God's children, the elect, brings us to the next event. The Christians who will not take the mark of the beast, those who faithfully continue to stand for the Lord Jesus Christ, will be 'saved from wrath' (Romans 5:9). Yes, "God hath not appointed us to wrath; but to obtain salvation{deliverance] by our Lord Jesus Christ."(I Thessalonians 5:9) The Rapture will deliver all born-again believers from the 'wrath of God' which is to come upon the whole earth! The wrath of God, known as the Day of the Lord, is about to come upon the unbelieving world! This climactic unparalleled judgment by God is preceded by many prophecied events in Scripture. The Awareness of the Believer (I Thessalonians 5:1-10); The Falling Away (II Thessalonians 2:1-3); The Man of Sin Revealed (II Thessalonians 2:1-10); The Sending of Elijah (Malachi 4:5,6); The Heavenly Wonders (Joel 2:30,31); The Last Trump (Joel 2:1; Zephanaiah 1:14-18) are some of the significant events that must occur before the Day of the Lord begins.

The Heavenly Wonders are the most mentioned event that will occur before the Day of the Lord. In Revelation 6:12,13 "the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth" showing these awesome occurrences happening as the result of the opening of the Sixth Seal. However these Heavenly Wonders are also mentioned in Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:24,25; Luke 21:25 directly linking them with the Coming of the Lord!! Isaiah 13:6-13; Joel 3:14-16 and Acts 2:19,20 also tie them directly to the Day of the Lord, happening just before the Day of the Lord begins! This darkening of the heavens will magify the Glory of the Lord when He comes 'in great power and glory' (Matthew 24:30) to Rapture His waiting Bride the Church!

"And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet [The Last Trump (I Corinthians 15:51,52); The Trump of God (I Thessalonians 4:16)] and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matthew 24:31) "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:27,28). It is now time for the Lord to come and receive His own unto Himself! Yes, when He cuts short the Great Tribulation to preserve His elect, then, the same day the Day of the Lord begins, He will rescue His children from the fierce persecution of the Antichrist and begin His devastating judgment on rebellious unrepentant people on earth! Just as He rescued Noah and his family the same day the flood began, and likewise Lot and his family the same day the fire and brimstone fell from heaven, the same day He begins His Day of the Lord judgment He will deliver His children by Rapture!

This judgment, the wrath of God which is the Day of the Lord is described in the Seven Trumpet Judgments and the Seven Vial/Bowl Judgments of Revelation 8,9,10,14,15,16,17 & 18 culminating with the

Lord coming on 'a white horse' with 'the armies which were in heaven' which are the angels of God. "And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations; and He should rule them with a rod of iron; and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and the wrath of Almighty God." (Revelation 19:11-15) The verses that follow describe the mighty victory of the Lord Jesus Christ as He defeats the armies of the Antichrist gathered at Armageddon. This brings to a close the Program of God for the End Times. The Golden Age of the Millennium, the literal 1,000 year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ upon a purified, cleansed, and new earth will then begin, after which Satan will be loosed for a short time only to once and for all be defeated and thrown into the lake of fire for eternity!



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"Seven Errors of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture Theory"

(Source in Part: Zion's Fire--July/August 1994)

- Pre-Tribulation Theory did not exist before 1830 thereby contradicting the first 1800 years of Prophetic thought and the clear teaching of the New Testament and the Early Church Fathers.
- Pre-Tribulation Theory has no clear Biblical basis of support, but in distinct contrast it does have problem passages which are ignored instead of explained, such as II Thess 2:1-8.
- Pre-Tribulation Theory incorrectly views substantial portions of the New Testament as having no application to the Church. The complete book of Matthew with the Beautitudes and Great Commission are said to be only for the Jews in order to eliminate the clear teaching of Matthew 24 regarding the timing of the Lord's Return.
- Pre-Tribulation Theory incorrectly teaches two separate Comings of Christ, one when He comes "for His Church" and the second when He comes "with His Church" without one verse of explanation. There is but one Return of our Lord taught throughout the Old & New Testament, and is never referred to in the plural.
- Pre-Tribulation Theory incorrectly uses Revelation 3:10 to teach that the Church will not be present during "the hour of testing". This verse in the original language teaches removal out from within the sphere of danger.
- Pre-Tribulation Theory incorrectly teaches the doctrine of the imminency, at any moment, Return of the Lord. The Bible does teach expectancy of His Return. There were many events that had to take place before the Lord returned: The Destruction of the Temple (Luke 21:6); The Death of Peter (John 21:18,19); Fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19,20); etc.
- Pre-Tribulation Theory denies the clear teaching of The Lord Jesus Christ---His Return 'after' He cuts short the

Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21-31). This theme is repeated and expanded upon in Mark and Luke, and is confirmed by the teaching of Paul to the Thessalonian church.

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Prophetic Questions and Answers

1. Can we know when the Lord will Return?

- A. We can not know the specific "day and hour"(Matthew 24:36), but the Lord expects us to know when "it is near, even at the doors" when we see "all these things"(Matthew 24:33) the things He spoke of in the preceding verses. (Matthew 24:4-26)
- B. Paul also tells the believers, they will not be "in darkness" concerning the Lord's Return and The Day of the Lord. (I Thessalonians 5:4)

2. What is The Day of the Lord?

- A. It is the time of God's future wrath/judgment on Israel and unbelieving Gentiles as described in numerous Old Testament passages. (Joel 1:15, 2:1-11, Zephaniah 1:14-18, 2:1-15, 3:8)
- B. The Day of the Lord is important to the Christian for it is directly linked to the Rapture of the Church. (I Thess 4:13-5:10, II Peter 2:4-10)

3. What events must precede God's Wrath the Day of the Lord?

- A. Signs in the Heavens
 1. Isaiah 13:9-13
 2. Ezekiel 32:7,8
 3. Joel 2:1-11, 28-32, 3:9-17
 4. Matthew 24:29-31
 5. Mark 13:24-27
 6. Luke 21:25-28
 7. Acts 2:19,20
- B. The Coming of Elijah (Malachi 4:5)
- C. Unbelievers say "peace and safety" (I Thess 5:2,3)
- D. Believers "not in darkness" (I Thess 5:4,5)
- E. The "falling away first" (Israel) (II Thess 2:3)
- F. The "man of sin revealed" (II Thess 2:3)

4. Will the Rapture precede God's Wrath The Day of the Lord?

- A. Yes, the Believer is "not appointed unto wrath" (I Thess 5:9, Revelation 3:10)
- B. God always delivers His children before His judgment
 - 1. Noah and his family (Gen 7, Matthew 24:36-41)
 - 2. Lot and his family (Luke 17:22-37)
- C. The Day of the Lord will begin the same day Believers are raptured. (Luke 21:25-28)

5. Should we expect the Lord's Return today?

- A. Peter did not expect His imminent (at any moment) Return (John 21:18) Peter would grow old, and did not expect the Lord to return during his younger years.
- B. The Disciples did not expect His imminent (at any moment) Return (Matthew 24:1,2) They knew the temple had to be destroyed in the future, and therefore did not expect the Lord to return until that event was completed.
- C. The New Testament Christians did not expect His imminent (at any moment) Return.(Matthew 28;18-20) They had to evangelize the world before the Lord would return.
- D. Paul did not expect His imminent (at any moment) Return (I Thess 5:1-10, II Thess 2:1-4)Paul knew these events he wrote about had to take place before the Lord would return.
- E. We should expect His Return to occur during our lifetime for we are seeing the beginning of "all these things" (Matthew 24:33) happen before our very eyes. The things Jesus spoke of to His disciples in Matthew 24:4-8.



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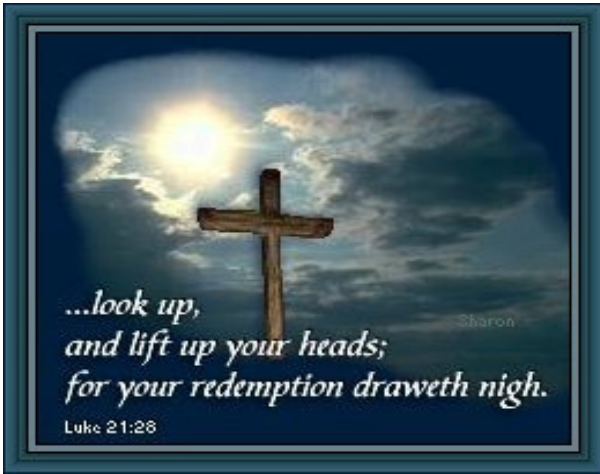
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The Rapture of the Church and The Day of the Lord

In recent years the pre-tribulation rapture position has come into question due to the apparent Biblical accuracy of the pre-wrath rapture theory. This position holds to the rapture of the church prior to God's wrath which is the Day of the Lord. However, the pre-wrath rapture and the Day of the Lord are both placed within Daniel's seventieth week. This is where the pre-wrath theory parts ways with the standard fundamental pre-tribulation rapture theory.

Although the Bible teaches that we cannot know the specific hour the rapture will occur, it does tell us we can and should know "the times and the seasons". (I Thess. 5:1-10) The Lord Jesus, after answering His disciples questions by laying out the end times events in chronological order, told them "When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near even at the door"(Matt. 24:33) speaking of His Coming to rapture the church.

It is just prior to this passage the Lord also tells us of heavenly wonders that will precede His Coming: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory . And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matt.24:29-31).

The significance of this passage is profound. It is these "wonders in heaven", the darkening of the sun and moon, and the stars falling from heaven, that bind together the rapture of the church with the Day of the Lord. These same wonders will also precede the Day of the Lord (Joel 2:30,31;2:14,15; Acts 2:19,20) The timing of these wonders is clear by the context in which they are found. In Matthew 24 the Lord Jesus places them after the "abomination of desolation" which takes place at the middle of Daniel's Seventieth Week. This fully agrees with the context of Revelation 6. This key chapter is taken up with the opening of the seals showing that these same wonders follow the opening of the Sixth Seal (Rev. 6:12,13).

Likewise, Luke 21:25-28 places these same wonders just before the Rapture "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; Mens hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, **then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.**" This rapture text is one of the most descriptive in the entire Word of God.

Mark 13:24-27 also testifies to this Rapture truth: "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall He send His angels, and shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven." It is obvious that the Lord was giving a chronological order of events that would take place during Daniel's seventieth week. Time and again He uses the words "then, when, and after " to indicate that His answers to the disciples questions are in precise chronological order.

I Thess. 4:13-18 the classic Rapture passage is also connected to the Day of the Lord. Paul, after penning 4:13-18 covering the Rapture, continues in context discussing the Day of the Lord 5:1-10 as though they were one and the same event. Although this only scratches the surface concerning the Bible's teaching on the Rapture, the Bible is clear, the Rapture and the Day of the Lord are tied closely together, and they will be preceded by wonders in heaven sometime after the abomination of desolation.

(Continued.....The Day Of The Lord)



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"Ezekiel Describes the Antichrist"

Antichrist in Ezekiel 38

1. He is 'Gog' the 'chief prince' of a three-nation confederacy Magog, Meschech, and Tubal regions of the former Soviet Union. v.2
2. God will 'put hooks' into his jaws bringing him and his army into the land of Israel. v.4
3. Persia (Iran), Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer (Ukraine), and Togarmah (Turkey/Armenia) will join him in the assault against Israel. v.5,6
4. It will be in the 'latter years' after Israel is regathered during a time when Israel dwells safely. v.8
5. He 'shall ascend and come like a storm' and will cover Israel 'like a cloud'. v.9
6. He will 'think an evil thought' conceiving a mischievous purpose by attacking the 'unwalled villages' of Israel. v.10
7. He shall come out of the 'north parts' with 'many people...all of them riding upon horses, a great company and a mighty army. v.15
8. He will come against the people of God in the 'latter days'. v.16
9. God will unleash His fury against Gog. v.18
10. God 'will call for a sword against' Gog ,throughout all My mountains' v.21
11. God 'will plead against him with pestilence and with blood'v.22
12. God 'will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones,fire, and brimstone.' v.22

Antichrist in Ezekiel 39

1. God will turn [Gog] back, and leave but the sixth part' v.2
2. The Lord Jesus Christ will defeat the Antichrist at the battle of Armageddon described in v.3-6
3. The battle will be followed by seven months of burying the dead of armies of the Antichrist. v.11-16
4. The 'feathered fowl and beast of the field' will 'eat flesh, and drink blood' from the great slaughter of the Antichrist's armies. v.17-20

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