

## CHAPTER 20



### THE RAPTURE

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition” (2 Thessalonians 2:3). “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52). “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

#### EXPLANATION:

In the Greek language the word “caught up” in 1 Thessalonians is *harpotso*, which means to be snatched away violently. The Latin equivalent to that word is *rapus*, which is where we get the English word **rapture**. In two of the prophecies above the Apostle Paul is simply explaining a mystery but it is really not a mystery but a *secret* which the Apostle Paul is telling us about that will take place someday in the future. This secret - or as some bibles read mystery - is the snatching away or rapture of Christians from Earth. People who are raptured or “caught up” to the Lord will miss the wrath of God poured out during the Great Tribulation.

I hear many people saying that the word rapture doesn’t even appear in the Bible and the teaching is a new teaching which of course is untrue as you will see. In short as seen in (2 Thessalonians 2:3) “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man

of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”) there is going to be an apostasy just prior to the Antichrist being revealed.

A careful study of the word **apostasy** reveals, just before the Antichrist takes power there will be a **departure** of Church from this Earth. This departure is the rapture. When you read the New Testament you will discover the Greek noun **apostasía** only shows up twice. You see apostasia first in the book of Acts 21:21 where speaking of the Apostle Paul it is said, “And they have been informed concerning thee, that thou teachest all the Jews among the nations **apostasy** from Moses, saying that they should not circumcise their children, nor walk in the customs. This translation was taken from the Barby Bible. What you see in this verse is, they were addressing a (**departure**) from what Moses taught. The second time you see the word apostasy is in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 where again it is addressing a departure, only this time it deals with a departure of the Christians from the Earth.

Let’s break down this Greek word so you fully understand what is meant in Acts 21:21. The word is a Greek compound of *apo* "from" and *istemi* "stand." Thus, it has the core meaning of "away from" or "departure." The Liddell and Scott Greek Lexicon defines *apostasía* first as "defection, revolt;" then secondly as "**departure, disappearance.**" You can find this information from Henry George Liddell and Henry Scott, *A Greek-English Lexicon*, Revised with a Supplement [1968] by Sir Henry Stuart Jones and Roderick McKenzie (Oxford, Eng.: Oxford University Press, 1940), p. 218.

When you read Gordon Lewis’ work on the apostasia found at: Gordon R. Lewis, “Biblical Evidence for Pretribulationism,” *Bibliotheca Sacra* (vol. 125, no. 499; July 1968), p. 218, Mr. Lewis explains how the verb from which the noun *apostasía* is derived supports the basic meaning of departure in the following: The verb may mean to remove spatially. There is little reason then to deny that the noun can mean such a spatial removal or departure. Since the noun is used only one other time in the New Testament of apostasy from Moses (Acts 21:21), we can hardly conclude that its Biblical meaning is necessarily determined. The verb is used fifteen times in the New Testament. Of these fifteen, only three have anything to do with a departure from the faith (Luke 8: 13; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb 3:12).

The word is used for departing from iniquity (2 Tim. 2:19), from ungodly men (1 Tim. 6:5), from the temple (Luke 2:27), from the body (2 Cor. 12:8), and from persons (Acts 12:10; Luke 4:13). Take a look at the conclusion Daniel Davey comes up with in his work found in: Daniel K. Davey, “The ‘Apostasia’ of II Thessalonians 2:3,” Th.M. thesis, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, May 1982, p. 27. I quote, “It is with full assurance of proper exegetical study and with complete confidence in the original languages,” concludes Daniel Davey,” that the word meaning of *apostasía* is defined as departure.”

Now look what Paul Lee Tan says in his work found in: Paul Lee Tan, *The Interpretation of Prophecy* (Winona Lake, IN: Assurance Publishers, 1974), p. 341. I quote, “What precisely does Paul mean when he says that” the falling away” (2:3) must come before the tribulation? The definite article “the” denotes that this will be a definite event, an event distinct from the appearance of the Man of Sin. The Greek word for “falling away”, taken by itself, does not mean religious apostasy or defection. Neither does the word mean “to fall,” as the Greeks have another word for that. [*pipto*, I fall; TDI] The best translation of the word is “to **depart**.” The apostle Paul refers here to a definite event which he calls “the **departure**,” and which will occur just before the start of the tribulation. This is the rapture of the church.” What about the history of the translation of this very important word concerning the *apostasía* or, if you will the departure? Read the work by H. Wayne House, “Apostasia in 2 Thessalonians 2:3: Apostasy or Rapture?” in Thomas Ice and Timothy Demy, eds., *When the Trumpet Sounds: Today’s Foremost Authorities Speak Out on End-Time Controversies* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1995), p. 270. I quote, “The first seven English translations of *apostasía* all rendered the noun as either “departure” or” departing.” They are as follows: Wycliffe Bible (1384); Tyndale Bible (1526); Coverdale Bible (1535); Cranmer Bible (1539); Breeches Bible (1576); Beza

Bible (1583); Geneva Bible (1608):” What do all these historical writings show us? It supports the fact that the apostasia really means what it was intended to mean a departure.

In fact, Jerome’s Latin translation known as the Vulgate from around the time of a.d. 400 renders *apostasia* with the "word *discessio*, meaning ' departure.' “You can read this fact at: House, “Apostesia”, p. 270. All of this information leads to an important question. Why was the King James Version the first to depart from the established translation of “departure”? There was a man by the name of Theodore Beza, who was a Swiss reformer. Beza was the first man to transliterate apostasia into a new word which he replaced apostasia with “falling away”. The translators of the King James Version were the first to introduce Beza rendering of *apostasia* as “falling away.” There is no good reason ever given for the change.

Since the translation of the King James version of the Bible most English translators have followed the KJV and Beza in departing from translating *apostasia* as “departure.” There is no question the correct rendering of apostasia is departure not falling away. Look up Davey, "Apostesia", p. 47. where you will learn the importance of the Apostle Paul using a definite article with the noun *apostasia*. What does this mean? Here is a quote from Davey’s work. “Since the Greek language does not need an article to make the noun definite, it becomes clear that with the usage of the article reference is being made to something in particular. In II Thessalonians 2:3 the word *apostasia* is prefaced by the definite article which means that Paul is pointing to a particular type of departure clearly known to the Thessalonian church.” What event? The rapture!



On the next pages you will see for yourself the renderings from early Bibles concerning the apostesia as being translated (departure).



# The New Testament in English translated by John Wycliffe

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1384 WYCLIFFE BIBLE

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departynge

**E**risoþe bretheren we preyen you by þe comynge of  
oure lord ȝhu ȝn̄ a ȝoure congregaciō into þe  
same þing: þat zee be not mouede ſone fro ȝoure  
wytte: neþer be zee agan: neþer bi ſpirit: neþer  
by worde: neþer by epistle: as ſente by vs: as þe day of þe  
lord be nyz: þat no man deceyue ȝou in any maner: for no  
but departynge aweye (or diſcencon) ſchal come firſt: a þe  
man of ſynne ſchal be ſchewide: þe ſone of perditione þat  
is aduerſarie a is enhauncide upon alle þing þat is ſeyde god  
or þat is worſchipide: ſo þat he ſitte in þe temple (or into þe  
temple) of god: ſchewynge hymſelf as he be god: wher zee  
holden not þat ȝit whanne ȝ was at ȝou: ȝ ſeyde þes þingis  
to ȝou: a now what withhold ȝee witen: þat he be ſchewide  
in his tyme ſorwhy þe myſterie (or pryete) of wickidneſſe  
worſchip now onely þat he þat holdiþ now: holde: til it be  
made of þe myddle: a þanne þe ſke wickide (man) ſchal be  
ſchewide: whom þe lord ȝhu ſchal ſee wiþ þe ſpirit of his  
mouþ: a ſchal diſcure wiþ þe illumynynge (or ſchynynge) of  
his comynge ȝhu ſchal ſee hym whos comynge is aſtir þe  
wyrching of ſathanas: in al vertue: a ſignes a grete wonderis  
liuyng (or falſe): a in al deceyte of wickidneſſe to hem þat pe-  
tiſchen for þat þei receyueden not þe charite of treuþe: þat  
þei ſchulden be made ſaaf: þerfore god ſchal ſende to hem a  
wyrching of errour þat þei biſcure to ſectynge: þat alle be de-  
myde (or dampnyde) þe whiche biſcureden not to treuþe: but  
contentiden to wickidneſſe: ¶ Worſoþe we owen ſor to do þank-  
yngis cuermore to god for ȝou breþeren louede of god: þat  
god chees vs pryncples (or ſirle ſcryptis) into helpe: in ha-  
lowynge of ſpirit a ſerþ of treuþe: in þe whiche a he clepide ȝou  
bi ȝoure goſpel: into actynge of þe glorie of ȝoure lord ȝhu ȝn̄  
a to breþeren ſtonde zee a holde zee þe tradicoins (or tech-  
nyngis) þat zee hane lerneþe oþer by worde oþer by ȝoure epiſ-  
tel ſorſoþe ȝoure lord ȝhu criiþ hym ſelf a god a ȝoure ſauur.



## 1526 TYNDALE BIBLE

THE  
NEW TESTAMENT  
OF OUR  
LORD AND SAVIOUR  
JESUS CHRIST:  
PUBLISHED IN 1526.  
BEING THE FIRST TRANSLATION  
FROM THE GREEKE INTO ENGLISH,  
BY THAT EMINENT SCHOLAR AND MARTYR,  
WILLIAM TYNDALE.  
REPRINTED VERBATIM:  
WITH A MEMOIR OF HIS LIFE AND WRITINGS,  
BY GEORGE OFFOR.  
TOGETHER WITH THE PROCEEDINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE OF HENRY VIII.  
HIS T. MORE, AND LORD CROMWELL.  
LONDON:  
SAMUEL BAGSTER, 15, PATERNOSTER ROW:  
PRINTED BY J. G. ALLEN, 10, BEDFORD SQUARE, W.C.2.  
1881.

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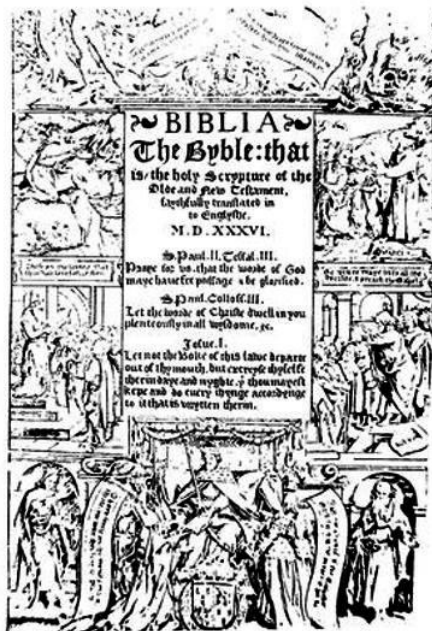
### The seconde Chapter.

**WE** besече you brethren by the comynge of oure lorde Jesu Christ, and in that we shall assemble vnto hym, that ye be not sodenly moved from youre mynde, and be not troubled, nether by sprete, nether by wordes, nor yet by letter, which shulde seme to come from vs, as though the daye of Christ were at honde. Let no man deceave you by eny meanes, for the lorde commeth not, excepte there come a departynge fyrst, and that that synfull man be opened, the sonne of perdition which is an adversarie, and is exalted above all that is called god, or that is worshipped: so that he shall sitt in temple of god, and shewe hym selfe as god.

Remember ye not, that when I was yet with you, I tolde you these thynges? and now ye knowe what with holdeth: even thatt he myght be vttered at his tyme. For alreedy the mistery off iniquyte worketh. Only he that holdeth, let him now holde, vntill hit be taken out of the waye, and then shall thatt wicked be vttered, whom the lorde shall consume with the sprete off his mouth, and shall destroye with the aparence of his comynge, even hym whose comynge is by the workynge off Satan, with all lyinge power, signes, and wonders: and in all deceavableness off vnrighewesnes, amonge them that peryashe: be cause they have nott receaved the love off the trueth, thatt they myght have bene saved. And therefore god shall sende them stronge delusion, thatt they shulde beleve lyes: thatt all they myght be damned which beleved not the trueth, but had pleasure in vnrighewesnes.

1526 TYNDALE BIBLE- "a departynge first"  
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## 1535 COVERDALE BIBLE



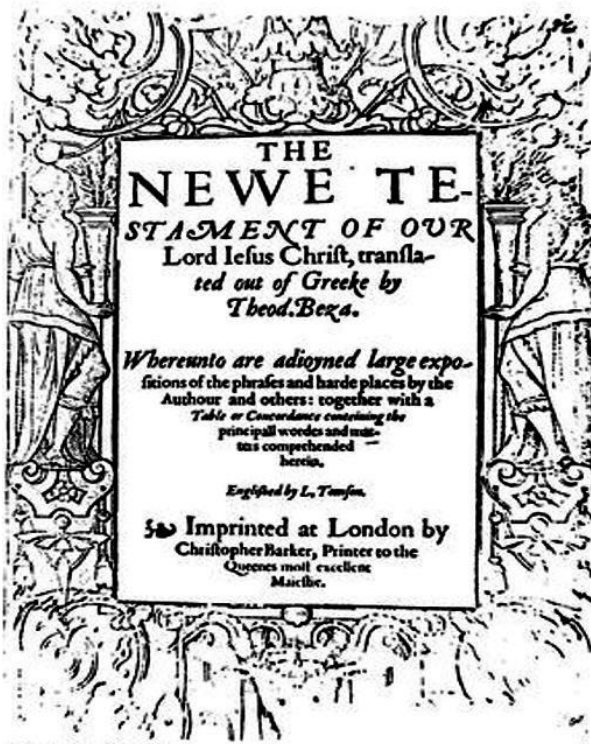
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1535 COVERDALE BIBLE- "the departynge come first"  
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1583 BEZA BIBLE  
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departing

CHAP. II.

1 He sheweth that the day of the Lorde shall not come, till there be a departure from the faith, 3 and that Antichrist be reuiled, 8 whose destruction he setteth out. 15 and thereupon exhorteth to constancie.

**N**OW we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lorde Iesus Christ, and by our assembling vnto him,

2 That ye be not suddenly moued from [your] minde, nor troubled neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter, as [it were] from vs, as though the day of Christ were at hande.

3 Let no man deceiue you by any meanes: for [that day shall not come, except there come a departing first, and that that man esseint be disclosed, [even] the sonne of perdition,

4 Which is an aduersarie, and exalteth himselfe against all that is called God, or that is worshipped: so that he doeth sit as

# 1583 BEZA BIBLE VERSE ENLARGEMENT BELOW

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4 Which is an aduersarie, and exalteth himselfe against all that is called God, or that is worshipped: so that he doeth sit as

Departing first



## 1608 GENEVA BIBLE



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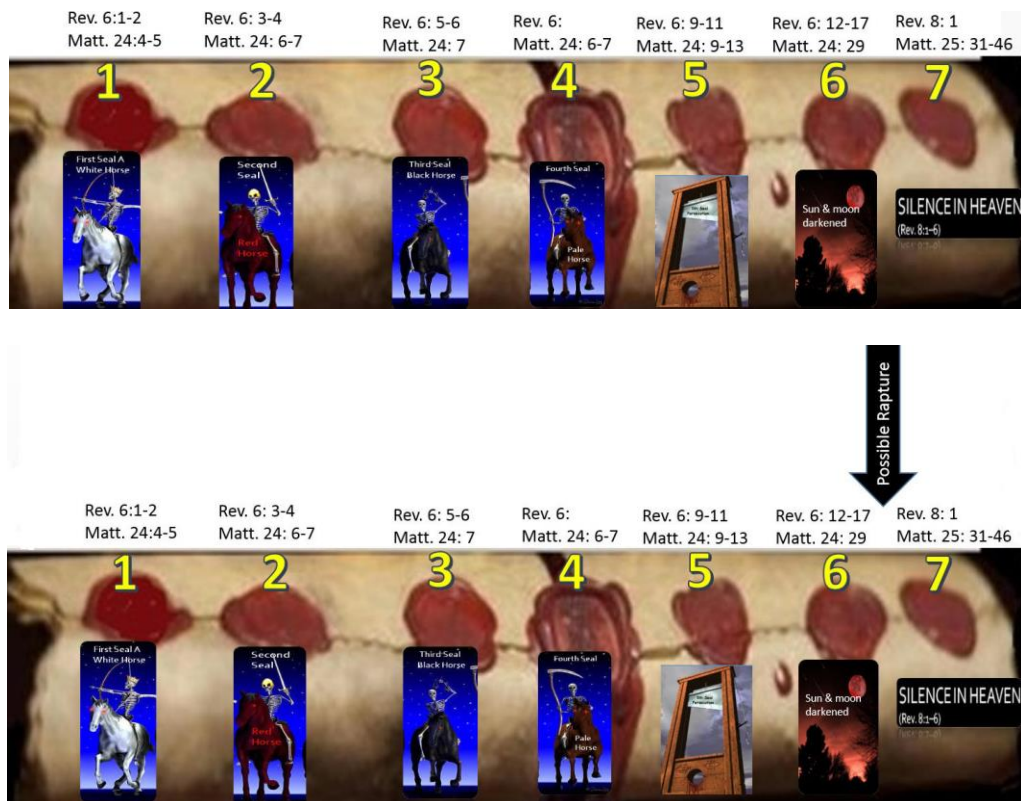
3 \* Let no man deceive you by any  
 meanes : for that day shall not come , except  
 there come a departing first, and that that  
 man of sinne be disclosed, even the sonne of  
 perdition,

1608 GENEVA BIBLE- "a departing first"  
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Alright, now we understand that there will be a rapture or, a taking away of the Lord's Church we need to understand when it is that this event will take place? One of the most important verses in the bible concerning the timing of the rapture is found in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 where Jesus gives the Apostle Paul the exact timing of the rapture. I quote, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day **shall not come**, except there come a falling away first, **and** that man of sin **be revealed**, the son of perdition" (2 Thessalonians 2:3). Jesus tells Paul there are two things that will take place before the rapture. The first thing is a falling away first and notice what is second, the antichrist **has to be revealed first**. There are many pastors that have a hard time with this verse because it shows the Church can't be taken out before the Antichrist is revealed meaning the Church will see at least 3 ½ years of the tribulation. However, there is something very important to think about in the timing of the Antichrists revealing which I will cover shortly.

Why 3 ½ years? In Daniel 9:27 we are told the following: "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for **one week**: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." God revealed to Daniel that when the Antichrist comes one of the first things he will do is confirm a covenant for an exact time period. If you notice Daniel tells us this covenant is a period of **one week**. However, the Hebrew meaning for the word "weeks" is ("shabuwah" in Hebrew) it literally means "**seven in years**". In other words the Antichrist at the beginning of the tribulation will confirm a covenant with many for a period of 7 years. Daniel also reveals to us that exactly 1,260 days after that 7 year covenant is confirmed is the time that the Antichrist will go into the rebuilt Jewish Temple and tell the world he is God. It is at this exact time period the Antichrist begins to enforce his mark of the beast as seen in Revelation chapter 13. If this 1,260 days or 3 ½ years brings us to the exact mid-point in the tribulation is there a place in the bible where Jesus tells us this is the time He will sound the trumpet and rapture His Church? The answer is yes. For the answer I will show you what Jesus reveals to us in Matthew 24: 29-31. "29 "Immediately after the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the

moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’<sup>30</sup> “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.”<sup>31</sup> **And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds**, from one end of the heavens to the other.” Jesus reveals to us that “immediately after the distress of those days” is when the sun goes dark and so does the moon’s light. What days of distress is Christ referring to? For the first 3 ½ years of the 7 years of tribulation will be coming on the Earth from Satan. This is very important, the first 3 ½ years is not wrath being poured out by God! How do we know the first 3 ½ years is not God’s wrath? We know this from the 7 seals Christ has revealed to us. Christ in Matthew 24 told us when the sun and moon go dark that is when He will send out the call to take the Christians home. When you study about the 7 seals you will notice that the sun and moon lose their light right after the 6th seal. Notice this event is right in the middle of the tribulation. Also take careful notice of what happens immediately after the 6<sup>th</sup> seal. At the breaking of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal there is silence in heaven. So, if the sun and moon go dark as stated in Matthew 24 and, Jesus said He would send His angels immediately after these things took place it would stand to reason that the silence in heaven for a period of a half hour may be that exact time when Jesus is taking His Church home. Then everything changes because after the 7 seals are broken and Satan’s tribulation has been falling on the Earth for past 3 ½ years now God’s wrath begins to fall on the unrighteous. Of course this is the wrath that God promised the Church would not face as seen in Romans 5:9 where Paul stated the following: “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” Because Jesus gave us the specific signs of the sun and moon losing their light we know for sure that the revealing of the Antichrist and the sun and moon losing their light only happens at the mid-point in the 7 year tribulation. You will not find any other place in the entire bible where the sun and moon lose their light before the 6<sup>th</sup> seal is broken. You will also learn that Revelation chapters 6 and 8 are the same message Jesus gave us in Matthew chapter 24 and 25. The black arrow shows you when the rapture may take place.





What we know for sure is sometime between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seal the Church has to be taken as we have to be gone before God's wrath starts to be poured out! Another important fact about the seals showing us these seals are not part of God's wrath is how the seals are delivered. If you notice none of the seals are delivered by angels however, when God's wrath is poured out after the seals God uses angels to deliver the judgments.

When talking with other pastors or reading prophecy web sites most will leave out 2 Thessalonians 2:3 because they can't explain how the Church is on the Earth during the first 6 seals? Fact is, most pastors will point to Revelation 3:10 in their attempt to show the Church has to be taken at the beginning of the tribulation. I quote Rev. 3:10. "Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth." These pastors will say "see Jesus is keeping us from the very hour which means we have to be gone".

Did you notice Jesus said that this Church kept my command to **endure patiently**? Endure what? Endure the tribulation that Satan would be pouring out on the last days Church as seen from the 6 seals. As I said, the 6 seals are tribulation coming from Satan not God. Now also take notice our Lord tells us He will keep us from the **very hour**! I want you to notice what Christ first tells you in Matthew 24: 29. He says **IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DISTRESS OF THOSE DAYS**. What days is He talking about? Again this is the tribulation from Satan not from Christ. The wrath God talks about begins after the seals and, that is the time Christ is showing us He will keep us from. This becomes clear when you read Matthew's 24:29-31. "**Immediately after** the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken."<sup>30</sup> "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. Look at verse 31 and ask this question. When are the angels coming with this trumpet call? **Immediately after** the signs Jesus gave us in verse 29 which are: Immediately after the distress of those days "the **sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light**; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' Again, this happens in the middle of the tribulation and as soon as this happens Jesus calls His Church. At this point **the falling away has taken place and the Antichrist is** revealed and now the wrath of God begins. The Church at the very beginning of the Lord's wrath is taken out to be with Christ. When Jesus comes back He will come back at the time when there is no light as you can see from verse 29. Remember what Jesus said how He would return? Look at Matthew 24:27 it says, "For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."

Picture what Jesus is showing us in these verses. In the middle of the tribulation everything will go dark and out of nowhere Jesus comes back as lightning. While the entire Earth is in darkness everything suddenly lights up and everyone sees Him come back for His Church. When you put these scriptures together everything lines up but, if you delete the warning in 2 Thess. 2:3 nothing lines up and that is why most pre-trib people will not say anything about this verse because there is no way around it!

There are people who will point out the accounts of how God saved Noah from the world flood and, Lot from the fire judgment of God's wrath." I ask you this, how long did Noah have to endure the sins and live among those people who defiled God? We know for sure at least 120 years because, that is about the time period it took Noah to build the ark. As with our last generation Noah also had to **endure patiently** until God sealed Him and his family up in the Ark. So, in Revelation 3:10 where Jesus said, "Since you have kept my command to **endure patiently**, I will also keep you from **the hour** of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth", do you think Noah liked living with the ungodly until the Lord sealed him in the ark? No way! Lot lived in Sodom for a long time before the two angels came to get him out of the city before God's wrath was poured out on those who have been vexing

Lot. This is what II Peter 2:7-8 says about Lot. “And delivered just Lot, **vexed** with the filthy conversation of the wicked: [8] For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from **day to day** with their unlawful deeds”. When you look in the Bible Dictionary to see what the word vexed means it says 1. Tortured 2. Troubled 3. Worn down and 4. Oppressed. Does this sound like either Noah or Lot had a free ride from tribulation? Not at all. However, when the time was right to pass the actual wrath of God that is when God removed Noah and Lot and that is what is going to happen after the 6<sup>th</sup> seal is broken and **IMMEDIATELY AFTER** God will step in again just as He has done in the past and save the Christians from His Wrath.

Here is the bottom line. If people you are asking about a pre-trib rapture make sure they also account for what we are told in 2 Thess. 2:3. If the person you speak with can show you that the Antichrist’s revealing comes at the beginning of the tribulation then you will have a case to stand on but, the bible is very clear that this event takes place after the 6<sup>th</sup> seal at the time the sun and moon go dark. If these things are not taking place together as the word points out then they are teaching something other than what Jesus has shown us. Let us keep in mind the rapture is not a salvation issue but an issue of being right with Christ at all times so you don’t have to worry about the rapture at all!

There are other scriptures that people may try to use to prove their pre-tribulation rapture but the real test will be if these scriptures line up or, do not line up with 2 Thessalian’s 2:3 or not? You simply cannot get around the falling away first and the man of sin being revealed first or can they? Do you recall earlier in this chapter I said, “However, there is something very important to think about in the timing of the Antichrists revealing which I will cover shortly.” I want to cover this now. As you continue to read below you will read what Jewish men did to prepare for their wedding and, what they did after the wedding. One of the customs of the Jewish wedding was the Jewish man would have a trumpet blown and then the Jewish man would go out to get his bride. He would take his bride away to spend 7 days alone with his bride to consummate the marriage in their wedding chamber. When Jesus comes back for His Bride, the Church, He takes the Church to heaven for seven years. If you notice, this is the exact length of the seven- year tribulation. Listen to what it says in Isaiah 26:20-21 concerning these chambers. “Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be over past. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.” If you read the Bible you will see the number 7 appears over and over again. Via the Jewish customs the Lord may be showing us that the timing of 7 days to consummate his bride maybe pointing to the exact length of the 7 year tribulation. If this is the case then the only place this number 7 would fit would be at the beginning of the tribulation. If the Lord came in the middle of the tribulation then the timing of those 7 years would past the tribulation by 3 and ½ years. As I said, there is something very important to think about in the timing of the Antichrists revealing. Keep in mind, Jesus told His followers to keep on the watch. If His true followers did as He asked they would know every one of the last day signs Jesus gave us. One of those very important signs would be Daniel 9:27 where the believer would see that a man has confirmed a covenant with Israel for 7 years which would tell us the 7 year tribulation has in fact begun. In this case those who listened and followed Jesus would know for sure that the Antichrist **has been revealed** because it is only he who confirms this covenant. So, it is possible at the very beginning of the tribulation Jesus as with the old Jewish customs has the trumpet blown and then goes out to take His bride to heaven for a period of 7 years or, the exact timing if you will of the tribulation. Let this fact be known. The only people who would be ready for the rapture of the Church would be those waiting for Jesus second coming and watching His signs. The rest of the people on Earth will be in the dark about what happened when millions upon millions of people have vanished. In this case Jesus’ warning about coming as a thief in the night would be seen by all people who were not ready to go home with Christ. So, it is possible the Church can be raptured out at the revealing of the Antichrist. I covered the revealing of the Antichrist one of the two things Jesus told Paul must happen before He comes. What about the falling away first? “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come **a falling away first**, and

that man of sin **be revealed**, the son of perdition" (2 Thessalonians 2:3). As seen by the facts in my book it is very possible the falling away may be taking place right now as we have seen the decline of Christianity all over the world. We are witnessing the same types of things that took place during Noah's generation as outlined by Christ for the last days.

The rapture of the church is a day Christians long to see, but we do not know the day or hour in which it will occur. We have the time frame from 2 Thessalonians 2:3 but that actual hour we cannot know for sure. Jesus said, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come" (Matthew 24:42). However, we do know when Jesus Christ will return to Earth and rule as King. Daniel 12:11 tells the reader, "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,260 days." If you are here on Earth and witness that day the Antichrist stops the daily sacrifice, then get out your calendar and start counting 1,260 days since that is when Jesus will set His foot on the Mount of Olives in Israel. The rapture of the church and the second coming of Jesus are two different events altogether. Obviously this prophecy has not yet been fulfilled; the church is still here on earth, experiencing all the pre-signs of Jesus' soon return. While the church is still on the earth, you have a chance to receive Jesus as your Savior and escape the wrath to come during the Great Tribulation which begin after the 7<sup>th</sup> seal. If you choose not to receive Christ now, you risk missing the rapture, or snatching away of the church. When the church is taken out, you will still have one last chance to receive Jesus as your Savior; however, you will have to become a martyr for Christ. During the tribulation, you can only enter into the kingdom of our Lord based on your works however that will still require you to receive Jesus as your Lord first. What will this rapture mean to the people living on this Earth? It simply means a day is coming when suddenly millions of Christians around the world are going to vanish off the earth.

Wherever the believers happen to be at the time Jesus calls them, those people will be taken to meet Jesus in the air. You might be driving a car, riding a bus, flying in a plane, or watching television, but wherever you are you will be taken. The entire world will suddenly be tossed into panic. An unbelieving world will try to figure out what happened to all the missing people around the world. Just as sudden as the church is taken from this Earth, a world leader will take center stage. This world leader will be the Antichrist, and when he appears on the scene, it signals the beginning of the end. People of earth will know exactly when the tribulation starts because they will see this Antichrist make a covenant with many for one week, or seven years. Remember in prophecy one week actually equals seven years. This last week, or seven years, will be the fulfillment of Daniel 9:27. We know that according to the book of Daniel, there were 490 years (called Daniel's 70 weeks) in which God was going to deal with the nation Israel. We know for sure the beginning of the 70 weeks, or 490 years, started on 445 B.C. We also know that 69 of the 70 weeks ended on April 2, 32 A.D. when Jesus was killed. At that time, God turned His attention toward the church, and the Holy Spirit has been directing His church ever since. However, once the Holy Spirit removes the church, this will signal the beginning of the last week of Daniel's prophecy.

This last week, which is made up of seven years, will end the 70 weeks, or 490 years, which were prophesied for the nation Israel. Once the last seven years begins, the church will be removed as the prophecies 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 stated at the beginning of this chapter which I believe we happen after the 6<sup>th</sup> seal. What are the facts concerning the first 69 weeks, or 483 years of Daniel's prophecy? The fact is the church had nothing to do with the first 483 years, and when the last seven years of tribulation begins, the church will once again have nothing to do with it. God told us it is a time when He will be dealing with the Jewish people and the nation Israel, not the church. "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city" (Daniel 9:24a). Any person not taken up to Jesus at the rapture of the church will be left behind to deal with the full wrath of God and the Antichrist who rules during that seven year time span. The grace of our Lord will disappear, and from then on the only way a person left behind can get to heaven will be to die for Jesus or somehow manage to live through the entire seven years of tribulation. The chances of making it through this seven year time period are very slim. Jesus told us "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved" (Matthew 24:22a).



## THE BIBLICAL CALENDAR

Why does Jesus want us to keep our eye on the biblical calendar? Jesus wants those who are watching for His return to be ready when He comes to take the Church out of the world. The only way one can do that is to know what they are looking for. It is clear as day what Christians are to look for, but I would say most Christians don't have a clue as to what the sign is. Why don't they know?

Many people have asked me, "Why waste time trying to figure out when Jesus is going to come back when Jesus himself said, 'no man knows'." Let me quote Jesus in Matthew 24:36 so you know what I'm talking about. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." Now I want you to take notice what Jesus is really saying here in relation to the Jewish thoughts and Jewish traditions.

The phrase, "but of that day and hour no man knows," is a common Hebrew idiom for the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah. Rosh Hashanah is one of the seven Jewish Holidays, and it is known to the Jewish people as The Feast of Trumpets. The Feast of Trumpets takes place in the Fall. In Leviticus 23, you see these feasts are appointed times established as yearly rehearsals that taught both historically and prophetically the whole plan of God. This plan included the coming of Christ and how Christ would bring redemption to all who received Him. In short, God has given us His biblical calendar. Out of the seven biblical holidays the only ones left to be fulfilled are the Fall feasts, which are Rosh Hashanah, also known as The Feast of Trumpets; Yom Kippur, which is The Day of Atonement, and The Feast of Tabernacles.

I am going to center on the Feast of Trumpets because, on God's calendar, this is the next in line to be fulfilled. Knowing this information, let me get back to Jesus' statement in Matthew 24:36, where He said, "no man knows the day or hour". This verse has to do with the Jewish wedding. The father had to make sure the son had everything prepared and ready for the wedding. If anyone would ask the Jewish man, "When is the wedding," he would say, "Ask my father. Only he knows". This was the normal practice for the Jews. That statement was a traditional response.

When it came time for this wedding to take place, the man would go out at midnight, and sound the blast by blowing the shofar to let his bride know he had come for her. The Feast of Trumpets, or Rosh Hashanah, points to the Jewish cultural evidence that Rosh Hashanah will be the appointed time of the Rapture of the Church. As proof of this, let me now show you what has already taken place with this Jewish wedding in relation to Jesus Christ and His Bride, the Church.

In a Jewish wedding, the Jewish woman indicates she will marry him by accepting his proposal by drinking a cup of wine he gives her. What did Jesus do at the Last Supper? Jesus passed a cup of wine at the Last Supper, and those who drank the wine accepted being His Bride. Secondly, the Jewish man would have to pay a price to the bride's parents. What did Jesus do and what was the price He paid? Jesus paid the price for us, His Bride, with His own life by dying on the cross for us. The next thing a Jewish man would do to prepare for the wedding was to give his bride a gift. What gift did Jesus Christ give His Bride, the Church? Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The next thing the Jewish man would have to do to prepare for this wedding was go and prepare a place for both himself and his wife to live in when they were married. Do you remember the words of Jesus Christ in John 14:3? Jesus said, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also." This is where Jesus is right now. He is preparing the home for His Church, the Bride of Christ. The next thing the Jewish man would do to prepare for his Jewish wedding is this: he would take a host of people with him at midnight, and go out shouting and blowing the

shofar for his bride. The shofar is a horn. Now read what Jesus told the Apostle Paul to write in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16. Paul mentions the exact timing of this event twice! In verse 15, he says that this occurs at the coming of the Lord, and in verse 16, Christ comes down from heaven with a shout with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. This is the point at which time Jesus will come for us, the Church, just the same way the Jewish man would go out at midnight and call for his bride. This will be the next thing to take place on God's calendar at The Feast of Trumpets.

The next thing that would take place after a Jewish wedding, which came after the man went out to get his bride, would be to spend seven days alone with his bride to consummate the marriage in their wedding chamber. When Jesus comes back for His Bride, the Church, He takes the Church to heaven for seven years. If you notice, this is the exact length of the seven- year tribulation. Listen to what it says in Isaiah 26:20-21 concerning these chambers. "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be over past. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain."

No doubt these are the chambers Jesus will keep His Church in while the second part of the tribulation is taking place on earth. The Church, the Bride of Christ, will be hidden from these terrible times that will befall the earth during the second half of the tribulation. As you can now see, everything that Jesus has done was in accordance with the traditions of the Jewish wedding, which is also based on the Jewish holidays of the biblical calendar.

I want to get back to what the Apostle Paul had to say in 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5:1-4, when he stated the following, "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."

Paul was a Jew, and he understood the signs of the times would be taking place during the times and seasons, or the Jewish holidays. In the above verse, Paul points to the sign of peace and safety and he tells the reader they won't be in the darkness because they would be watching for these events to take place during the Jewish holiday season.

When we read Genesis 1:14, we see the word "season" which is the Hebrew word for "an appointed time". The season (appointed time) Paul was referring to was the actual day that Jesus was going to return on The Feast of Trumpets, which would take place in the Fall. So when Paul told the Jews, "You have no need that I write unto you," being Jewish, they understood exactly what Paul was talking about. The only people who will be in the dark when Jesus comes on His Feast will be those who do not have the understanding of the Word of God in them, and do not have any understanding of these biblical matters.

Please take notice in relation to Revelation 3:3. In part of this verse, Jesus tells the Church at Sardis, which was considered a dead church, to repent from their ways and to watch. Notice what happens when you aren't watching. I quote, that part of verse 3 here: "I will come on thee as a thief and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." Do not forget, Jesus is speaking to the dead church. What is Jesus showing us in this verse? Christ is showing us He only comes to the dead church as a thief, not to an alert and alive church. They will not be caught off guard.

In Revelation 3: 17-18, Jesus is now speaking to the Church of Laodicea. This is another church that is not ready, and Jesus calls this church a lukewarm church. What happens to a lukewarm church? Jesus tells us this answer in Revelation 3:16 where he says, "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth". Notice in those verses that Jesus tells them to go and buy white

raiment, “that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear.” Most people don't understand what this white raiment really means. Stay with me and you'll understand exactly what it is.

Revelation 3:18 is another key to understanding what Jesus is showing us. I quote: “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see”.

Now I want you to tie in what is written in Revelation 16:15, by connecting this verse to Revelation 3:18. This will become clear to you why you have to make the connection. Revelation 16:15 says the following: “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”

Let's go back to the Jewish traditions for a second, and I will show you how all this ties together. During the time that the Jewish Temple was standing, when Jesus was here the first time, the high priest and the captain of the guard were known as the “thief in the night” and this is why. There were watch posts at the Temple where the priest had to be watching. One of the things they had to watch for was that the fire on the altar would not go out. This was a Godly fire that fell on the altar, and it was commanded by God that this fire never go out. The priest had to watch this fire. If the priest was found to be sleeping when the captain of the guard checked on his rounds, the captain of the guard would take his torch, which was next to the altar fire, and set the priest's garment on fire with the torch. The priest would be awakened by the fire, he would get up and run through the Temple tearing off the garments that were on fire, and the shame of the priest's nakedness would appear.

Now you see how Revelation 16:15 ties into what Jesus said about the Church that was dead. Now, when you go back and read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4, where Paul says, “for you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night,” you now know what is meant by this phrase, “as a thief in the night”. In other words, when Jesus comes back and finds you sleeping like the priest in the Temple, and obviously not on the watch, you'll end up like the priest, running in your nakedness and in shame because you were not ready for his visitation.

Now let us look at Matthew 25:1-13. In these verses, Jesus is talking to two groups of virgins. One group was ready and on the watch; they were prepared for the bridegroom to come. This is a picture of the church doing the will of the Father. This again ties in to the Jewish wedding in keeping on the watch and the Lord coming back for His bride. Jesus said five virgins were ready and had oil in their lamps when the bridegroom came. Notice that the bridegroom comes at midnight as is the custom of the Jewish wedding. Notice also, he comes with a shout according to the custom. The five virgins who were ready went in to be with the bridegroom and the door was shut. This is what will happen at the Rapture of the Church, which we now believe will take place during The Feast of Trumpets, on the Jewish Holiday. This is why it is so important to keep on the watch at all times, especially during the Jewish Feasts.

What about the other five virgins who were not ready to go out to the bridegroom when he came at midnight? Jesus tells us they didn't prepare. These five virgins did not have oil in their lamps when he came at midnight so they had to go and buy oil to light the way. However, when they came back to the door of the bridegroom, the door was shut and the Lord said, “verily I say unto you, I know you not”. This is a picture of all the people who were not on the watch and are kept outside the door of safety in Christ Jesus. These five unprepared virgins is a picture of all the people who will find themselves tossed into the seven-year tribulation, because they, like the priest at the Temple, were fast asleep. They, like the priest, were discovered by the captain of the guard, who was known as the thief in the night, or in this case, Jesus Christ. As a result of you not being ready, you, as the priest, will have been found and become naked and ashamed, just like the priest did.



Now look at the message Jesus gave to us about the good servants and evil servants found in Luke 12:37-47. This is the message to the good servants: "Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." In Luke 12:41-47, Jesus is now talking to the evil servants who were not doing the will of the Father; they were not watching for the thief in the night. Look what Jesus said to these evil servants. "The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looked not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and he will cut him sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers." These are the people who knew better, they knew the Lord's will but they were not doing the Lord's will.

The next verse (47) tells us, "and that servant, which knew the Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes." I ask you now; are you one of the so-called believers who are not abiding in Christ today, and not doing the will of the Father? We know for a fact that there are millions of people around the world who claim to be Christians but in fact are not doing the will of the Father. This class of Christians is neither doing the will of the Father nor are they watching for the Lord's return, as Christ asked them to do. These people, we are told, knew His will yet didn't follow His will.

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In Luke 12:41, Peter asks Jesus, "Are you speaking this parable to us, or to everyone?" This question goes to the core of the question of who is the evil servant? Jesus answered Peter by telling him of the evil servants who do not do the will of the Father. Once again, we see a group of people being split in half. First there were the ten virgins, five of which were wise and ready, and the other five who were unprepared when the Lord came at midnight. Now we see good servants watching and doing the will of the Father, who will be blessed, compared to the other half, the evil servants, who know God's will, but are not doing His will, and are not keeping watch, who will be beaten.

Another very important fact to remember about The Feast of Trumpets is this: no one knows the day or hour because The Feast of Trumpets started at the sighting of the new moon. Let me explain. On the 30th of each month, the members of the high court assembled in the courtyard in Jerusalem, where they waited to receive the testimony of the two reliable witnesses. These two witnesses were the people who could verify that they had seen the full moon. At the spotting of the new moon it would allow the members of the high court to then sanctify the new moon. This would mean that the Feast of Trumpets would begin.

The new moon is very difficult to see on the first day because it can be seen only about sunset, close to the sun, when the sun is traveling north. So, looking for a very slim, faint crescent moon, which is very close to the sun, is a very difficult thing to do. If the moon's crescent was not seen on the 30th day, the new moon was automatically celebrated on the 31st day. For this reason, The Feast of Trumpets is always celebrated for two days. These two days are celebrated as though they are just one day of 48 hours. The reason that it is celebrated for two days is because if they waited to start the celebration until after the new moon is witnessed and then sanctified, they would have missed half the celebration because the new moon can only be sanctified during daylight hours. The command seems to be that we know the season, as Paul stated, but not the day or the hour as we have seen in Matthew 24:32-36

The Feast of Trumpets, is the only Jewish Feast that we do not know the day in which to keep it, as we are not sure when the new moon will be spotted. Therefore, we have to be on the look out and watch for it. When Jesus is saying you won't know the day or the hour as recorded in Matthew 24:36, He is telling us it is The Feast of Trumpets because it is this Feast, and this Feast only, that the Jews did not know the exact day or the hour in relation to when the full moon would be out. Hence the two-day celebration. No one could today tell you when the Rapture of the Church will happen because it could take place at any time within a 48 hour period.

As shown earlier in this chapter, at the Feast of Trumpets Jesus will return to remove his Bride, the Church. It will not overtake the Church who is doing the will of the Father. This Church will be standing on the watch for the Master to return. Paul speaks of this Rapture of the Church in 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, where he says, "Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the Trump shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

At some point in the very near future Jesus will come out from heaven and call His Bride to Himself, just as in the Jewish wedding. We who are on the watch, His Bride, will be ready, and we are going to be changed from human bodies to heavenly bodies. The question to ask yourself at this point is, what class has Jesus placed you in? Are you one of the wise virgins who are ready to go out to meet the Lord? Are you standing watch for Him to return? Or are you one of those five who are not ready and have no oil in your lamps? Are you one of the good servants who, when Jesus comes, will be found standing at the door on the watch, and waiting for the Master to return? Or are you the evil servant who says he is a Christian but is not doing the will of the Father; those who will be counted with the unbelievers when the Master finally comes for His Bride? Wake up, Church! Choose what side you will be on - the light or the darkness. If you are not a Christian, I say, "Wake up to what Jesus has shown you, and repent so you can be counted worthy to escape all the things that shall be coming to pass and stand before the Son of Man, Christ Jesus.

### **Jewish Biblical Holidays in the Fall of 2016**



Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah/Rosh Hashanah), Begins sunset of Monday, October 3, 2016 and ends nightfall of Tuesday, October 4, 2016.



Day of Atonement (Yom Kippurim) Begins sunset of Wednesday, October 12, 2016.



Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) begins sunset Sunday, September 16, through sunset Sunday, October 23, 2016

There are seven Jewish Feasts. The first four take place in the Spring. These Spring Feasts were fulfilled literally on the calendar days of those feasts and were fulfilled by Jesus Christ, when He came the first time. I believe the Lord will likewise be fulfilling the next three feasts literally on the calendar day of those feasts in connection with the Lord's second coming. The next feast to be literally fulfilled by Jesus will be #5. See chart below.

Exactly how did Jesus fulfill the first four Feasts? When you read Exodus 12:1-6, you will learn that the Jews would pick out a lamb, and they would watch this lamb closely for 4 days before killing the lamb on Passover. Jesus fulfilled this part to the letter, when He rode into Jerusalem sitting on a donkey. Christians know this day as Palm Sunday. For four days Jesus was watched very closely by the Jewish religious leaders, and civil authorities. Christ was the lamb without spot! He fulfilled this lamb selection day on Nisan 10, which was actually on Saturday, a Sabbath. He came into Jerusalem riding a donkey, fulfilling Zechariah 9:9. Matt. 21:1-10 gives you the account of Christ riding into Jerusalem.

Let's read Exodus 12:1-6. "1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. 4 If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. 5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight."

The Bible tells us Christ was this perfect sacrificial lamb, in fulfillment of the Scriptures, on Nisan 10. The Apostle John tells us in three different places that Jesus was confirmed as the "Lamb of God" who takes away the sin of the world. Read John 1:29. "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Revelation 5:6 says: "And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth". Revelation 7:10: "And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."



Here is the prophetic significance of each of the seven Levitical Feasts of Israel:

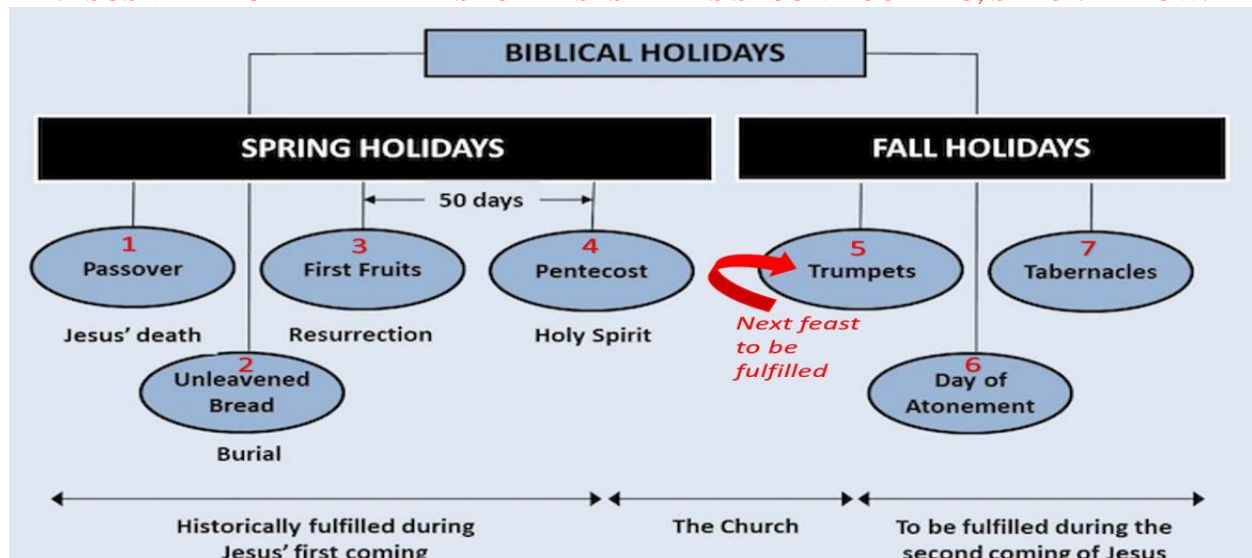
1) Passover (Leviticus 23:5) – Pointed to the Messiah as our Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7) whose blood would be shed for our sins. Jesus was crucified on the day of preparation for the Passover at the same hour that the lambs were being slaughtered for the Passover meal that evening.

2) Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6) – Pointed to the Messiah's sinless life (as leaven is a picture of sin in the Bible), making Him the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus' body was in the grave during the first days of this feast, like a kernel of wheat planted and waiting to burst forth as the bread of life.

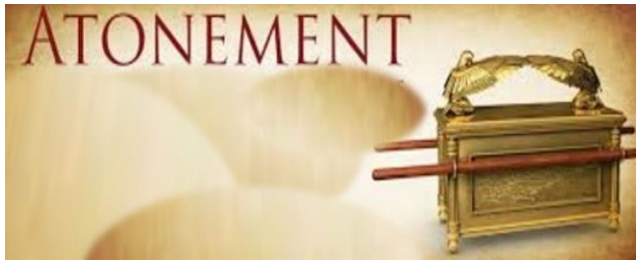
3) First Fruits (Leviticus 23:10) – Pointed to the Messiah's resurrection as the first fruits of the righteous. Jesus was resurrected on this very day, which is one of the reasons that Paul refers to him in I Corinthians 15:20 as the "first fruits from the dead."

4) Weeks or Pentecost (Leviticus 23:16) – Occurred fifty days after the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and pointed to the great harvest of souls and the gift of the Holy Spirit for both Jew and Gentile, who would be brought into the kingdom of God during the Church Age (see Acts 2). The Church was actually established on this day when God poured out His Holy Spirit and 3,000 Jews responded to Peter's great sermon and his first proclamation of the Gospel.

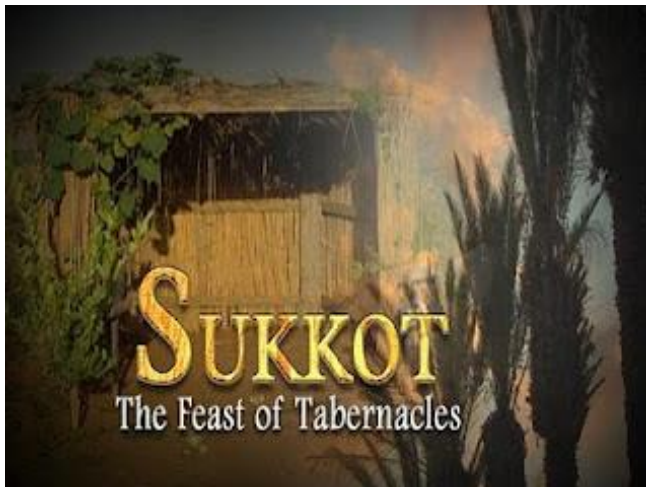
**JESUS WILL FULFILL THE LAST 3 FEASTS AT HIS SECOND COMING, SEE 5-7 BELOW.**



5) Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24) – The first of the Fall feasts. Many believe this day points to the Rapture of the Church when the Messiah Jesus will appear in the heavens as He comes for His Bride, the Church. The Rapture is always associated in Scripture with the blowing of a loud trumpet (I Thessalonians 4:13- 18 and I Corinthians 15:52).



- 6) Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:27) – Many believe this prophetically points to the day of the Second Coming of Jesus when He will return to earth. That will be the Day of Atonement for the Jewish remnant when they "look upon Him whom they have pierced," repent of their sins, and receive Him as their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10 and Romans 11:1-6, 25-36).



- 7) Tabernacles or Booths (Leviticus 23:34) – Many scholars believe that this feast day points to the Lord's promise that He will once again “tabernacle” with His people when He returns to reign over all the world (Micah 4:1-7). Like I said, no one knows for sure if the renewal of construction by Israel will set off another war that may begin the final prophecies for these last days. If the PLO attacks Israel over the renewed building on what they call "their land" we could see the Psalm 83 War break out, and who knows? Could we be raptured during this time? Only Jesus knows. But I can tell you this: I will be ready whenever the Lord calls us home. What about you? Now let me get back to the call for Peace and safety prophecy.

No one has to be caught in the darkness like a thief in the night. Pay attention to the Fall Feasts and be ready especially diligent during the Feast of Trumpets, as we know the Lord's coming for His Bride is not far off. I pray this work for Christ will cause you to ask our Lord Jesus to enter your name into His Book of Life today before He comes!

I am excited to be here, and I am excited Jesus has picked me to lead many of His warriors who are on fire for Him as we charge against the so-called powers of Satan. I say so-called powers for, as Christ is in me, I have access to the angels of God. Satan is as a lion with no teeth and sore gums. He may roar like a lion, but I have the real Lion of Judah living within me. When I command the enemy of our Christ to flee, it is Christ Himself roaring. Jesus has given us His power and lifted us up from fear. We know this to be true by Christ's own Words. “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

Do you believe this, my brothers and sisters? Let me help you raise the armor Christ has given you for this battle and form ranks with me as we take our rightful places on the front lines with Christ. Your weapons

of love, kindness, and giving are the weapons of Christ. Your strength will be the Words of our King. Your righteousness in Christ will blind your enemy, and your prayers will disarm your foes even before they reach you. Look up for the time is short to win souls for the kingdom of God. It is time, my church, to rise for your time of sleep has come to an end. Ignite the flame Christ Jesus has started in you with His own breath, and know you are called the sons and daughters of the King. Go now and preach to the world the Good News, and tell them the kingdom of God has come. Show them our Christ who lives in you, and do not fear for the falling away is coming and soon you who love Christ will rise.

Don't let Satan strip the joy of the Lord from you. Jesus promised His followers peace and joy. If you are walking in the grace of the Lord, you will have this peace and never have to fear all the things that are soon to come on this earth. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:3-9).

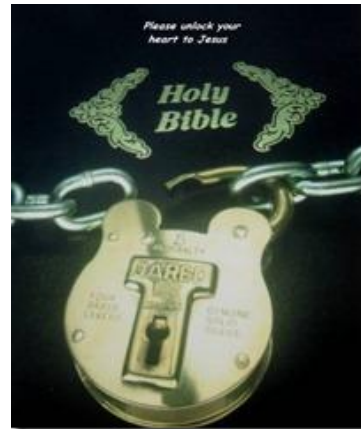
Above all, don't worry. God promises that the righteous will be delivered, not that we are righteous but that "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). What can I do to become the "righteousness of God" in Christ? The message is clear: "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2b). Believe in Him. For those who continue to reject Jesus, it says; "how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3a) Throughout this book, I have tried to show you that the end is near. This is the message I was told to proclaim. Jesus will soon return. There isn't much time left. As Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again" (John 3:3).

How can you be born again? 1. Acknowledge your need for salvation: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "God, have mercy on me, a sinner" (Luke 18:13b). 2. Repent from unbelief, turn away from sin and toward God. "But unless you repent, you too will all perish" (Luke 13:3b). "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out" (Acts 3:19a). 3. Believe that God wants to save you. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). 4. Receive Christ as your personal Savior. "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:11-12). 5.

Confess that Jesus is Lord. "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved" (Romans 10:9-10). 6. Allow the Holy Spirit to start working on you from the inside out. He will guide us into all truth and convict us of sin, in order to give us power over sin. "All wrongdoing is sin...anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him" (1 John 5:17-18).

Jesus paid the price for all of our sins at the Cross. It is a free gift to those who believe and accept it. This is why it is called the 'Good News of the Gospel'. Acts 16:31 "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house..." God then "made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:20). What makes you different from the individuals during Noah's generation? People were warned that the great flood was

coming, but they didn't believe the message. In the end, they all were swept away. The ark was lifted up with the rising water. Although people struggled to find refuge on the ship, they could not. Jesus Christ has given you the message of His return. As with Noah's generation, will you heed His message or wait until it's too late to enter the ark? For this generation, the ark is Jesus Christ Himself. Anyone who knocks on His door and asks to be let in will find refuge from the wrath to come. This warning from God is out of pure love for us all, and yes, that means you, also.



Art work by Duncan Long Art work by Steve Cansiolosi

In closing I'd like to show you just a few examples of how exact God is in His timing to fulfill prophecy and, in this way he has demonstrated that his words can be trusted. God gave us dates of events that would happen in the future. The following two examples were given to us over 2,500 years ago. In the Ezekiel 4:4-8, the Lord told Ezekiel to lie on his left side for 390 days for the sins of Israel. God told Ezekiel that each day that he laid on his side would equal one year. So, the 390 days equaled 390 years. Then the Lord told him to lie on his right side for 40 days for the sins of Judah, and again each day would equal one year. In all, Ezekiel had to lie combined on his left and right sides for a total of 430 days, which again meant 430 years. In Luke 21:20, Jesus talks about Israel's desolation, and in verse 24, he talks about a time when Israel would be led into captivity. Stay with me; you will see how Ezekiel and Luke fit together. There were 430 years of captivity appointed for Israel due to her sins against God. We know that 70 of those years were fulfilled by the captivity in Babylon so that leaves us with 360 years left. Now read Leviticus 26:18, 24, 28. What you will learn is that God is telling Israel that if Israel doesn't listen to God the first time, He will multiply it by 7 times. In other words, God would take the 360 years and multiply that by 7 times if they failed to heed His words. Israel did fail to heed His words. Therefore, take 360 years and multiply that by 7 times to arrive at 2,500 years. Now think about the first siege in Jerusalem in 606 B.C. Now go back 2,500 years from 606 B.C., and you end up in the middle of the 1900's. Remember Israel had a 360-day calendar year. So, we have to convert her year into our solar year calendar that is based on the 365.2 days. Once you do that, it converts to 907,326 days. Now if you were to multiply Israel's punishment as stated in Leviticus chapter 26, you would come to 2,484 years, 2 months, and 3 days. By now you're asking, "What is the big deal about all this?" There are two things of great importance to fulfillment of prophecy you need to see. First, the desolation took place, in part, in 606 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar laid siege on Jerusalem. After 70 years of captivity, that puts us to the year 536 B.C. In the year 536 B.C., Israel's first 70 years in captivity would have been finished, but remember Israel didn't listen to God the first time, and God multiplied her punishment 7 times. So, come back 2,484 years, 2 months, and 3 days to arrive at around the second week in May 1948. What happened in the second week in May 1948? For the first time since Israel was led away into captivity, Israel became a nation again for the second time. That date was May 14, 1948. Our Lord gave us the exact time that this would take place. Only a true God could have done this. Wait, there is more!



The second example is just as amazing. In Jeremiah 25:11-12a it says, "'this whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt,' declares the Lord." This prophecy has to do with the servitude of the nation Israel. We know for sure in 587 B.C. was the desolation of Jerusalem. This is the year the city was leveled, and that was the end of it. It was at this time the nation Israel was hauled off to begin her servitude of the nations. We know for sure that in 587 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar leveled the temple 252 in Israel. As I stated before, Israel already had finished 70 years before, but they didn't get it the first time. So, take 587 B.C., 70 years from 587 B.C. brings us to the year 517 B.C. Now if you count 2,484 years, 2 months, and 3 days from 517 B.C. using once again our solar calendar year, you arrive at the second week in June 1967. What happened in Israel in the second week of June 1967? For the first time in over 2,000 years, Israel took back the holy city of Jerusalem during the six-day war. This was again another major prophecy which was fulfilled exactly in the time span that God had laid out. When the Christians saw these two major prophecies come to pass, they knew our time here on earth was drawing to a close. Even the Jewish people realized the two prophecies fulfilled meant their Savior would come soon. I pray my efforts to inform you of God's warnings and grace will lead you to study the Holy Bible and to take Him as your Savior.

Now that you have read my book you will have enough knowledge to understand what is going to happen next as far as a Bible prophecy is concerned, and what will happen to you. Keep in mind, now that you have read the warnings of our Lord you will have no excuse when you stand before the Lord on Judgment day. Christ has given you the proof, facts, and evidence to prove to you His Word is true. Now is the time for you to render your verdict. Is Jesus who He claimed to be? The evidence says, yes. I rest my case for Christ! I thank my Father Jesus Christ for choosing me to give you this message.

Whether you have turned to Christ for salvation, or you are still holding back, I invite you to come to my site and watch the news to see how prophecy is developing, and how close we are getting to the Lord's second coming. My web-site link is [www.endtimesresearchministry.com](http://www.endtimesresearchministry.com). I pray my work will lead you into the arms of the one and only true Savior of this world. Jesus is coming soon. I pray my book will help you get ready for that blessed day all speaking engagements are free. If you want to have a prophecy seminar e-mail me at [endtimesresearchministry@yahoo.com](mailto:endtimesresearchministry@yahoo.com).